

Historical-Chronological Emergence of Universities in Nigeria: The Perspectives in ‘*Colomilicivilian*’ Periodization.

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Abstract

Colomilicivilian is a coinage that describes the three eras of political experiences of Nigeria, captured as Colonial Era, Military Era and the Civilian Era; characterised with series of manifestations in the establishment of universities during each of the eras. The paper was written on the demonstration of efforts and commitments of Governments at different times from the missionaries/colonial days of Nigeria, 1800-1960; through to the post colonial efforts of the civilian administrations at different times and those efforts of the various military governments in the promotion of university education from post 1960; through the establishment of universities of various kinds – regular/conventional (running all programmes, combined); specialised ones (of science, technology, open, technical, petroleum resources, military, police, marine and medical); even the projected Information and Communication Technology (ICT) University were accorded chronological documentation. This historical study chronicles from pre-independence to the entire post-independence efforts of the governments of Nigeria at federal and state levels, as well as the role of private proprietors from the initial effort during 2nd republic in 1979-1983, which was truncated and later resuscitated. The paper also captured the ultimate resurgence of private establishment of universities, now considered a sustained effort of the private individuals, corporate organisations, faith-based (Christian and Islamic) organisations. The paper concluded with mixed submissions, first commending the demonstration of commitment to a sporadic and astronomical increase in the universities establishment and secondly, berated all sorts of inadequacies that only left the country with quantity and not quality in the operations of universities.

Keywords: Historical, Chronological, Emergence of Universities, Colonial, Military, Civilian, Periodization.

1. Introduction

In recognition of what the synergy between education and development is capable of achieving, every society has come to realise the importance of education in its development process. This development by assessment manifests in the lives of the people and the society itself. It is worthy of note that the whole world is tied to development as yardstick for measuring the progress made individually or as a country, in tripartite characteristics as ‘developed, developing and underdeveloped’. The degree of developmental characteristics of any nation categorises her as a member of any of the three groups. The parameter for this classification is due, not for anything, but the level of attainment in the various spheres of development which is predicated on nothing, but in the viability and potency of their educational theories and practices to bring about desired changes and in line with global best practices. As a dictum, education is often referred to as the master key that unlocks development gate of any society (Paulley and Buseri, 2016). Through research or exploration which characterises education practice, so many discoveries and breakthroughs have been achieved for the survival of

people and the society. Talking about food sufficiency, security of lives and properties, improved health and availability of medicines, growth due to science and technology, control of diseases, improved transportation system, prevention and management of disasters, ease in communication/telecommunication and many others are educationally engineered.

All over the world, the development that any country can witness or experience is dependent on the quantity and quality of its manpower. Similarly, the quality or quantity of manpower of any nation is always correlated with the kind of education or training received. A veritable place where manpower need of the nation is trained, especially the high level manpower, is in the university. This is a fact in history that had been recognised since the colonial era in Nigeria, that universities are the avenue for training high level manpower. This notion has not changed, making it a relevant source/shop in the eras of the military and civilian administration in Nigeria for manpower recruitment. This is further attested to by the civil service placement of University graduates above other certifications from other non-university tertiary institutions.

Since education has generally been regarded nationally and by the provision of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (2013) as an instrument par excellence for effecting national development, then, university plays significant roles in actualising this, with array of academic programmes and courses offered in the areas of Medicine, Law, Journalism, Banking and Finance, Engineering and Technology, Architecture, Health, Safety and Security, Agriculture, as well as the field of education itself where teachers are raised as architect of nation building. It is good to note that universities engage in research as its mandate or a primary requirement and through which many breakthroughs and discoveries are made for survival of man and sustainability of the society.

It is against the backdrop of the relevance and importance of university education at various times in the history of Nigeria that it continues to be accorded attention in the administration of governments, fairly during the colonial era and impressively at the post-colonial era where both the military and civilian governments at federal and state levels came to the realisation that development of the post colonial Nigeria can be accelerated through university education, hence, the establishment of universities at different times of nation building. This paper therefore chronicles the issue of university establishments and education in Nigeria, from where we have come to where we are, which would avail Nigerians the opportunity of using our hind sight to know what we have done so far, but not done right in contemporary sense and what we need to do to make amend in line with global best practices. In this regard, the state of university education in appraisal and series of universities established are captured in the study through periodization of efforts, thus: (i) Missionary/Colonial Era (ii) Military Regime and (iii) Civilian/Democratic Dispensation.

2. Missionaries/Colonial Era, 1800 - 1960

This period marked the beginning of missionaries and colonial governments' efforts in the introduction of formal western education into the geographical landscape now known as Nigeria. Within the same period was the series of development in the educational characteristics of the country, including, but not limited to the establishment of the first higher educational institution and the premier university in Nigeria.

2.1 Missionaries and Education of the Natives

Education of Nigerians formally would not have been possible without the European Missionaries, suffice to say that Missionaries were the Nigeria's first educators. It must be mentioned that the Missionaries came to the

country originally for evangelism, but it became glaring that proper work of evangelism could not be achieved without the provision of some sorts of opportunities in reading and writing skills to the natives. Boyd and King (1981:100) corroborate the above and remark that:

...the church undertook the business of education, not because it regarded education as good in itself, because it found that it could not do its own proper work without giving its adherents, and especially its clergy, as much of the formal learning as was required for the study of the sacred writings and for the performance of their religious duties.

Provision of formal education was a welcome development to the Nigerians. Beginning from 1842, different Missions started arriving and settling down for evangelism and subsequent educational works that led to the establishment of early primary and secondary schools. These missions included the Wesleyan Methodist, 1842 in Badagry; Church Missionaries Society, (CMS, now Anglican), 1846 in Abeokuta; Presbyterian Church of Scotland Mission, 1846 in Calabar, Southern Baptist Convention, 1853 and 1855 at Ijaye and Ogbomosho respectively. The Niger Mission undertaken by the CMS in 1857, which ultimately founded schools at Gbebe and Onitsha; as well as another school at Idda in now Kogi State in 1864. The Niger Mission achieved other feat with those established immediately after at Bonny and Akassa of Rivers and Bayelsa States respectively. Others are the Roman Catholic Mission (RCM), 1868 in Lagos; Qua Iboe Mission of North Ireland, 1887; Sudan Interior Mission (SIM), Primitive African Methodist Missionaries Society, United Free Church of Scotland, United Native African Church, Basel Mission, Seventh Day Adventist etc.

Between 1842 and 1914, more than a dozen of different Christian missions had arrived and begun intensive missionary and educational works in Nigeria, establishing mission houses, churches and schools in places like Badagry, Abeokuta, Calabar, Onitsha, Lagos, Ibadan, Ijaiye, Ogbomosho, Iseyin, Ishaga, Erunmu, Ketu, Iddah, Akassa, Bonny, Eket, Ikot-Ekpene, Nassarawa, Lokoja, Bussa, and several other places in Nigeria. For nearly 40 years, colonial administration watched the Missionaries give education to Nigerians before her involvement in the form of grant-in-aids; first in 1872 and later, the issuance of Education Ordinances at various times in 1882, 1887, 1916, 1926 and so on; to regulate and correct the perceived inadequacies and the lack of uniformity in educational activities of the Missionaries. Importantly, the colonial administration became proactively involved by establishing its own colleges for boys and girls in the early 20th century in Lagos.

