
**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EDUCATION SUPPORT GRANT OF
THE UMUABALI CITIZENS EMPOWERMENT FORUM (“THE FORUM”)**

A. Introduction

At its meeting of 27 December 2019 at the residence of the Forum Chairman, Mr Collins O. Okoroafor, the Forum considered a proposed education support programme for Umuabali young people pursuing higher education in public institutions within Nigeria. To make recommendations for the implementation of the pilot scheme of NGN500,000 for five beneficiaries, the Forum appointed a committee comprising the following members:

1. Prof Babs Esonu – Chair
2. Mr Ralph Nwafor
3. Mr Nzeakor Atulomah

B. Administration of Application Forms

The Committee distributed 22 Forum-approved application forms to eligible applicants of Umuabali extraction. By close of the entry deadline, a total of 15 duly completed forms were returned to the Committee. The 15 applicants are listed in the Schedule to this report.

C. Committee Proceedings: Processing and Consideration of Applications

The Committee met at 1630 hours on 31 December and critically reviewed the 15 applications vis-à-vis its Terms of Reference and the approved eligibility criteria, namely, each applicant/candidate must

1. be of Umuabali extraction
2. be either a returnee or freshman in any public university or polytechnic in Nigeria
3. disclose a financial need
4. possess the requisite personal attributes

D. Weighting of the Eligibility Criteria

i. Umuabali extraction

The Committee had no difficulty in satisfying itself that the 15 applicants were all Umuabali citizens. The relevant family names are aboriginal Umuabali families.

ii. Admission Status

The Committee was satisfied by means of documentary evidence that all the 15 applicants were either returnees or freshmen in their respective public universities and polytechnics in Nigeria.

iii. *Indigency Status*

Taking the hints of the Forum, the Committee judged that each applicant disclosed a present financial need.

iv. *Personal Attributes*

The Committee did not interview or interface with any of the applicants, but was satisfied that they possessed the required personal attributes. This conclusion was obtained from the attestation clauses of the forms where taxable adults of Umuabali no less than 40 years of age endorsed the form for each applicant. In many cases, attestations came from outside the families of the applicants.

E. Committee Deliberations and Interpretation of the Eligibility Criteria

The Committee noted that since all 15 applicants met the basic eligibility criteria, further creative interpretations needed to be deployed to arrive at the budget number of five beneficiaries, in a fair, transparent and equitable manner. To this end, the Committee unanimously sorted the applications, first, by year/level of study. The Committee reasoned that final-year applicants disclosed a stronger case for consideration since this would be their last opportunity to participate in the scheme. In addition, final-year students typically face an especial challenge whether as to completing their tuition fees and being allowed to take their degree examinations or processing their research work or risking an additional year. Students in lower or penultimate levels will have further chances to apply for this grant in the coming years. To this end, the Committee found a total of four final-year applicants, fairly spread around the respective village quarters.

To make up the expected five, the Committee revisited the question of indigency and unanimously agreed to recommend one of two siblings whose father currently lay cold in the mortuary as a more compelling case of indigency in the entire circumstances.

F. Recommendations

Following the above deliberations, the Committee hereby recommends to the Forum for approval and disbursement the following applicants:

S/N	Name	Level/Course of Study	Institution	Umuabali Quarters
1.	Collins Chikezie ONWERE	400L Marketing	MOUA ¹ , Umudike	Umuokoroafor
2.	Ndidi ELUWA	400L Biochemistry	MOUA, Umudike	Umuekpe

¹ Michael Okpara University of Agriculture

3.	Ezioma NWOKU	500L Soil Science & Meteorology	MOUA, Umudike	Umuede
4.	Louis NWAFOR	ND2 Electrical Engineering	Ibadan Polytechnic	Umunwoke
5.	Blessing John AHAIWE	300L Entrepreneurial Studies	MOUA, Umudike	Umuede

G. Conclusion

The Committee would like to thank the Forum for the confidence reposed in us to undertake this critical assignment, and hereby commends the Report to the Forum.

Prof Babs Esonu
Chairman
For the Committee

Schedule

List of Applicants for 2019 Grant Year

S/N	Name	Level/Course	Institution	Quarters
1	Louis Onyebuchi NWAFOR	ND2 Electrical Engineering	Ibadan Polytechnic	Umunwoke
2.	Collins Chimaroke Chikezie ONWERE	400L Marketing	MOUA, Umudike	Umuokoroafor
3.	Ndidi Favour ELUWA	400L Biochemistry	MOUA, Umudike	Umuekpe
4.	Ezioma Chioma NWOKU	500L Soil Science & Meteorology	MOUA, Umudike	Umuede
5.	Blessing John AHAIWE	300L Entrepreneurial Studies	MOUA, Umudike	Umuede
6.	Chimezie Sunday AMALAMBU	400L Computer Engineering	MOUA, Umudike	Umuede
7.	Chimezie Smart ATULOMAH	300L Mass Communication	ABSU	Umuekpe
8.	Ikenna Edwin IMEBUOGU	300L Computer Science	NOUN	Umuede
9.	Chinazaekpere Mercy IMEBUOGU	200L Food Science & Technology	ABSU	Umuede
10.	Chichetaram Jackson EBIZIAMA	200L Computer Science	AbiaPoly	Umuede
11.	Chizorom Louis AHAIWE	200L Public Administration	FedPoly, Nekede	Umuede
12.	Obiayo Victoria ATULOMAH	200L History & International Relations	ABSU	Umuekpe
13.	Bethel John AHAIWE	300L Marketing	MOUA, Umudike	Umuede
14.	Chiamaka Lilian NWAFOR	100L Cooperative Economics & Mgt	FedPoly, Nekede	Umunwoke
15.	Chimaobi Emmanuel Frank IBEABUCHI	100L Elect/Elect Engineering	MOUA, Umudike	Umunwoke