

The new MOU (Operational guidelines) for Igbobi College, Yaba

I congratulate ICOBA on the historic signing ceremony of a renewed MOU between the Methodist Church and Anglican Communion, who hitherto operated on an agreement signed in 1935. Old Boys have asked about the significance of this MOU and I will explain briefly the major items and implications for ICOBA. Extracts from the agreement are highlighted below.

The Agreement is between the two owners of the school (The Missions). The Methodist Church and The Anglican Communion.

1. The MOU formally recognise ICOBA as a stakeholder and expresses later in the document, appreciation of its support and co-operation over the years.

- The *Co-operating Churches* jointly established *Igbobi College, Yaba, Lagos (hereinafter referred to as the “College”)* in 1932 with the aim of providing a well-balanced and rounded Secondary Education to Nigerian boys in an environment conducive for the purpose.
- *By virtue of the Articles of Association passed by a meeting of the Board of Governors of the College held on December 30th, 1935 the Mission laid out the Constitution of the College, the procedure and Power of the Board and other Rules governing the Management and Superintendence of the College.*
- The *Co-operating Churches* are desirous of continuing the joint management of the College and now deem it expedient *to amend the aforementioned Articles of Association* and enter into this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as “*M.O.U.*”) in order to articulate their **Vision** and to confirm the terms and conditions on which they will jointly manage the College henceforth.”
- The *Supervisory Board* will encourage ICOBA to continue to provide role modelling, mentorship, guidance and counselling, as well as physical, social, spiritual, and financial support by way of scholarships, grants, donations and provisions of amenities to the students of the college.

2. In its new Governance structure for the school, a Supervisory Board has been created to host the two Bishops and 2 other members each from the Methodists and Anglicans. This Board really personifies the two Missions and has ultimate responsibility for the affairs of Igbobi College. Certain levels of approvals need to be given by this Board. It is to this Supervisory Board that The School Board of Governors now report, instead of reporting to each Bishop separately, which had been the case.

There shall be established for the College, a *Supervisory Board* whose membership shall be as follows:

- One Bishop each from the *Co-operating Churches* (who for time being) are currently appointed and designated by the *Co-operating Churches* as having oversight of the College.
 - Two members from each Church.
3. **The Membership of the Board of Governors (BOG), has been increased from 12 to 15, as follows:**
- a. **6 from The Methodist Church (formerly 5)**
 - b. **6 from the Anglican communion (formerly 5)**
 - c. **2 from ICOBA (One of which must be the President of ICOBA). (formerly 1)**
 - d. **1 representative from the Parents' Teachers Association**

The Board shall comprise of the following categories of members:

- Twelve (12) members appointed in equal proportion by the *Co-operating Churches who shall be Christians* and shall either be renowned Educationists or possess other skills or experience necessary for the successful administration of the College. The *Co-operating Churches* shall stagger the appointment of their respective representatives to avoid retirement of all representatives at the same time. This is to ensure continuity and the preservation of institutional knowledge of the Board.
 - Two members of ICOBA, specifically The President of ICOBA and one other representative of the ICOBA.
 - A representative of the College's Parents Teachers Association ("PTA");
4. **The Old Boys look to encourage the Bishops to appoint their parishioners who are old boys of the school to the Board. Today we have 5 old boys on the current 12 - man board, all chosen from the Anglican and Methodist church in addition to the current President of ICOBA, who is an Anglican. We have been lucky to have 2 "female Igbobians" by marriage and as sibling of Igbobians on the BOG. If this inclusion of old boys is maintained, we could have as many as 8 Old Boys on a 15-man board. The current Chairman of the BOG is an Igbobian.**
5. **The Infrastructure and new Education Masterplan prepared by ICOBA have been accepted as the framework to be followed by the school on physical, operational and strategic management matters of the school.**
- The Infrastructure Masterplan (the "Masterplan") commissioned and submitted by ICOBA shall serve as the framework for the physical infrastructural development within the College premises except otherwise directed by the *Supervisory Board*.

- The Education Quality Masterplan (the “EQM”) commissioned and submitted by ICOBA shall serve as the framework for the strategic educational development, of the College students except otherwise directed by the *Supervisory Board*.

6. The BOG will submit regular performance reports to the Supervisory Board, including the financial status of the school.

The Supervisory Board shall perform the following functions:

- Perform oversight functions over the Board of Governors hereinafter referred to as the “Board of Governors”
- Receive from the Governing Board semi-annual and annual audited financial reports and school performance reports and review same.
- Ensure sound financial management and quality control

7. The Missions have agreed not to distribute any financial surplus between them for a period of two years from the signing of the agreement, (they have not done so for four years to-date). After such period, a third of such surplus will be shared between the two parties, whilst another third will be allocated for the College’s capital expenditure and the remaining will be invested in low risk profit yielding investment for the school.

“The *Co-operating Churches* agree that the financial surplus (if any) of the College shall remain undistributed for a period of two (2) years from the date of this Agreement. At the expiration of the said two (2) years, one-third (1/3) of the annual surplus shall be shared equally between the Parties, whilst another one-third (1/3) shall be allocated for the College’s capital expenditure, as approved by the *Supervisory Board* and the remaining one-third (1/3) of the annual surplus shall be invested in low risk profit-yielding investments (such as bonds issued by the Federal Government of Nigeria or fixed deposits in such Banks as shall be designated by the Board), as approved by the Supervisory Board, for the future growth and development of the College. The Board shall recommend an investment policy for the approval of the *Supervisory Board*.”

8. The Missions for now, have insisted on a 5-year rotation of Principal for the school between them. However, the position of the Principal can only be filled by nominees that have been tested, approved and accepted by the BOG. (This issue of tenure is still under discussion).

- “The Principal shall be appointed on a rotational basis between the *Co-operating Churches* for a single tenure of 5 years subject to annual performance review.

- The Church whose turn is to appoint a Principal shall nominate 3 qualified persons (Ministerial) of the Church for consideration by the *Board of Governors*.
- The Board of Governors shall conduct an interview for the 3 nominees and then recommend one of them for appointment as Principal by the *Supervisory Board*.
- If the Board of Governors reject the 3 nominees, the appointing Church shall submit another set of 3 names for consideration of the Board of Governors which process shall continue until an appointee emerge from the exercise.”

It is clear that the Missions really appreciate the tremendous contribution of ICOBA since the association claimed back the ownership of the school for the Missions in 2001. It has been a long journey and much more needs to be done. The MOU, which was prepared with the full involvement of ICOBA, is a testimony to the role, relevance and recognition of ICOBA by the Missions.

Without a doubt, ICOBA has earned itself the role of TRUSTED CUSTODIAN of Igbobi College and for that role, the Missions need to trust that its own vision for the school is still pursued. During our many deliberations, our heated discussions revolved around ICOBA’s ability to uphold the fundamental principles of the two Missions, which emphasised raising students within the sanctity of the Christian faith, a situation they expect ICOBA to uphold as our intervention increases. For this, we have given that commitment.

As we move forward as a body, we must appreciate the great responsibility we have been given to be true custodians of the school and all it stands for. We must also ALWAYS remember that the school belongs to the Missions and ultimate control lies with them.

The National Exco of ICOBA feels extremely proud and elated that we fulfilled a commitment made when we took office.

God bless Igbobi College, God bless ICOBA

UPIC

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President ICOBA

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