From the foregoing, higher education did not feature, it is crystal clear that only the primary and secondary levels of education were the focus of both the Missionaries, may be because of limited resources, dearth of personnel and the somewhat disposition of colonial administration, owing to the fear of equipping Nigerians with a perceived weapon (higher education) to challenge the colonial authority. Higher education was not considered a necessity for Nigeria. However, serious agitations from the elites and nationalists gave the colonial administration more than it bargained for, forcing her to have a rethink and heed to the demands.

3. Historical Beginning of Higher Education in Nigeria

Development of higher education in Nigeria came within the pre-independence period (colonial era). The desire to have Universities in West Africa and indeed Nigeria was highly exhibited for over a century before it finally came to fruition. Although, some Africans, including Nigerians had had what could be regarded as higher education, but not on the African soil. As maintained by Fafunwa (1974), Samuel Ajayi Crowther was one of

such early receiver of higher education when he was sold into slavery. Quite a number of other Africans were equally opportuned to receive higher education abroad or through correspondence. Some of the early receivers of higher education in Nigeria before the establishment of University College included Odukoya Ajayi, Alvan Ikoku, J. S. Ogunlesi, S. A. Banjo and A. T. O. Odunsi (Omolewa, 2014). The crops of these people were the earliest Nigerian elites. Also, the likes of Nnamdi Azikwe, Obafemi Awolowo, Ahmadu Bello, Anthony Enahoro, and several others were educated abroad and later became nationalists who were in the agitation for self rule (political independence), including better deals for the Africans and their education.

As earlier indicated, Missionaries' efforts covered two levels of education – primary and secondary. Higher education was not dabbled into, even by the colonial government. Aside from the existing secondary schools by the missionaries, voluntary agencies and those established by the colonial government, particularly the Kings College Lagos, established in 1909 and the Queen's College, also in Lagos in 1927; as well as other regional Governments' secondary schools established at Ibadan, Umuahia, Zaria and later in other locations in Nigeria; there was no education above secondary education in Nigeria. Following the pressures and agitations from Nigerian elites, the colonial administration was compelled to see the need for additional professional education slightly above secondary education (post-secondary) which Osokoya (1989), Kosemani & Okorosaye-Orubite (1995) and Fafunwa (1974) informed, were created as further professional education centres slightly above secondary schools by some government departments and parastatals like Agriculture and Railway. These post-secondary schools were the Central Agricultural Research Stations (CARS), established at Moor Plantation, Ibadan and another one at Samaru in Zaria. So also, the centre for Veterinary Medicine was sited at Vom in Jos and the workshop Nigerian Railway in Lagos designated as the centre for engineering training; all providing sub-professional training for Nigerians before 1930.

However, the increased awareness of few educated Nigerians (the nationalists) who felt very dissatisfied with this debasement of Nigerians in the establishment of post-secondary centres, instead of higher institution, led to criticisms and serious agitations which compelled the Nigerian colonial government to consider the need for higher educational institution for Nigerians. This was eventually provided, may be to silence the nationalists or pacify Nigerians who for so long had desired higher education on their soil.

The ever elusive merger of education departments in Nigerian had the jinx broken with an eventual merger of the two education departments of Northern and Southern Nigeria as one in 1929. Following this, Sir Eric R. J. Hussey became the first Nigeria's Director of Education. Swiftly and by 1930, Hussey proposed three levels of education for Nigeria, just like he did in Uganda in 1925; where he established Makerere Higher College. Osokoya (1989:72) considers Hussey's proposal as that which provided a prototype of Makerere in structure and operation. This proposal therefore focused on the establishment of:

- (i) Primary level which should be six (6) years, replacing the initial eight (8) with local language as the medium of instruction. The curriculum was to include Agriculture, Hygiene, handicraft and interest in the local environment.
- (ii) Secondary level which should also be for six (6) years and after which they can search for employment in any fields.
- (iii) Vocational higher education level that vocational courses are to be provided and to ultimately grow to the British standard of university.

3.1 The Birth of Yaba Higher College

Following Hussey's proposal to the Nigerian parliament in 1930 for the need to structure Nigerian education into three (3) levels as earlier highlighted, the last stage of this proposal eventually led to the establishment of Yaba College in 1932. Yaba Higher College was the first Nigerian institution that provided higher education to train Nigerians to be qualified as personnel in the fields of medicine, engineering, teacher training, agriculture, forestry, commerce, veterinary medicine and survey. In 1932, Yaba Higher College admitted and accommodated her students within the premises of Kings College, Lagos; as a temporary campus. Officially on the completion of her permanent site, this institution was opened in 1934; when the College's students were already in their first, second and third years.

One would have thought that the establishment of Yaba Higher College would saturate the agitation, but whetted the appetite of Nigerians for further agitation. It was not long that its existence was vehemently criticized and lampooned by the Nigerian nationalists who preferred a university to the college. The reasons advanced for this criticisms and rejection were given that:

- Nationalists found the curriculum of the college too narrow, inferior to and incapable of meeting the needs of the country,
- The certificate of the college had no recognition outside Nigeria and
- The certificate only qualified Nigerians as junior staff and assistants in the colonial civil service.

With all the criticisms, Government turned deaf ears. Yaba Higher College existed for fifteen years and turned out a number of educated Nigerians who became ripe for administrative and technical positions in the Nigerian civil service as at independence in 1960. However and despite the long period of the College's existence, the nationalists did not relent in their agitation for a university. To this extent, Colonial Government was forced to set up two distinct commissions on the prospect for the establishment of universities in British colonies and specifically in Nigeria. The Asquith and Elliot Commissions were set up in 1943.

3.2 The 1943 Commissions on Higher Education

Two different commissions were established in the colonial Africa to actualise the establishment of universities in the British colonial territories of Africa. The Asquith Commission was set up, focusing on the whole British colonial Africa while the Elliot's for British colonial West Africa.

3.2.1 Asquith's Commission

This commission was set up and chaired by Mr. Justice Cyril Asquith to consider the principles which should guide the promotion of higher education, learning, research and development of universities in the colonies; and to explore means by which UK universities and other appropriate bodies can cooperate to bring the principles to achievable ends. It was in the recommendations of the Asquith Commission that:

- i. Universities should be established as soon as possible in areas not served by an existing one and should begin as university college
- ii. There should be training of teachers for secondary schools
- iii. Should be residential and open to both male and female
- iv. Colonial universities should be autonomous as those in the UK.
- v. Colonial universities should enter into special relationship with the London University for the award of degrees etc.

3.2.2 Elliot's Commission

This commission was earlier set up in 1943 in response to criticisms by the West Africans on the restriction of the Africans in participating in the affairs of their own countries. This commission headed by Sir Walter Elliot was set up to assess and report on the organisation and facilities of existing centres of higher education in British West Africa. Consequently, the commission was to recommend on the future development of universities in the areas.

From the Elliot's Commission report, it was unanimously agreed on the urgent need and development of university in West Africa. However, there were two shades of opinion and reports polarised, (majority and minority).

The Majority Report

The majority report had it that three university colleges should be sited – one in Nigeria to include faculties of arts, science and professional schools of medicine, agriculture, forestry, animal health and teacher training courses. The second university college was to be cited in Gold Coast with faculties of arts, science and institute of education. The third was designated for Sierra Leone with courses in arts and science, as well as intermediate level and teacher training course.

The Minority Report

The minority report contrarily recommended the immediate establishment of only one university for the whole of West Africa which should be named West African University and to be located in Ibadan. It however recommended territorial Colleges for Gold Coast, Sierra Leone and Gambia. The reason advanced for this was because of few potential students in the whole West African territory.

