The College held its 43rd Matriculation ceremony for the Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE), Bachelor in Education (B.Ed) and Professional Diploma in Education (PDE) intakes for the 2020/2021 academic session on 29th July 2021, featuring a smaller parade due to COVID-19.

Notwithstanding, the College was agog with celebration and fan-fare led by the newly-admitted students, the Student Union Government and friends and families of the freshmen.

Addressing the matriculating students, the Provost, Dr. Dan Anyanwu charged them to work hard and be serious in their studies to scale through the academic hurdles. He also encouraged them to shun criminal acts like cultism and examination malpractice and cautioned against disobedience to College rules and regulations.

Said the Provost, “My dear students, it will be foolhardy to think that you can achieve excellence through examination malpractices, joining cults groups or flouting rules and regulations. Let it be known to you that examination malpractice of all kinds is a serious offence that can lead to expulsion. And the college management will not hesitate to deal with any cultist. A word is enough for the wise.”

The Provost enjoined the students to join College approved academic and character moulding groups and fellowships.

Emphasising diligence in academics and worthy behaviour, the Provost explained that the certificate is awarded on a two-tier basis of being found worthy in character and learning.

Dr. Dan Anyanwu also encouraged the matriculating students to use available facilities like hostels and the medical centre with all sense of responsibility and avail themselves of support systems like academic advisors which have been designed to...
facilitate their success and ensure efficiency and speedy graduation.

The Provost assured the students that units like the Anti-Corruption and Transparency Monitoring Unit (ACTU) in the College were available for them to approach in case of assault or harassment.

In his address to the Degree students, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nigeria Nsukka, (UNN), Professor Charles Igwe, who was represented by the Dean, Faculty of Education, Professor Joshua Umeifekwem, welcomed the students and congratulated them for being among the few lucky ones to be admitted into the competitive University known for prioritising merit and fairness in its admission process.

The Vice-Chancellor added that although admission into the institution fulfils a goal, it also leads to other open doors which need to be maintained with diligence to academic work and good behaviour.

He advised the matriculating students to attend classes, avoid distraction, participate in rewarding activities, obey laws and regulations, shun cultism and criminal activities, and refrain from exam malpractices to achieve their purpose in the University.

Reminding the students of the ongoing Pandemic in the world, he implored them to keep to all NCDC safety measures.

The high point of the event was the ceremonial signing of the Matricula by representatives of the NCE, Degree and PDE programmes.

The ceremony was attended by members of Management, representatives of the Registrar of the UNN, Executive Secretary of the National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE) and the Registrar of the Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN). Also in attendance were Deans of Schools, Directors, Heads of Academic Departments and Non-Academic Units and members of the Press.

Due to the reported rise in COVID-19 infections in recent weeks, a set number of matriculants participated in the event and parents, guardians and well-wishers were stopped from joining the ceremony held in the College mini stadium.

**COLLEGE RECEIVES 2021 PRESIDENTIAL VISITATION PANEL**

The College received the 2021 Presidential Visitation Panel led by Professor Michael Omolewa with joy and excitement. The Panel, inaugurated on the 12th of April 2021 by the Minister of Education, Mallam Adamu Adamu on behalf of President Muhammed Buhari, arrived the College with nine terms of reference from the Federal Government for an assignment lasting not more than 60 days from the day of inauguration.

Presidential Visitation is an exercise aimed at improving the quality of performance of higher institutions of learning and often covers a period of 5 years.
GOVERNOR HOPE UZODINMA FELICITATES WITH COUNCIL, PLEDGES NOT TO DISAPPOINT THE COLLEGE

The Imo State Governor, Senator Hope Uzodinma has congratulated the Chairman and Members of the College Governing Council on their recent appointments. The Governor said this when a delegation made up of the Governing Council and Management of the College paid him a courtesy call. Continuing, Senator Hope Uzodinma said that Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education, Owerri is very dear to every well-meaning Igbo man because it was used to immortalise Dr Alvan Ikoku, who was highly respected by all. Governor Uzodinma recalled that even before the Federal Government take-over, the College had produced great men and women. He added that anyone who understands Igbo history would ensure the College achieved its purposes.

While addressing the College delegation in the State Executive Council chambers, the Imo State Governor lamented that landowners suffered monumental infringement in the hands of the previous government. He said he had listened to the College and knows the Council cannot succeed without the State Government’s support wherein he pledged that he will not disappoint the College’s reasonable expectations but rather will support the College.

