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Special Release

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COMMUNIQUE FROM THE MEETING OF STAKEHOLDERS HELD AT THE SUBOMI BALOGUN CONFERENCE CENTRE, UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN ON TUESDAY, 22 DECEMBER, 2020

There was a meeting of stakeholders comprising four former Vice- Chancellors, internal members of Council and the internal candidates who applied for the position of Vice-Chancellor, University of Ibadan, under the distinguished chairmanship of Emeritus Professor Ayo Banjo, CON.

The meeting started with a welcome address by the Acting Vice - Chancellor, Prof. Adebola Ekanola, and a brief on why the meeting was convened. It was stated that the meeting was a family affair to discuss on issues that border on the development of the University, the collective well-being, and more importantly, the integrity of the institution.

The Chairman in his opening remarks, stated that the meeting should be considered as a sacred duty and that the initiative was in the defence of the reputation of the University.

He emphasised that the elders and stakeholders in the community are anxious that the culture and tradition of excellence that the University of Ibadan is known for is reflected in the process for the appointment of a substantive Vice- Chancellor.

The meeting considered submissions from the perspectives of the candidates and internal members of Council and the following issues were identified:

- (a) That information on sensitive matters in the University, especially those relating to the process of appointment of a substantive Vice - Chancellor should be well managed, treated with confidentiality and should not be leaked to the Social Media;
- (b) Constituent bodies (Council, Senate and Congregation) in the University should be apolitical in the discharge of their statutory responsibilities;
- (c) Constituent bodies (Council, Senate and Congregation) should be able to resolve all issues internally, without undue externalisation;
- (d) Extraneous factors should not be brought into the appointment of a Vice-Chancellor;

The former Vice- Chancellors provided the following pieces of advise:

- (i) Other constituent bodies should defer to Council for directives in the process of appointment of Vice-Chancellor;
- (ii) It is essential to respect the rule of law and due process in all matters;

- (iii) The Governing Council and Senate should ensure openness in all processes and issues;
- (iv) **ALL STAKEHOLDERS** should endeavour to build trust to prevent any form of prejudice or suspicion that could lead to crisis and bring disrepute to the good name of the University; and
- (v) The practice of openness and transparency in all matters will encourage stakeholders to accept the outcome of any process.

This is imperative in all matters.

In conclusion, an appeal was made to members of the University community to eschew bitterness and work harmoniously to redeem the image of the University.

Thank you.

MANAGEMENT