Despite the fact that Asquith Report favoured the establishment of universities in those areas not serve by existing ones in all British African territories, both the majority and minority of the Elliot Commission's reports emphasized the urgent need for university education in Africa, the British Parliament quickly deliberated on the Asquith Report and implemented the recommendations. However, the Elliot Report waited for a year before any action was taken on it. Even then, it was another set of proposals which the Secretary of State for the Colonies sent to the Governors of the West African colonies. The proposals were along the lines of the minority report. In this regard, it became obvious that the Colonial Secretary was indeed inclined and disposed to his earlier announcement to implement the recommendations of the minority report that he himself signed despite protests. According to Okorosaye-Orubite (2017) the British officials in Nigeria saw it as another opportunity to stall the development of university education in West Africa by pressing for the implementation of the recommendations of the minority report.

Some important reactions to the Elliot Reports within and outside West Africa favoured the majority report. As can be recalled, minority report favoured the establishment of only one university to serve the whole of West Africa as West African University and to be sited in Ibadan. This was vehemently opposed by the people of Gold Coast and Sierra Leone. Even in Nigeria, the Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT), whose President then Rev. I. O. Ransome-Kuti, was a signatory to the majority report, requested for more than one University College in Nigeria because of its size, population and Cambridge School Certificate successes.

With the plethora of resistances and oppositions, the Inter-University Council for Higher Education in the Colonies which was earlier instituted in March 1946, based on the recommendations of the Asquith Commission, sent a delegation to West Africa headed by Sir William Hamilton-Fyfe, in December 1946. The delegation was to report on whether there should be only one university college or more. The Inter-University Council Memorandum on Higher Education in West Africa in 1947 and the Secretary of States' Despatch of 16th August, 1947 on Higher Education in West Africa culminated in the establishment of more than one university colleges. Importantly too, the fact that the Gold Coast Legislative Council Committee had already indicated the territory's willingness to fund the capital and recurrent expenditures for a university college if established, the Fyfe delegation recommended that a university college be established in the Gold Coast to be funded mostly from territorial funds. This, the then Colonial Secretary, Mr. Creech Jones accepted and subsequently the University Colleges of Ibadan and Legon were established in 1948 and immediately, the sum of £1,500,000 was made available from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund for starting the University College, Ibadan; and Dr. Kenneth Mellanby appointed principal designate (Okorosaye-Orubite, 2017).

4. The Birth of a University – the University College, Ibadan

The event that led to the establishment of University College Ibadan was the consideration of Asquith's report and eventual advice by the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, Arthur Creech Jones who advocated for the establishment of two university colleges in 1947. Jones was appointed the Under Secretary for the Colonies, following the July 1945 General Elections in the United Kingdom which his party, the Labour Party won. Okorosaye-Orubite (2017) maintains that coupled with the resistances and oppositions from all angles to the implementation of minority report, that is, of establishing only one University to serve the whole of West Africa. All these culminated in the establishment of University Colleges Ibadan in 1948 and approval was also given for the transfer of about 104 students of Yaba Higher College to form the foundation students of the new university.

For a very long time that Nigeria expected the establishment of a university and one was eventually established, one would have equally expected it according to Kosemani and Okorosaye-Orubite (1995) that Nigerians would see the establishment of University College Ibadan as a welcome development, but no sooner than it was establishment that the general public and the press assumed antagonistic posture to this new university that its very first five years were characterised with criticisms and agitations for full university and not a University College.

There were a lot of discriminations in the staff strength, condition of service, students' enrolment and admission policy, so also the curriculum was British-oriented. Between 1948 and 1949, the university had forty expatriates and six Africans (Osokoya, 1989 and Abdulrahman, 2013). From this period till 1953, the number of expatriates increased to eighty-one while that of Africans remained stagnated at six. Also, from 1952 to 1962, the certificates issued to University College's graduates were similar to those given to private candidates who sat for London University Exams. Persistent criticisms of the discriminatory posture of the whites and other allegations signalled the necessity of transforming the University College into a full- fledged university.

In addition to the above, Okafor (1971:93-97) points out that the most constructive and lucid discussions of the university college by a Nigerian political party was "the Action Group policy paper on Higher education in Nigeria, 1958". He further explained the four serious defects of the college as put forward by Action Group Policy paper, thus:

- i. That the University College was completely residential and this made university education rigidly exclusive;
- ii. That the academic orientation of the college was wrong. This, the paper explained to mean “the allocation of priorities to certain faculties at the expense of others and the emphasis placed on certain courses in relation to others” while Christian Religious Knowledge was introduced right from the beginning, Islamic and Arabic Studies were not offered. Arts, pure Science, Agricultural Science and Medicine were allocated high priorities while it took the college eight years to introduce education, law, economic, engineering, geology, archaeology, anthropology, sociology and forestry. Public administration and philosophy were not available as at 1958;
- iii. The relationship between technology and university education was poor;
- iv. The paper explained that integrating potential of higher education was not utilized by the college authority. For example, in the 1957/58 academic session of 746 students enrolled in the college, only about 15 were from Northern Nigeria, yet the Northern region provided more than half of the nation’s population.

5. Ashby Commission (April, 1959 - September, 1960)

The Commission on Post-School Certificate and Higher Education other wise and popularly known as Ashby Commission, named after Sir Eric Ashby - the former Vice-Chancellor of Queen’s College and at that period; master of Clare College, Cambridge University. This Commission on Higher Education was the first Nigeria’s Commission set up in April, 1959; specifically to investigate and recommend to the government, among others, on the needs for higher education in Nigeria. The nine-man commission was set up by the Federal Minister of Education composed of three members each from Nigeria, Britain and America

The commission's report was so comprehensive that it embraced the secondary, technical, commercial, veterinary and higher educational needs of Nigeria. It also projected the manpower needs of the country up to the 1980's and worked out effective strategies for realising such through the various levels of our education (NOUN, 2011).

5.1 The Major Findings of the Commission

- i. Lack of continuity from primary to secondary schools. It stated that students were not well prepared for higher education, stating that three-quarters of the teachers were uncertificated;
- ii. That there were high drop-out rates leading to shortage of teachers;
- iii. That secondary education was too literal;
- iv. That few students were attracted to agriculture and technology;
- v. That there was educational imbalance between the North and the South.

5.2 Commission’s Recommendations

The recommendations of Ashby’s Commissions, contained in the Report were summarised in the Government’s White Paper which include among others:

- Concentrating higher education in university institutions through the provision of degree courses suited to Nigerian needs.

- All universities should be national in outlook and unnecessary duplication of expensive course should be avoided
- Professional qualification in Commercial subjects should be gained through courses leading to a degree.
- Each university should organised extension work in its own area.
- Universities seeking federal funds, should negotiate through a national universities commission, not directly with the Ministry of Education
- The international aid should be sought both in money and in the temporary loan of University places and of young graduate teachers from overseas.
- That an inter-regional manpower board be set up to review nation's needs and to formulate programmes for man-power development (Kosemani and Okorosaye-Orubite, 1995).

6. Civilian Administration, Post-Colonial – 1960-1966 (In the 1st Republic)

This period was a post-colonial period of self-determination by the Nigerians themselves. It was a very laconic of all the civilian regimes, which was witnessed after independence. It was a period that began in 1960 and truncated by the military coup that consumed a number of first generation's finest and heroic Nigerian politicians. However, as short as the period was, some meaningful progress and achievements were made, particularly in the area of university education.

