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Dear Umuahians,

Certainly, we are in interesting times, given the recent unfolding of events relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. While we pray that this too shall pass, I do hope you are well and keeping safe.

Since our last update in February, we are excited to report significant progress with the restoration project of our great alma mater, *Government College Umuahia*. A robust fundraising strategy was developed to attract the funds to reopen the School in September 2021.

I am happy to announce that the fundraising is off to a great start with the adoption of three key projects; **Classroom Block C by the members of the FEDT Board, The Gatehouse by GCUOBA NEC and the Dining Hall By GCUOBA USA.**

Importantly, we have received a commitment of N100million from a Distinguished Old Boy.

A Project Manager, Arc. Chima Diaku was recruited to drive the construction phase of the project. With the significant strides achieved, we anticipate a steady progress with construction and we will communicate

project updates regularly. Deliberate steps have been taken by the Board to close gaps with stakeholders by publishing the newsletter regularly; maintaining an active website and creating groups for Classes and Branches.

Finally, the search for a suitable principal is underway with an advert placement in an international journal, Time Educational Supplement(TES). We have received applications from candidates from across the World.

We plan to mobilize to site once the COVID-19 situation settles, and I count on your support in this noble duty to restore our dear school.

May we continue to shine as one.

Thank you.

Message from the Chairman

For: Fisher Educational Development Trust

HE Dr. Okwesileze Nwodo
Chairman, Board of Trustees



FEDT Appoints Project Manager To Head Project Management Office

Arc. Chima Diaku was appointed as the Project Manager for the GCU Restoration Project, in February 2020, to oversee the reconstruction of the school.

Chima is a seasoned Chartered Architect with over three decades of experience in Construction and Structured Project Management. He has been a member of the Nigerian Institute of Architects since 1992; a founding member of the Project Management Institute in Nigeria; served at various times on the PMI Nigeria Board; a member of the Troubled Projects Specific Interest Group of PMI; a passionate advocate of PM with experience spanning many sectors of the economy; he conducts “hands-on” PM trainings for Project Managers in the Construction and Real Estate fields to enable them apply their theoretical knowledge first hand.

Chima is passionate about building the next generation of Nigerian leaders so he is very involved with Educational NGOs. He has served as PTA Chair of Corona School, Victoria Island where he spearheaded improvement in the existing infrastructure and consulted for the Corona Schools Trust Council; managed teams on the renovation of Atlantic Hall School, Epe; Loyola Jesuit College, Abuja, Trinity International College, Ofada amongst other projects geared towards the building of not just structures but the next generation of leaders in Nigeria.

His last engagement was as the Director of Construction Services for Ogun State Property Development Corporation where he managed the building of over 1,000 flats in the Affordable Housing Scheme for the Federal Government in Ogun State.

Improving Communication With the Old Boys



Communication with all stakeholders, particularly the Old Boys who own this project is a priority for the Board. As such, deliberate measures have been put in place to ensure all Old Boys are regularly informed of the status of the project.

On February 16th, the Board held a global Town Hall meeting with GCUOBA USA to answer all questions raised regarding the restoration project. The Board is available to host similar meetings with other Branches, Classes or Old Boy as required.

A WhatsApp group has been created for all Class Champions to serve as a channel to reach more Old Boys and keep them abreast of the project. The Secretariat will also create a similar platform with the respective Branch Chairmen to reach out to Old Boys while updating the current database it has for all Old Boys.

A website has also been created to provide information on the project as well as view archival information and read responses to Frequently Asked Questions. Old Boys are encouraged to visit the website to get up to date information.



FEDT Board Adopts Funding Strategy

The Board of the Fisher Educational Development Trust formally adopted a fundraising strategy to enable it raise adequate funds to complete the restoration project. The original plan of the Board was to source a significant portion of the required funding for the restoration project upfront from a financial institution in order to ensure timely construction while Old Boys could then make their contributions over time. However, the financial institution that was approached for the funding insisted that the Old Boys and FEDT begin construction with their own funds and later obtain funds from a financial institution.

Given this development and the need to meet the September 2021 target reopening date of the new GCU, the Board decided to raise Five Hundred Million Naira (N500,000,000) for the first phase of the project from Old Boys. The strategy for raising this is in 4 parts:



General levy mandate for all Old Boys:

1

At last year's Homecoming, the GCUOBA NEC announced a levy of N 100,000 from each Old Boy. This levy is to enable all Old Boys be part of the restoration project. Dollar and Naira accounts have been created to collect the levy. The Lagos Branch has led the way and already commenced collection of the levy. The account details will be disseminated widely through the GCUOBA network.



Donations and Loans from Capable and Willing Old Boys

2

The Board also decided to reach out to capable and willing Old Boys to donate N5million or consider giving an interest free loan of N10million or more. Old Boys who make this donation or give a loan will be adequately recognized for their contribution in restoring Government College Umuahia.



Invitation to Adopt Projects:

3

The Board is pleased to announce that it is now inviting Old Boys, Old Boys Groupings and Branches to graciously consider adopting projects, we know this is something Old Boys have been looking forward to so we can all collectively restore our School to its former Glory.



Securing Corporate Donations:

4

A corporate Donations subcommittee comprising Mr. David Ifezulike, Dr. Okey Enelamah, Mr. Reginald Ihejiahi and Engr. Valentine Ogu was created to drive donations from corporate organisations towards the restoration of Government College Umuahia. While we seek to widen our network of organisations, we welcome any support or recommendation that helps with this.

Three key projects adopted and N100million Commitment from Distinguished Old Boy

- The members of the Board have decided to show leadership by adopting the Classroom Block C project.



- The GCUOBA NEC has adopted the Gatehouse project, which will be the kick-off project at ground-breaking.



- GCUOBA USA has adopted the Dining Hall project



- One of our most distinguished Old Boy who has requested for anonymity has donated N100million to ensure we meet the target of N500 million and is posing a challenge to all other Old Boys to raise the remaining N400mn

The Board is reaching out to Old Boys, Class groups or GCUOBA Branches willing to adopt a project to join in the effort to rebuild our esteemed College.



Fence



Road 1 (Dualized)



Classroom Block A



Dormitory



Laboratory



The Library



Assembly Hall



Classroom Block B



Principals House



Staff Quarters

Breaking of Ground

The Gatehouse has been selected as the project for the ground-breaking. The breaking of ground milestone was initially slated for April 2020, however given the current situation in the country due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is likely to be a delay. A date will be communicated when confirmed.

Update of Old Boys Database

The secretariat is updating its current Old Boys database to ensure no Old Boy is left out of receiving communication regarding this project. Kindly send in the following information to the Secretariat through any of the listed channels

Name:

Class:

Phone Number:

Email Address:



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**IN UNUM LUCEANT.
FEDT Secretariat**