Governor Hope Uzodinma also promised to look into other issues presented by the Governing Council, including the mining of sand and pensions of retired staff of the College and requested people to be law-abiding.

The Chairman of the College Governing Council, Chief (Lady) Regina Emehelu, in her address to the Governor told Senator Hope Uzodinma that since the Federal Government take-over, the College has supported Imo State through training teachers in the state employ under the auspices of the Directorate of Alvan Volunteer Services.

Lady Emehelu further told the Governor that since 2007 when the FG took over the College, the take-over process had not been perfected and that staff who retired from 2010 have not been captured in the pension scheme after serving the state government for decades making many of them become poor.

Speaking about College lands, the Chairman of Council told the Governor that the previous government went into the Shell Camp area and demolished the entire staff quarters and sold off the land. She drew his attention to the balkanisation of the staff quarters in Amakohia too, with the land appropriated and a gas plant erected near the Provost's Lodge.

Chief (Lady) Regina Emehelu further informed Governor Uzodinma that the land across Nworie had been broken up and sold off to private individuals. She said the infringement on landed property of the College was hampering the efforts of the FG to develop the College, especially after building two bridges across the river which are now in near collapse because of erosion caused by the dredging of sand.

The address by Council to the Imo State Governor included the damage to the perimeter fence around the College during the rebuilding of Orlu road by the previous government and for which no compensation whatsoever was provided.

Lady Emehelu concluded her address by thanking the Governor for returning peace to the state after tackling the recent security challenges.

The Visit which took place on 20th April 2021 at the State Executive Council chambers had also in attendance the Imo State Deputy Governor, Professor Placid Njoku, the Chief of Staff to the Governor, Barr. Nnamdi Anyaehie, the Secretary to the Government of Imo State, Chief Cosmas Iwu, the Commissioner for Science and Technology, Professor B. G. Nworgu and a host of other aides to the Governor.

The College delegation included Council members, the Provost, Dr. Dan Anyanwu, the Deputy Provost, Dr. (Mrs) Stella Lemchi, the Registrar, Barr. Ben Anyanwu, Mr. Nicholas Nkwoji, the Bursar and the College Librarian, Dr (Mrs) Uchenna Nwaigwe, accompanied by other support staff from the College.
The terms of reference which guided the Call for Memoranda, in summary, included examining the relationship between the institution and various statutory bodies it interacts with; examine the relationships within the institution in terms of roles of the Governing Council, the head of the institution and other principal officers; investigate the financial management of the institution over the recommended period and determine whether it complied with appropriate regulation and investigate the application of funds, particularly the special grants and loans meant for specific projects to determine the status of such projects and their relevance for further funding.

Others were to examine the “law” establishing the institution and see in what ways the law has been observed in all ramifications by the competent authorities and suggest any necessary modification to the law to enable the institution to achieve its objectives better.

The terms also included examining the academic programmes, policies and practice as the total academic and physical development, performance and direction of the institution; study the general atmosphere of the institution over the period in question, in particular, comment on the general conduct and comportment of the personnel of the institution; and study in detail the Management structure and performance of the institution, including fiscal and administrative personnel and welfare policies.

The Presidential Visitation Panel to the College had seven eminent and experienced professionals from various fields of endeavour with the Chairman, an Emeritus Professor and one-time Nigerian Ambassador to UNESCO, Professor Michael Omolewa and the Secretary, Mrs. Ali Agnes Ada of the Federal Ministry of Education, leading the team. Others were Engr. (Hon.) Ike Chinwo, a former member of the House of Representatives, Barr. Kingdom Okere, an activist lawyer, Mr. Adaji Moses Okpanachi, Mr. Bello Ahmed Gadanya, and Dr. Ambore Victor Yilwa.

Aside from the Call for Memoranda, the Visitation Panel met with various stakeholders and groups within and outside the College. The team had interactive sessions with the current and previous Principal Officers of the College, current Deans, Directors, Heads of Departments, leaders of staff and student unions, and Congregation. The Panel also paid courtesy visits to the Imo State Commissioner of Police, the Commissioner for Education, Imo State, the Imo State Director of the Department of State Services (DSS) and leaders of the host communities.

At the cocktail party organised by Management to mark the conclusion of the work of the Panel, the Provost, Dr. Dan Anyanwu thanked the Visitation Team for their professionalism and wished them journey mercies back to their various bases. The Panel were serenaded by dance and drama presentations put together by the Department of Theatre Arts.

**photo speak**