The emergence of indigenous and first generation universities in Nigeria came within this era in review and largely as a result of the findings and the recommendations of the Ashby Commission, as highlighted above which assisted, to a great extent, in the establishment of more universities in the country.

6.1 Independence University - University of Nigeria, Nsukka

The report of Ashby Commission was submitted in October 1960. A week after Nigeria's independence, precisely on the 7th October, 1960; University of Nigeria, Nsukka was formally opened as the first Nigerian autonomous and full-fledged university by the Eastern region with full support of the Federal Government. Princess Alexandra represented Her Majesty, Queen of England at the opening ceremony. The operation of the new university was patterned in line with American orientation.

Subsequently, 3 other universities were established – University of Lagos, owned by federal; University of Ife and Ahmadu Bello University as regional universities of the western and northern Nigeria respectively. University College Ibadan was upgraded to a full autonomous University alongside these three in 1962. In summary, the number of universities in Nigeria rose from one in 1948 to five, generally referred to as the first generation Universities.

Table 1: Nigeria’s First Generation Universities

S/N	University	Location	Year Established
1	University of Ibadan	Ibadan	1948
2	University of Nigeria	Nsukka	1960
3	University of Ife, (now Obafemi Awolowo University)	Ile Ife	1962
4	Ahmadu Bello University	Zaria	1962
5	University of Lagos	Lagos	1962

Source: Kosemani & Okorosaye-Orubite (1995) and Abdulrahman, Y. M. (2013).

7. Military Administration, Post 1966

This is also a Post-Colonial period characterised with the military administration, that is, government of the few uniformed personnel of the Armed Forces; ascending power through coup d’état (bloody or bloodless), suspending the Constitution and using Decrees. Notwithstanding, this period in the educational life of Nigeria witnessed some levels of educational development as regards university education. The events are captured from 1966 till 1979 at first instance, when civilian administration was again welcomed and thereafter, the military intermittently usurping power to control government till 1999.

7.1 University of Benin and its Peculiarity

University of Benin (UNIBEN) was the first Military contribution to the development of University education in Nigeria, when it was later on established as part of the first generation Universities in 1970 for the people of the newly created region to have sense of belonging; following the creation of Mid-Western region of Nigeria in 1964. University of Benin was founded in 1970, but then originally established as the Mid-West Institute of Technology after under-studying Oregon State University in the United States and with her foundation staff which included 3 seconded staff of Oregon State University, namely – Prof. Glen Philips, Prof. John Harris and one other expatriate. It was formally recognised by the NUC as a University, following the 1st July 1971 Edict No. 3 by the State Government to give it a legal backing as a University. As reported by Wikipedia (2013), the then visitor and Military Governor of Mid-western State, Col. Samuel O. Ogbemudia in his *Budget Speech* in April 1972, formally announced the change of the name of the Institute of Technology to the University of Benin. Eventually on 1st April 1975, University of Benin was voluntarily handed over to the Federal Government and University of Benin became a Federal University; completing the list of Nigeria’s first generation universities.

7.2 The Nigeria’s Second Generation Universities

In the preparation for Third National Development Plan which started in 1972, captured the period from 1975 to 1980 for the third phase of Government’s development plan in the country, mid-wived by the Federal Ministry of Economic Development (The Central Planning Office), published in 1974. This National Development Plan gave Nigeria seven new Federal Universities that are today known as second generation universities, as shown in table 2 below. Obviously from the status of the first three of these second generation universities - Port Harcourt, Ilorin and Kano; they were established as University Colleges to the existing and first generation universities, the universities of Lagos, Ibadan and Ahmadu Bello respectively. By 1977, all the three university

colleges were granted autonomy and attained full status of universities.

Table 2: List of Nigeria's Second Generation Universities

S/N	Institution	Year	Status	Administrator	Designation
1.	University College, Port Harcourt	1975	University College of University of Lagos	Prof. Donald E. U Ekong	Principal
2.	University College, Ilorin	1975	University College of University of Ibadan	Prof. Oladipo. O. Akinkugbe	Principal
3.	University College, Kano	1975	University College of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria	Dr. Mahmud Tukur	Principal
4.	University of Calabar	1975	Autonomous	Prof. E. A. Ayandele	Vice Chancellor
5.	University of Jos	1975	Autonomous	Prof. E. O. Onuaguluchi	Vice Chancellor
6.	University of Maiduguri	1975	Autonomous	Prof. E. U. Essien-Udom	Vice Chancellor
7.	University of Sokoto	1975	Autonomous (renamed Usman Dan-Fodio University in 1988)	Prof. S. A. S. Galandaci	Vice Chancellor

Author's tabulation & sourced from the Federal Ministry of Economic Development, 1974; Fafunwa, 1974; Osokoya, 1989 and Kosemani & Okorosaye-Orubite, 1995 and Abdulrahman-Yusuf, 2013.

So far, Federal Government established a total of 12 regular/conventional universities by the end of 1978 as reflected in the summation of tables 1 and 2.

Table 3: List of Regular/Conventional Universities in Nigeria as at 2016

<i>Federal Universities – Regular/Conventional in the Order (Year) of their Establishment</i>				
S/N	Institution	Abbreviation	Location	Founded
1.	University of Ibadan	UI	Ibadan, Oyo	1948
2.	University of Nigeria	UNN	Nsukka, Enugu	1960
3.	Ahmadu Bello University	ABU	Zaria, Kaduna	1962
4.	Obafemi Awolowo University	OAU	Ile-Ife, Osun	1962
5.	University of Lagos	UNILAG	Lagos, Lagos	1962
6.	University of Benin	UNIBEN	Benin, Edo	1970
7.	Bayero University	BUK	Kano, Kano	1975
8.	University of Calabar	UNICAL	Calabar, Cross River	1975
9.	University of Ilorin	UNILORIN	Ilorin, Kwara	1975
10.	University of Jos	UNI JOS	Jos, Plateau	1975
11.	University of Maiduguri	UNIMAID	Maiduguri, Borno	1975
12.	University of Port Harcourt	UNI PORT	Port Harcourt, Rivers	1975
13.	Usmanu Dan-Fodio University	UDUSOK	Sokoto, Sokoto	1975

14.	University of Abuja	UNIABUJA	Abuja, FCT	1988
15.	University of Uyo	UNIUYO	Uyo, Akwa Ibom	1991
16.	Nnamdi Azikiwe University	NAU	Awka, Anambra	1992
17.	Federal University	FULOKOJA	Lokoja, Kogi	2011
18.	Federal University	FULAFIA	Lafia, Nasarawa	2011
19.	Federal University	FUKASHARE	Kashare, Gombe	2011
20.	Federal University	FUWUKARI	Wukari, Taraba	2011
21.	Federal University	FUDUTSIN-MA	Dutsinma, Katsina	2011
22.	Federal University	FUDUTSE	Dutse, Jigawa	2011
23.	Federal University	FUNDUFU	Ndufu-Alike, Ebonyi	2011
24.	Federal University	FUOYE	Oye-Ekiti, Ekiti	2011
25.	Federal University	FUOTU-OKE	Otu-Oke, Bayelsa	2011
26.	Federal University	FUKEBBI	Birni-Kebbi	2013
27.	Federal University	FUGUSAU	Gusau, Zamfara	2013
28.	Federal University	FUGASHUA	Gasua, Yobe	2013

Source: Abdulrahman, Y. M. (2013) and National Universities Commission - Monday Bulletin (2017).

