



FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

PMB 1526, OWERRI, IMO STATE

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

PROF OTI UNVEILS N30 MILLION FUTO HOST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

As part of deepening its community impact and strengthening good neighbourliness with its host communities, Management of the Federal University of Technology Owerri has launched a N30 million host community intervention fund.

The project, which has scholarship, poverty alleviation, and community development as its components, is targeted at students of tertiary institutions, indigent widows and youths, and designated community projects, with each component receiving the sum of N10 million annually.

The intervention, which is a landmark gesture that reflects a paradigm shift in the University's engagement with its host communities, was initiated by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Mrs Nnenna N. Oti, and approved by the University's Governing Council.

Addressing host community leaders during the epoch making event held at the Celestine Onwuliri International Conference Centre FUTO, the Vice-Chancellor said the project is an annual intervention aimed at facilitating "the development of human capital and physical infrastructure" in the eleven host communities of FUTO in line with her administration's commitment to social inclusivity.

Prof Oti described the project as an ambitious drive "to build bridges of friendship, good neighbourliness, and sense of common purpose", adding that the strategic intervention would "sow and entrench seeds of trust, fraternity, shared destiny and common humanity" among the host communities.

The VC said the three-pronged project was designed to promote interest in education among the youths, support budding entrepreneurial skills, and sponsor a physical community project to serve as "a monument of synergy and collaboration with the University."

Prof Oti disclosed that the modality for selection of beneficiaries would be determined by Traditional Rulers and Presidents-General of the respective

communities in collaboration with the University's Community Liaison Officer and the Special Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor on Women and Youth Affairs.

The Vice-Chancellor charged the community leaders to ensure transparency and accountability in the utilisation of the intervention, and hinted the prospect of increasing the grant sum in future subject to satisfactory implementation.

Responding on behalf of the host communities, the traditional ruler of Umuanunu Autonomous Community, HRH Eze Ejimogu extolled the Vice-Chancellor and her Management team for the intervention which he described as "first of its kind". He pledged the continued co-operation and support of the host communities towards peace, growth, and development of the University

In a vote of thanks, a member of the host community, Engr Emeka Udokporo described the new host community development agenda of Prof. Oti as a sign of better days ahead for the University and its host.

A high point of the event was presentation of cheques to the host communities, with jubilant women among them eulogising the Vice-Chancellor with special renditions.

The Vice-Chancellor was accompanied at the event by Principal Officers of the University, and Deans of Schools. Traditional rulers, Presidents-General, women and youth leaders of the host communities, among others, attended the event.

The eleven host communities of FUTO set to benefit from Prof Oti's historic community development agenda are Ihiagwa, Dindi-Ihiagwa, Okolochi, Obinze, Umuanunu, Emeabiam, Eziokele, Eziobodo, Avu, Umuoma-Nekede, and Obibiezena.

Signed:
Chiedozie Uba
Registrar, FUTO

