

JOINT ADMISSIONS AND MATRICULATION BOARD

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, BWARI, ABUJA

ABUSE OF REGULARISATION/CONDONEMENT: FINAL NOTICE ON ILLEGITIMATE ADMISSIONS CONDUCTED BY SOME TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS

The Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) wishes to call the attention of the general public to the danger of illegitimate admissions which some institutions have been conducting. The 1978 JAMB Act, as amended, empowers JAMB as the body to admit candidates into National Innovation Diploma (NID), Nigeria Certificate of Education (NCE), National Diploma (ND) and First Degree programme in the Tertiary Education system. The Board serves as repository of data on admission into Tertiary Education in Nigeria.

- Unfortunately, some Tertiary Institutions circumvent the process and admit candidates (qualified and unqualified) without the knowledge of the Board. This unwholesome practice has been on for some time and has continued despite several warnings to the tertiary institutions engaging in the unwholesome practice. The most obvious problem arising from this act is the misplaced lamentation of graduates who require the admission letter of JAMB to pursue post graduate endeavors such as housemanship, scholarship, enrolment into NYSC etc,
- The real danger and embarrassment that this practice constitutes to the nation can bear some illustration. Global institutions compile statistics on various sectors of human activities based on figures supplied by national establishments. The world expects the most reliable statistics from these national institutions, more so from one coordinating admission into tertiary institutions.
- Unfortunately, Nigeria has not been able to timely provide such reliable statistics that can inspire world confidence due to among others, this unwholesome practice of illegitimate admission by tertiary institutions. This is because the statistics have to be radically revised almost yearly when these illegitimate admissions are revealed. For example in 2015, Nigeria submitted (through the National Bureau of Statistics) that its intake into tertiary educational institution during the previous year (2014) was 282,007, by 2021, the same Nigeria submitted that actual intake for the same 2014 has risen to 537,935 (90% increase on its initial submission for the year). The situation is similar to the case of a teacher who on Tuesday reported that the previous day (Monday) 10 students attended his class, but on Friday of the week submitted that students who attended his class on the same Monday were actually 16 (because some attended but were not counted).
- If the statistics on admission into our tertiary institutions cannot be trusted absolutely, the integrity of all our national statistics will be in question. The table below graphically depicts the enormity of the discrepancies.

Admission Year	Date of Policy Meeting (This was when the Admission Statistics of Previous Years were made Public)	Initial Disclosed Figure for the Year	New 2021 Updated Total of Initially Undisclosed Admission but later discovered, Condoned and Regularised	Percentage Increase
2014	14 th July, 2015	282,007	537,935	90.75%
2015	22 nd July, 2016	567,382	574,912	1.3%
2016	26 th September, 2017	559,485	603,337	7.84% (Before stoppage of Regularisation)

- JAMB understandably was concerned, indeed alarmed by this sorry state of our tertiary institution admission statistics and took steps to address the situation. In 2017, the Board introduced a software known as Central Admissions Processing System (CAPS) which provides a national platform for each institution to initiate admission online for the approval and records of JAMB.
- Despite the fact that it is easy to use the CAPS platform aside other benefits for candidates, some institutions continue to defy the decision of the National Policy Meeting headed by the Honourable Minister of Education that the CAPS is the only platform for processing of admissions into Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria.
- The unpleasant consequence is that these illegitimate admissions damage the image of the Country as statistics provided by the Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and similar agencies are rendered inaccurate by as high as 90% in some cases. This distorts the statistics of the number of students in our tertiary institutions. JAMB is then made to supply radically different figures of entrants for the same year. In addition misplaced pressure is annually put on JAMB to condone (or regularise) such illegal and improper admission made 3 or 4 years earlier by the Head of Institutions who in almost all the cases not the incumbent.
- Another absurdity is that the Gross Enrolment ratio (GER) for tertiary education which JAMB provides for the Federal Ministry of Education is fed into global databank of tertiary institutions and Nigeria continues to publish low GER record which was far from reality on ground. Also, one of the unsavory effects of the undisclosed admissions by tertiary institutions is that it makes planning difficult. With inaccurate data, planning cannot adequately cater for the intended purposes.