8. Civilian Administration, 1979 – 1983 (The 2nd Republic)

The civilian administration of this period was what is regarded in the Nigerian lexicon and classification as the Second Republic. This era heaved a sigh of relief with the emergence of the 1979 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria that further emphasised tertiary education as a matter of Concurrent legislation. The characteristic of this Constitution favoured further development of university education in Nigeria. This era was characterised with the State Government's Involvement from 1979 till the resurgence of Military in 1983/84.

8.1 Emergence of State-Owned Universities

Today, all the first and second generations' universities are owned by the Federal Government. However, the coming to effect in 1979 of the new Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria transferred higher education from Exclusive List (of which only federal legislates) to Concurrent List (of which both federal and/or states legislate). The states in Nigeria immediately began to utilise this constitutional opportunity to establish their own Universities. The involvement of the State Governments in the establishment of Universities in the country was pioneered by the old Rivers State Government with the establishment of Rivers State University of Science and Technology in 1979 and renamed in 2017 as Rivers State University. Other States of the federation, not excluding the then Bendel State State University, now known as Ambrose Ali University, Ekpoma; Imo State University, Owerri; the then Ondo State University, now University of Ado-Ekiti, after state creation and assets sharing. Others were Ogun, old Cross River, old Anambra, and Lagos States that joined in the establishment of university institutions from 1979. Tables 4a, b, c & d further provide details of state-owned universities of their different categories in Nigeria till date.

Table 4a: State Universities in Nigeria

<i>State Universities – Regular/Conventional in the Order (Year) of their Establishment</i>				
S/N	Institution	Abbreviation	Location	Founded
1.	Ambrose Ali University	AAU	Ekpoma	1980*
2.	Abia State University	ABSU	Abia	1981*
3.	Olabisi Onabanjo University	OOU	Ago-Iwoye	1982*
4.	University of Ado-Ekiti	UNAD	Ado-Ekiti	1982*
5.	Lagos State University	LASU	Ojo	1983*
6.	Benue State University	BUS	Makurdi	1992
7.	Delta State University	DELSU	Abraka	1992
8.	Imo State University	IMSU	Owerri	1992
9.	Adekunle Ajasin University	AAUA	Akungba-Akoko	1999
10.	Kogi State University	KOGI	Ayingba	1999
11.	Anambra State University	ASU	Uli	2000
12.	Ebonyi State University	EBSU	Abakaliki	2000
13.	Niger Delta University	NDU	Yenagoa	2000
14.	Adamawa State University	ADSU	Mubi	2002
15.	Nasarawa State University	NASARAWA	Keffi	2002
16.	Gombe State University	GSU	Gombe	2004
17.	Kaduna State University	KASU	Kaduna	2004
18.	Ibrahim Babangida University	LAPAI	Lapai	2005
19.	Plateau State University	PSU	Bokkos	2005
20.	Tai Solarin University of Education	TASUED	Ijagun	2005
21.	Bukar Abba Ibrahim University	BAIU	Damaturu	2006
22.	Osun State University	OSU	Osogbo	2006
23.	Umaru Musa Yar'Adua University	UMYU	Katsina	2006
24.	Taraba State University	TASU	Jalingo	2008
25.	Kwara State University	KWASU	Malete	2009
26.	Sokoto State University	SOSU	Sokoto	2009
27.	Akwa Ibom State University	AISU	Ikot Ikpaden	2010
28.	Ignatius Ajuru University of Education	UOE-IA	Rumuolumeni	2010
29.	Bauchi State University	BASU	Gadua	2011
30.	Northwest University	NWU	Kano	2012
31.	Eastern Palm University	EPU	Ogboko	2016
32.	Edo University,	EDU	Iyanho	2016
33.	University of Africa	UOA	Toru-Orua	2016

Source: Abdulrahman, Y. M. (2013) and National Universities Commission - Monday Bulletin (2017).

Table 4b: State Universities of Science/Technology

<i>State Universities of Technology</i>				
S/N	Institution	Abbreviation	Location	Founded
1.	River State University Science & Technology	RSUST	Port Harcourt	1979*
2.	Enugu State University of Science & Technology	ESUTECH	Eungu	1982*
3.	Ladoke Akintola University of Technology	LAUTECH	Ogbomoso	1990
4.	Kano University of Science and Technology	KUST	Wudil	2000
5.	Cross River University of Technology	CRUTECH	Calabar	2004
6.	Kebbi State University of Science & Technology	KESUST	Aliero	2006
7.	Ondo State University of Technology	OSUT	Okiti-Pupa ON	2008
8.	The Technical Universty	TTU	Ibadan	2012
9.	Jigawa State University	JISU	Kafin-Hausa	2013

Note: Rivers State University of Science and Technology, established in 1979 is now renamed Rivers State University; 2017. * Oldest State Universities asterisked in tables 4 a & b above.

Table 4c: Specialised State Medical University

Specialised State Medical University				
S/N	Institution	Abbreviation	Location	Founded
1	Ondo State University of Medical Science	OSUMS	Ondo	2015

Source: National Universities Commission - Monday Bulletin (2017).

Table 4d: Statistical Summary of State Universities in Nigeria

Type	Number	Remarks
Conventional	33	Offering wide range of courses in all fields of endeavours
Science/Technology	09	Offering courses in science-based and/or Technology related programmes
Specialised Medical University	01	Offering courses in purely medical specialty
Total	43	

9. The Federal Government's Specialised Universities, 1980 – 1982 in the Fourth National Development Plan, 1980 – 85 and the Reforms of 1984 -1988

The realisation on one hand, of country's need in the areas of technology and agriculture and on the other, needs for balancing universities in all states of the federation informed why this was captured in the Fourth National

Development Plan, 1980 – 85. Therefore, between 1980 and 1982, the Federal Government of Nigeria approved the establishment of seven Universities of Technology in Bauchi, Makurdi, and Owerri; specifically in 1980. Also in Akure and Yola in 1981 was the establishment of Universities of Technology, and same in Abeokuta and Minna in 1982. Thereafter, the new military administration of Buhari/Idiagbon considered the prevailing economic quagmire in the country at that time and decided in October, 1984 to merge four (4) of these Universities of Technology with older Universities. The University of Technology, Abeokuta was merged with University of Lagos, the one in Bauchi merged with Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria. Similarly, the University of Technology, Makurdi was merged with the University of Jos and that of Yola merged with the University of Maiduguri. However in 1987, these merged Universities of Technology were de-merged and two of them, that is, Universities of Technology at Abeokuta and Makurdi were converted to Universities of Agriculture in 1988, the status which they maintain till today. Importantly for a balance in this regard, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture was established in 1992, sited at Umudike, Abia State. This therefore means that the Western, Northern and the Eastern Nigeria have Universities of Agriculture.

