Nigerians have been advised to rise to the sustainability of the environment and stop activities that are capable of causing disasters.

The Governor of Ondo State, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko, gave the advice during the tree planting campaign at the Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA).

Governor Mimiko who was represented by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Pharmacist (Mrs) Olufunmilayo Osundolire, attributed the recent disaster in the world, especially flood to failure to pay attention to the environment. Arguing that people are ignorant of the hazard their negligence could pose to the existence of man.

While describing the environment as a legacy that must be preserved, Dr. Mimiko informed that his government will work with the Federal Ecological Fund to avert all environmental hazards caused by climate change and human activities.

He said the donation of 4,000 tree seedlings to the Federal University of Technology, Akure was deserving, giving its commitment to the sustainability of human environment.

Speaking earlier, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Adebsi Balogun revealed that the recent flood in some parts of Ibadan, the Uyo State capital was mainly caused by the refusal of citizens to observe environmental regulations.

He reiterated that the University was committed to tree planting in order to orientate both the students and members of staff on the need to take the issue of environmental maintenance seriously.

The Vice-Chancellor expressed the readiness of the institution to partner the State Government in its effort at sanitizing the environment in order to make it a safe place to live.

Professor Balogun commended the State Government for giving 4,000 tree seedlings to the University and promised to nurse the trees in a way that would allow them to serve the purpose for which they were planted.

Trees were planted at the campaign by the representative of Governor Mimiko, Pharmacist (Mrs) Olufunmilayo Osundolire, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebsi Balogun and other Principal Officers of the University.

FORMER NUC CHIEF ADVOCATES REVIEW OF PROFESSORIAL APPOINTMENT PROCESS

Former Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission (NUC), Professor Peter Okebukola has called for a review of the process of appointing professors in Nigerian Universities.

Professor Okebukola, who made the call during a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Akure, Professor Adebsi Balogun, said it is through an improved professorial appointment process that professors from the country could compete with those from other countries of the world.

The Don maintained that appointment of professors should be based on merit and not on other considerations, adding that unmerited professors will contribute nothing to the quality of graduates.
He also advocated for a merit selection process for the Post Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination candidates who are jostling for the limited spaces in the Nigerian higher institutions of learning.

Prof. Okebukola commended the management of FUTA for the physical and academic development of the University, and urged the management team to maintain the excellent standard set by the founding fathers of the University.

In his response, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebisi Balogun who described Professor Okebukola's comments as a wake-up call, appreciated him for his passion for FUTA since his days as the Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission.

He informed that the University has improved the process of appointing professors as research work of nominees always pass through external and local assessors for proper examination and scrutiny.

The Vice-Chancellor reiterated that FUTA will always go for the best when it comes to the admission of students in order to ensure a continuous academic standard.

Professor Balogun emphasized that the institution will soon complete a 2,500 capacity digital centre and two hostels of 500 capacity each to improve the standard of living of the students.

---

An appeal has gone to sons and daughters of Ondo State and other well-meaning Nigerians to support the aspiration of the Federal University of Technology, Akure to establish a School of Health Sciences.

The Chairman, FUTA-Akure Community Partnership, Chief Reuben Fasoranti made the plea during the meeting of the forum at the University.

Chief Fasoranti maintained that the Forum has been making necessary moves in order to ensure that the dream of establishing the school is achieved. He said unlike the other schools operational in the University, establishing a School of Health Sciences requires a huge amount of money.

The Chairman called for financial support from individuals and the government for immediate take-off of the School, adding that the entire people of Ondo State and the University's catchment area will be the beneficiaries of the School.

In his response, another member of the Forum, who is also the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Debo Adeyewa informed that the University's Senate has scrutinized the curriculum of the proposed Medical School.

He said that the owners of the piece of land acquired for the establishment of the School along Akure/Owo express road were requesting for compensation.

Prof. Adeyewa recalled how hard the Ondo State Governor, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko tried on the acquisition of the land during his time as the Minister for Urban Development.

Chief (Dr.) Reuben Fasoranti (Chairman, FUTA/Akure Community Partnership)

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development), Prof. Akin Fadamiyo affirmed that the option of clinical attachment with Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital, Ile-Ife or the Federal Medical Centre, Owo as suggested by some members of the Forum cannot be considered, given the fact that the National Universities Commission will not approve the School without facilities on ground.