10 Again, the undisclosed admissions do not show transparency and is devoid of honesty. Our experience since 2017 is that CAPS, as similar devices have done in other countries, is capable of removing the foregoing anomalies associated with Nigeria's tertiary education admission processes. Except for the lawlessness of some tertiary institutions, CAPS has been so successful in Nigeria such that some other countries have come to understudy it.

11 CAPS process-flow is that JAMB provides the scores of the candidates with their other vital data to the institutions who are at liberty to conduct further screening, add the scores of such screening, rank the candidates and upload the ranking on CAPS.

12 The institution is also the only one that can initiate and recommend candidates to JAMB for admission. JAMB merely ensures the institution complies with the specification prescribed by each proprietor of the tertiary institution and not below the minimum National threshold.

13 Since 2017, JAMB does not and cannot initiate admission of any candidate nor can it offer admission to any candidate not expressly recommended by the respective institutions.

14 It is regrettable that since 2017 when the Board introduced CAPS, institutions were asked to stop illegal admissions but, unfortunately, this has gone unheeded and a number of the institutions continue to conduct illegal admissions.

15 Beneficiaries of such illegal admission suffer many deprivations such that in the past, the Board out of sympathy and consideration of human and material resources expended on training the illegally admitted candidates has been constrained to condone these illegitimate admissions through what was known as regularisation. This was just to ameliorate the difficulties the hapless candidates are subjected to by this unwholesome act. The Board later changed the name from regularisation to condonement of illegitimate admission. The Board provided an indemnity-form to be completed by the Head of Tertiary Institutions to confess that the institution actually admitted (undisclosed) candidate illegally and is just being retroactively processed for admission. The institutions without much hesitation have been completing the confession and indemnity forms.

16 The Board in its resolve not to allow the innocent students suffer, has been condoning all these infractions in admissions done prior to 2017 (when it was stopped). Now pressure is again being mounted on the Board to condone the illegitimate admissions conducted post CAPS era (2017 to date) by some institutions. It is most regrettable that some institutions were even discovered to have conducted admissions even before they were licensed to commence academic programmes.

17 Consequently, the Board is providing a platform to cater for those illegitimate admissions done between 2017 and 2020 which were not captured on CAPS. This platform is to rescue innocent but minimally qualified candidates from the consequences of their illegitimate and improper entry. The most disturbing facts are that many of the undisclosed candidates were admitted with poorer qualifications than their unadmitted more brilliant candidates from the same locality thereby maligning the well thought out affirmative action known in Nigeria as Federal Character principle which demands national spread of picking the best from each locality (subject to minimum benchmark). In addition, some of the illegally enlisted candidates are now made to graduate without the prescribed entry qualification. The Institutions involved in such lawless actions are available in all the six Geopolitical zones of Nigeria.

18 As a measure to mop-up the backlog of improperly admitted candidates, the Board creates a platform to belatedly capture those screened and found to have the minimum requirement for admission.

19 Such candidates are then processed retroactively in order to allow them enjoy the benefits of their certificates. This is being done with the hope that the institutions would then put a halt to illegal admission and its consequent damage to the Nation. This shall be the last time that improper/illegitimate admissions will be condoned by JAMB.

20 Tertiary institutions, candidates and the public at large are to note that the purveyors and beneficiaries of improper/illegitimate tertiary institution admissions will henceforth live with the unpleasant consequences of their actions.

21 Candidates and influence-wielding parents are advised to heed this warning and ensure that before accepting admission from any institution, it beholds on them to verify that such offer of admission had been processed through the JAMB's platform i.e CAPS as no further request for condonement shall be entertained by the Board.

It is expected that by this publication, JAMB has served enough notice to all and sundry.

SIGNED

MANAGEMENT

JOINT ADMISSIONS AND MATRICULATION BOARD