10. First Attempt and the Truncation of Private in the Provision of University Education, 1983 - 84

The 1999 official licences issued to proprietors of private universities did not indicate or mean the beginning of private efforts in Nigeria. Imafidon (1982) recalls that the idea of private universities was first muted in the 1960s, but dropped; primarily due to government's intolerance and rejection for lack of funds. What is sufficiently not in the public domain as far as private participation in the university education was the bold step taken by some private proprietors in floating private universities. However, this first attempt was unsuccessful, particularly of interest was that which involved Dr. Basil Nnanna Ukegbu who established Imo Technical University (ITU) at his Imerienwe home town, Owerri in late 1970s. The university was part of his Technical and Economic Development Mission (TEDEM) for the black world. The establishment of this University was embroiled in legal tussles with the State Governor – Sam Mbakwe who banned ITU's establishment. Dr. Ukegbu was a close rival and Governorship aspirant in an election that returned Mbakwe as the then Governor of Imo State. This ban was challenged up to the Supreme Court of Nigeria in a case - Dr. Basil Ukegbu V. Attorney-General of Imo State: Suit No: SC.83/1982 (iLAW, 2016 and All N.L.R., 1792 (1983) 9 S.C 59, in the Supreme Court of Nigeria before their Lordships Justices of the Supreme Court of Nigeria - Chukwuweike Idigbe, Ayo Gabriel Irikefe, Mohammed Bello, Kayode Eso, Augustine Nnamani, Muhammadu Lawal Uwais and Atanda Fatayi-Williams. The case was eventually decided in favour of the plaintiff, Dr. Ukegbu. This victory was motivating to the prospective private university proprietors who leveraged on this, which according to Osagie (2009), went on to establish first ever ill-fated private universities in Nigeria; from 1979-83.

Despite that these first set of private universities in Nigeria are defunct. Meanwhile, the site of the ITU still survives till today for academic use. It houses two modern and standard secondary schools -TEDEM College and Dorothy College. The 26 truncated and defunct private universities are therefore highlighted below:

1. Afendomifok University, Ikot-Ekpene, Akwa Ibom State (in the then Cross River State)
2. Afom Middle Belt University, Ibadan, Oyo State.
3. Afro-American University, Orogun, Delta State (in the then, Bendel State).
4. Akoko Christian University, Akungba, Ondo State.
5. Ekpoma University, Illeh, Edo State (in the then, Bendel State) – Distinct from the one, now known as Ambrose Ali University.

6. Epe Graduate Teachers University, Epe, Lagos State.
7. Ezena University, Owerri, Imo State.
8. Feyon University, Ijebu-Ode, Ogun State.
9. God's University, Anambra State (multi campuses).
10. Imo Technical University, Owerri, Imo State.
11. Institute of Open Cast Mining and Technology, Auchi, Edo State (in the then, Bendel State).
12. Islamic University of Nigeria, Alabatan, Ogun State
13. Laity School of African Thought, Nembe, Bayelsa State (in the then, Rivers State).
14. National College of Advanced Studies, Aba, Abia State (in the then, Imo State).
15. Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Onitsha, Anambra State – Distinct from the one, now in Awka
16. Ogodagu University, Abuja.
17. Open University College, Kaduna, Kaduna State.
18. Pope John Paul University, Aba, Abia State (in the then, Imo State).
19. Technical University, Imo State (multi campuses).
20. Theological Colleges by Christian Association of Nigeria (at different states).
21. Trinity University, Awo-Omamma, Oru, Imo State.
22. University Course of College, Port Harcourt, Rivers State.
23. University of Akokoa, Ideato, Imo State.
24. Uzoma University, Afowa Akoko, Edo State.
25. West African University, Nkwerre, Imo State
26. World University, Owerri, Imo State.

The ascendancy of the military in December 1983 led to the proscription of the above listed 26 private universities through Decree No. 19 Private Universities (Abolition and Prohibition) Act, 1984 (Ogbondah, 2012). However, in 1985, Decree No. 19 of 1984 was amended allowing for the establishment of higher educational institutions by Governments (Federal and States), company incorporated in Nigeria, individuals, or association of individuals who are citizens of Nigeria. Once beaten, twice shy. No one was courageous, even with the new go ahead, provided by the amendment in 1985, to establish or re-establish private universities before 1999. The concern for this dampened morale gave birth to a Commission on the Review of Higher Education in Nigeria set up by the Federal Government under Gen. Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida in 1991, headed by Chief Gray Longe and popularly called "the Longe's Commission; whose report gave credence to the establishment of universities by private organizations and individuals. The Federal Government accepted the recommendations of this Commission and led to the promulgation of the Education (National Minimum Standards and Establishment of Institutions) (Amendment) Decree No. 9 of 1993, thereby paving way for the abrogation of federal or state governments' monopoly of university education.

The commitment of the Nigerian government, as exemplified in the Fourth National Development Plan, recognised the needs for education reform which was pursued in a manner that a university for the new Federal Capital Territory was conceived, through the National Universities Commission (NUC). The report of the NUC on this proposal for the establishment of a National University at Abuja in 1984 was endorsed in principle by the Federal Government. The same reform commitment of the Federal Government led to the proposed

establishment of a Military University in Kaduna, as well as the National Open University for the working class people who desire upgrading their qualification. In effect, the paucity of funds and lack of infrastructure truncated these ideas and were jettisoned. However, Federal Government was courageous, with a demonstration of political-will in 1985 which manifested in an eventual establishment of the Military University in the name of Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA), Kaduna and ultimately, University of Abuja was established in 1988 and in 2002; National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) was established.

Table 5a: Specialised Federal Universities

Special Federal Universities				
S/N	Institution	Abbreviation	Location	Founded
1.	Nigerian Defence Academy	NDA	Kaduna	1985
2.	National Open University of Nigeria	NOUN	Lagos	2002
3.	Federal University of Petroleum Resources	FUPRE	Effurun, DT	2007
4.	Nigeria Police Academy	NPA	Wudil KN	2012
Federal Universities of Agriculture				
S/N	Institution	Abbreviation	Location	Founded
1.	Federal University of Agriculture	UNAAB	Abeokuta	1988
2.	Federal University of Agriculture	Makurdi	Makurdi	1988
3.	Michael Okpara University of Agriculture	Umudike	Abia	1992
Federal Universities of Technology				
S/N	Institution	Abbreviation	Location	Founded
1.	Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University	ATBU	Bauchi	1988
2.	Federal University of Technology	FUTA	Akure	1981
3.	Federal University of Technology	FUTO	Owerri	1980
4.	Federal University of Technology	FUTMINNA	Minna	1982
5.	Modibbo Adama University of Technology	MAUTECH	Yola	1981

Source: Abdulrahman, Y. M. (2013) and National Universities Commission (NUC) - Monday Bulletin (2017).

Table 5b: Statistical Summary of Federal Specialised Universities

Type	Number	Remarks
Specialised	04	Providing open, petroleum and defence/security related education
Agriculture	03	Offering academic/professional courses in Agricultural programmes
Technology	05	Offering courses in Science-based and Technology related programmes
Total	12	

For the need to further promote technology education in Nigeria, the Federal Government in 1987 mandated the Kaduna Polytechnic and Yaba College of Technology which were non-degree awarding institutions to commence degree programmes in technical/technology education, having realised a dire need for teachers of technical subjects at the senior secondary level. Similarly, a responsive attitude of the Federal Government was also manifested in a proactive policy reforms in her decision to address shortage of trained and qualified teachers in Nigerian school. In this regard, Government took a decision to ensure that qualified high-level manpower was available in the nation's educational institutions. Federal Government therefore in 1982 conferred on seven Colleges of Education located at Abraka, Kano, Ondo, Owerri, Port Harcourt, Uyo and Zaria the mandate to run programmes leading to first degree (Bachelor's of Education) in Education. Today several non-university institutions are granted rights to award first degree. List of these institutions are contained in table 6 below:

