

## COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

  
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NIGERIAN LAW SCHOOL  
HEADQUARTERS-BWARI, P.M.B. 170, GARKI, ABUJA.

### **NON-RECOGNITION OF THE LL.B DEGREE PROGRAMME OF THE NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA**

The Council of Legal Education again announces for the benefit of the general public that the LL.B Degree Programme offered by the National Open University of Nigeria is not approved.

The policy of the statutory bodies responsible for the training and admission of aspirants to the Nigerian Bar, i.e. the Council of Legal Education and the Body of Benchers is that the study of Law must be undertaken on full time basis, in recognized Institutions for the provision of undergraduate studies. This is also the position of the Professional Body of Lawyers in Nigeria - The Nigerian Bar Association.

Consequently, the regulatory bodies have long proscribed the study of law through Part time, Distance Learning or Correspondence Studies and it was in consequence of this, that the Part time LL.B Programmes run by the Faculties of Law of accredited Universities were abrogated. The position of the bodies has been that every aspirant for the Legal Profession must undertake an undergraduate study on full time basis, in a recognized Faculty of Law. This is because the study of Law transcends knowledge acquisition alone, as it involves the moulding of future entrants to the Bar in learning, character and attitudes.

The National Open University of Nigeria is not within the ambit of institutions envisaged by these bodies to offer a Law degree programme. Indeed, the National Open University of Nigeria has always been informed of this position; and its decision to commence and run the Law Programme was in defiance of this policy.

Any person who undertakes the study of Law at the National Open University of Nigeria is to note that the qualification obtained is unacceptable for admission to the Nigerian Law School for Bar Vocational training.

**SECRETARY TO COUNCIL AND  
DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION**

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## BRIEFING ON THE STATUS OF STUDENTS OF NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY (NOUN)

The national Open University of Nigeria was established by the Federal Government of Nigeria pursuant to the National Open University Act, Cap N63, Laws of the federation of Nigeria, 2004 as amended.

All Universities in Nigeria, as well as courses and programmes of study of each University is subjected to the regulatory and accreditation powers of the National Universities Commission as provided for in the Education (national Minimum Standards and Establishment of Institutions Act, Cap E3, Standard Laws of the federation of Nigeria, 2004 as amended which lays down the minimum standards for all Universities and other institutions of higher learning.

In line with the above stated laws, the National Open University of Nigeria subjected its programmes (including the LL.B. Programme) to the National Universities Commission for accreditation. The NUC consequently gave approval to NOUN to run a Bachelor of Laws Degree Programme.

At certain stage of the programme, the Council of Legal Education observed that the NOUN had not obtained the required approval from the Council before commencing its LL.B. programme; more so the programme is run on part time basis. Regrettably, the NOUN continued with the LL.B. and graduated students. The NOUN after graduating few sets of students realized the futility of its actions and realized that without the approval of Council of Legal Education, these graduates will not be admitted into the Nigerian Law School.

Several exchange of letters between the NOUN and CLE had taken place to find a way of resolving these issues, similar letters were written by parents, Public Complaints Commission, National Association of Nigerian Law Students, Secretary to the Government of the Federation, the Office of the Honorable Attorney General of the Federation and other stake holders.

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The Honorable Attorney General of the Federation conveyed the meeting of stake holders to resolve this issue which is becoming an embarrassment to the Federal Government as well as a security issue.

X The stakeholders present were The Honorable Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Mr. Abubakar Malami, SAN, Chief O.C.J. Okocha, SAN, JP, Vice Chairman Body of Benchers and Former Chairman Council of Legal Education, also representing the Chief Justice of Nigeria who is the Chairman Body of Benchers, Chief Emeka Ngige, SAN Chairman Council of Legal Education, the General Secretary Nigerian Bar Association Mr. Taidi representing the NBA President Mr. Paul Usoro, The Director General Nigerian Law School, Professor Isa Hayatu Chiroma, SAN, The Vice Chancellor National Open University Professor Uba Abdallah and his team.

After exhaustive deliberations it was unanimously agreed that there is the need to resolve the issue of admitting the graduates of the National Open University into the Nigerian Law School. The stakeholders also deliberated on the proposal submitted by the Nigerian Law School as a way forward for the lingering issue. The Nigerian Law School was asked to present this position to the Council of Legal Education, the Chairman Body of Benchers to its body and the Nigerian Bar Association to the National Executive Committee Meeting of the Bar.

Please find attached position paper by the Nigerian Law School, and all relevant documents in respect of the National Open University.

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