White Paper on UNN report

NDU FOUNDED GUILTY

Nine professors freed of all blames

And following the accusations and counter accusations, the Federal Military Government in October 1984 appointed a visitation panel headed by a Rivers State High Court Judge, Justice Robert Okara to inquire into the affairs of the institution from 1983 to 1984.

The federal government's White Paper on the report, threw more light into the reasons why the former vice-chancellor was removed from office.

The release of the White Paper was announced by the vice-chancellor, Prof. Chinemerem Echono after an extraordinary meeting of the university senate held on Monday.

The 40-page White Paper found that while the nine professors who had petitioned against his style of administration were exonerated on all the counter allegations made against them, then, by Prof. Ndili.

According to the findings of the panel which were accepted by the Visitor, President Ibrahim Babangida, it was illogical for Prof. Ndili to have diverted the university exchange programme funds for the purchase of a Mercedes Benz saloon car without the knowledge of the institution or the chancellor who should have countersigned the cheque.

The White Paper also held that it was improper for Prof. Ndili to have set out to buy for himself a Mercedes Benz car or for the university in spite of the federal government ban on the use of Mercedes Benz cars as official vehicles.

The panel held that it was unbecoming of Prof. Ndili to have kept the transaction of the sale of the Mercedes Benz car at the institution's London Office secret to the Governing Council to enable it sell the car to the highest bidder.

The panel also found that story of the purchase of a Volvo car from the joint account of Prof. and Mrs Ndili for Mrs Ndili was not true.

It also contended that Prof. Ndili also abused his office by awarding contracts of above N10,000 allowed him by the Vice-Chancellor without reference to the tenders board for the purchase of X-ray equipment.

Other irregularities discovered by the panel against Prof. Ndili included the failure of the task forces he set up to render accounts after executing their assignments.

Prof. Ndili was also said to have exceeded his powers when he went ahead to purchase solar energy equipment to the tune of N600,000.

Upholding these findings as were recommended by the panel, the Visitor, President Ibrahim Babangida directed as follows:

- That the double Estacode allowance collected by Prof. Ndili be recovered from him.
- That the university council should investigate the contract award by Prof. Ndili for the certification of the Faculty of Art to the tune of N750,000 without reference to the tenders board.
- That an audit inquiry should be set up into overseas account of all university staff and any finding of maladministration or misconduct to be made to refund the amount so recovered.

Also a special investigation panel has been directed by the president to probe the purchase of a Volvo car by Mrs Ndili from an overseas joint account of the couple.

The White Paper further directed that the Mercedes Benz car purchased by Prof. Ndili be taken over by the conference visitors unit (CVU) of the federal government and that no further reparation be made to the University of Nigeria, Nsukka.