Table 6: Other Degree Awarding Institutions in Nigeria (*Institutes, Colleges of Education and Polytechnics*)

S/N	Institution	Abbreviation	Location
1.	Adeyemi College of Education	ADEYEMI	Ondo State
2.	College of Education	AKWANGA	Nasarawa State
3.	Niger State College of Education	COEM	Niger State
4.	Dominican Institute	DOMINICAN	Oyo State
5.	Alvan Ikoku College of Education	EDALV	Owerri-Imo State
6.	Federal College of Education-Kano	EDKAN	Kano State
7.	Federal College of Education-Zaria	EDZAR	Zaria-Kaduna State
8.	College of Education	IKERE	Ekiti State
9.	Osun State College of Education	ILESA	Osun State
10	Kaduna Polytechinc	KADPOLY	Kaduna State
11.	National Institute For Nigeria Lang.	NINLAN	Abia State
12.	Nwafor Orizu College of Education	NOCOEN	Anambra State
13.	Osun State College of Education	OSSCE	Osun State
14.	Shehu Shagari College of Education	SOKOTO	Sokoto State
15.	St-Paul College Awka	ST-PAULS	Anambra State
16.	St.Agustine's College of Education	TIME	Lagos State
17.	Yaba College of Technology	YABATECH	Lagos State

Source: *Abdulrahman, Y. M. (2013); Freeweb.com (2014) and National Universities Commission (NUC) - Monday Bulletin (2017).*

Other efforts of the Federal Military Government in the 1980's, especially in 1989; the Federal Military Government gave an approval to the establishment of Oyo State University of Technology, Ogbomosho, following a recognised need for its establishment by the government of Old Oyo State. The name Oyo State University of Technology was changed in 1991 to Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomosho. After state creation, the University became a joint property of Oyo and Osun States.

11. States' Creation and University Education in the 1990s

Following the creation of states in 1991, Abia State was carved out of the Old Imo State and the Old Imo State

University at Uturu became an inherited property of Abia State, hence, Abia State University, Uturu. Similar scenario played out in the case of Old Bendel State, when Edo and Delta States emerged. The Old Bendel State University was broken into two and the Ekpoma Campus became known as Edo State University and later renamed Ambrose Ali University at Ekpoma in Edo State; while the Abraka Campus was transformed into Delta State University, Abraka. In the assets sharing, those states left with no university as a result of states' creation quickly established theirs. For example, in Imo state, after conceding the Old Imo State University to Abia State, The new Imo State established another Imo State University at Owerri. Further details can be obtained from table 3 above.

In 1991, the Federal Government took over the Cross River State University, Uyo and renamed it University of Uyo. Also with the same creation of more states in the country in 1991, the headquarters and the campuses of the old Anambra State University in Enugu State (Enugu and Abakaliki) were upgraded to Enugu State University while the Awka and Nnewi campuses retained the name Anambra State University. In the same manner in 1992, the Anambra State University was taken over by the Federal Government and renamed Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka. As earlier clarified, the Federal Government in 1992 converted the School of Agriculture at Umudike, Abia State into a University of Agriculture. Also in the same year, in 1992; Benue and Kano States established their respective state Universities.

12. Civilian Era: 1999 to Date (4th Republic)

This is the current era in the political life of Nigeria and adjudged a 'Democratic' era because of the formulation of a number of education policies that favoured series of innovation, reforms and considerations which are in line with the global best practices. University Education in Nigeria in this dispensation has received a boost and impressive attention of government in terms of quantity and quality.

12.1 Private Universities in Nigeria at the Turn of 21st Century

In 1999, private ownership of university was liberalised and individuals and religious organisations became increasingly interested in establishing university. After the defunct first attempt, the first generation of privately established universities are the Babcock University at Illishan-Remo, Ogun State (owned by the Seventh Day Adventist); Madonna University (owned by the Very Rev Father Prof. Emmanuel Mathew Paul Edeh) and the Igbinedion University at Okada, owned by Esama of Benin, Chief Gabriel Igbinedion who was issued licence No. 001 by the then Head of State, Gen. Abdulsalam Abubakar (rtd). These three universities were the first to be licensed for operation in 1999 and followed by the Bowen University in 2001 (owned by the Baptist); as well as the trio of Covenant University, Pan African University and Benson Idahosa University licensed in 2002 (Abdulrahman-Yusuf, 2012). Since 1999, there was no 2 or 3 years period that one or more universities, federal, state or private was/were not being licensed or established till today. In this regard, the proprietorship of private Universities in Nigeria is not limited to Christian religious organisations, but includes individuals and corporate bodies. Importantly too, the full acceptance of modern education by the Muslims has equally seen the Muslim individuals and Islamic organisations at the peak of establishing universities as their Christian counterpart. For the list of private universities in Nigeria, see **Appendix 1**

12.2 Governments' Efforts of the 21st Century in the University's Establishment

Since the beginning of the 21st Century, FGN has not relented in the establishment and licensing of one

university or the other to provide education at degree level to Nigerians. National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) was established in 2002 to provide educational opportunities for in-service education for those who are on the jobs and for whom regular degree programmes can not be possible. Another such institution is the one established for men and officers of the Nigeria Police, to further the training of officers; is the Nigeria Police Academy (NPA), established in 2012.

Almost all the states in Nigeria, particularly the older ones, have federal presence in terms of university establishment by either the military or civilian administration since after independence. Each of the older states in Nigeria has at least a conventional regular university or a specialised one. Reaping the benefits of democracy and the commitment of the Federal Government within the first two decades of the 21st Century considered the establishment of Federal Universities in those states that are yet to have federal universities at the turn of 21st Century. This consideration was first exhibited in 2011 with the establishment of Federal Universities in Lokoja (Kogi State), Lafia (Nasarawa State), Kashare (Gombe State), Wukari (Taraba State), Dutsin-Ma (Katsina State), Dutse (Jigawa State), Ndufu-Alike (Ebonyi State), Oye-Ekiti (Ekiti State), Otu-Oke (Bayelsa State). For the sake of equity, the remaining States not captured earlier were finally remembered in 2013, they were those established in Birni-Kebbi (Kebbi State), Gashua (Yobe State), Gusau (Zamfara State).

Similarly, quite a number of States in Nigeria are not relenting or resting on their oars too, in the establishment of State's Universities, even with an already existing one in some States. For example, Oyo State Government recently established another specialised State University, The Technical University, Ibadan. Similarly, the Kano State Government did same in the year 2012, establishing the Northwest University, Kano. Ondo State with an existing state's university in Akungba still went ahead to establish a Medical University. Bayelsa State that already has a Niger Delta University at Wilberforce Island has also established another one named University of Africa. It is to be put on record here that the Federal Government of Nigeria is on the verge of establishing Information and Communications Technology (ICT) University, having realised the trends and needs for such.

13. Conclusion

Finally, it is good to place on record and for appraisal, that there are some other institutions other than universities equally licensed to award degrees before now; as presented in Table 6. This is because of the increasing number of students seeking admissions into the available universities who could not be accommodated conveniently due to vacancy problems orchestrated by inadequate facilities. From after the Nigeria's independence, various governments, federal or state have not relented or neglected the fact that university education is synonymous to development, thereby going on aggressive establishments of various kinds of universities, from regular conventional to specialised universities of all types; that can address the development needs of the society in science, engineering, marine and technology, including Information and Communications Technology (ICT) University on course, considering the global trends of which ICT has virtually overtaken every sphere of our lives. Other areas are agriculture, oil and gas resources, safety and security, technical, as well as in the medicals. People who are working and desire to upgrade their qualifications are not schemed out, but provided for through open distance learning. Also, to meet the increasing need of graduates in the teaching profession, many non-university tertiary institutions are accorded under the law to award degrees in teacher education.

However, from a total of five (5) first generation universities after independence, an astronomical increment has occurred in the university establishment, not only by the federal government which was the case till 1979, but

state involvement which has been very impressive. The democratic era at the eve of the 21st Century in 1999 till date was characterised with licensing and approval of private university establishment. Today, there are 40 Federal Universities, 43 by the state governments and a total of 69 private universities; summing up to 152 Universities, providing various academic programmes in Nigeria.

14. Recommendations

It is true that in number, we have progressed tremendously in the establishment of universities, but the slogan pervasive in the people assessment and comparison of the then and now is still that of falling standard being peddled. This is because expectation of the people in what university education should achieve in the individuals is defective, inadequate and obsolete equipment and facilities, joblessness after school etc are the characteristics now. Therefore, the following are suggested to provide quality justification for multitude universities, not just in number, thus:

- Improved funding to cater for the deficiencies in the available equipment and facilities, equipping the laboratories and stocking the libraries with current books and virtual libraries are recommended.
- Improved funding to cater for the deficiencies in the available equipment and facilities, equipping the laboratories and stocking the libraries with current books and virtual libraries are recommended.
- Providing support for research studies by corporate bodies, individual and government
- Curriculum review to prioritize entrepreneurship in university education which will consequently make university's students self-reliant and not waiting endlessly for white-collar jobs.
- Promotion and utilization of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in all aspects of University education, both administrative and academic. This is a global trend that must be abided by.
- Doing everything possible to make university education attractive at home and globally competitive, to avoid exodus of Nigerians into Europe and other parts of the world for university's education or for greener pastures on the part of Nigerian academics. Stop brain-drain.

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Appendix 1

Approved Private Universities in Nigeria

<i>Private Universities in Order of their Establishment</i>				
S/N	Institution	Abbreviation	Location/State	Year Founded
1.	Babcock University	BABCOCK	Ilishan Remo, OGUN	1999
2.	Igbinedion University	IGBINEDION	Okada, EDO	1999
3.	Madonna University	MADONNA	Okija, ANAMBRA	1999
4.	Bowen University	BOWEN	Iwo, Osun	2001
5.	Benson Idahosa University	BIU	Benin-City, Edo	2002
6.	Covenant University	COVENANT	Ota, OGUN	2002
7.	Pan Atlantic University	PANU	Lagos, LAGOS	2002
8.	American University of Nigeria	AUN	Yola, ADAMAWA	2003
9.	Ajayi Crowther University	AJAYI	Oyo, OYO	2005
10.	Al-Hikmah University	AL-HIKMAH	Ilorin, KWARA	2005
11.	Al-Qalam University	AL-QALAM	Katsina, KATSINA	2005
12.	Bells University of Technology	BELLS	Ota, OGUN	2005
13.	Bingham University	BINGHAM	Karu, NASARAWA	2005
14.	Caritas University	CARITAS	Amorji-Nke, ENUGU	2005
15.	Crawford University	CRAWFORD	Igbesa, OGUN	2005
16.	Crescent University	CRESCENT	Abeokuta, OGUN	2005
17.	Kwararafa University (Formerly, Wukari Jubilee)	WUKARI	Wukari, TARABA	2005
18.	Lead-City University	LEADS	Ibadan, OYO	2005
19.	Novena University	NOVENA	Ogume, DELTA	2005
20.	Redeemer's University	REDEEMERS	Mowe, OGUN	2005
21.	Renaissance University	RENAISSANCE	Eungu, ENUGU	2005
22.	The Cetep City University	CETEP	Lagos, LAGOS	2005
23.	University of Mkar	MKAR	Mkar, PLATEAU	2005
24.	Joseph Ayo Babalola University	JABU	Ikeji-Arakeji,, ONDO	2006
25.	African University of Science. & Technology	AUST	Abuja, FCT	2007
26.	Caleb University	CALEB	Lagos, LAGOS	2007
27.	Fountain University	FOUNTAIN	Oshogbo, OSUN	2007
28.	Obong University	OBONG	Obong Ntak, AKWA IBOM	2007
29.	Salem University	SALEM	Lokoja, KOGI	2007
30.	Tansian University	TANSIAN	Umunya, ANAMBRA	2007
31.	The Achiever;s University	ACHIEVRS	Owo, ONDO	2007
32.	Veritas University	VERITAS	Abuja, FCT	2007
33.	Wealey University of Sci. & Tech	WUST	Ondo, ONDO	2007
34.	Western Delta University	WEDU	Oghara, DELTA	2007

35.	Afe Babalola University	ABUAD	Ado-Ekiti,, EKITI	2009
36.	Godfrey Okoye University	GOU	Ugwumu-Nike, ENUGU	2009
37.	Nigerian Turkish Nile University	NITNU	Abuja, FCT	2009
38.	Oduduwa University	ODUDUWA	Ipetu-Modu OSUN	2009
39.	Paul University	PAU	Awka, ANAMBRA	2009
40.	Rhema University	RHEMA	Obeama-Asa, RIVERS	2009
41.	Wellspring University	WU	Evbuobanosa, EDO	2009
42.	Adeleke University	AU	Ede, OSUN	2011
43.	Baze University	BAZE	Abuja, FCT	2011
44.	Landmark University	LANDMARK	Omu-Aran KWARA	2011
45.	Samuel Adegboyega University	SAU	Ogwu EDO	2011
46.	Elizade University	EU	Iilaramokin ONDO	2012
47.	Evangel University	EVANGEL	Akaeze EBONYI	2012
48.	Gregory University	GU	Uturu, ABIA	2012
49.	MacPherson University	MACPU	Ajebo, OGUN	2012
50.	Southwestern University	SWU	Okunwa, OGUN	2012
51.	Augustine University	AUI	Ilara, LAGOS	2015
52.	Chrisland University	CUO	Owode, OGUN	2015
53.	Christopher University	CUM	Mowe, OGUN	2015
54.	Edwin Clark University	ECU	Kiagbodo, DELTA	2015
55.	Hallmark University	HUII	Ijebu-Itede, OGUN	2015
56.	Hezekiah University	HU	Umudi, IMO	2015
57.	Kings University	KUOD	Ode-Omu, OSUN	2015
58.	Michael & Cecilia Ibru University	MCIU	Owgrode, DELTA	2015
59.	Mountain Top University	MTU	Abokuta, OGUN	2015
60.	Ritman University	RITMAN	Ikot-Ekpene, AKWA IBOM	2015
61.	Summit University	SUMMIT	Offa, KWARA	2015
62.	Anchor University	AUA	Ayobo, LAGOS	2016
63.	Arthur Jarvis University	AJU	Akpabuyo, CROSS RIVER	2016
64.	Clifford University	CU	Owerrinta, ABIA	2016
65.	Coal City University,	CCU	Enugu, ENUGU	2016
66.	Crown Hill University	CHU	Eiyenkorin, KWARA	2016
67.	Dominican University	DU	Ibadan, OYO	2016
68.	Kola-Daisi University	KDU	Ibadan, OYO	2016
69.	Legacy University	LU	Okija, ANAMBRA	2016