**REPORT OF THE 22ND ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERNECE ON AFRICAN LITERATURE AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE (ICALEL) MAY 7-11, 2013, HELD AT UNICAL CONFERENCE CENTRE**

 **Introduction**:

The Department of English and Literary Studies, University of Calabar organized its 22nd Annual International Conference on African Literature and English Language (ICALEL) from 7th -11th May 2013, in Calabar, Cross-River State. The Chairman ICPC Barrister Ekpo Nta was the Guest Speaker at the event invited to deliver a paper entitled ‘’ Corruption and National Security‘’ on the 9th May, 2013. Other dignitaries at the event included: Prof. James Epoke, Vice Chancellor University of Calabar, Elechi Amadi foremost literary icon, Dr. John O. Iyang , representative, Dean Faculty of Arts, Dr. Stella Asibong Ansa HOD, English and Literary Studies, Dr. Francis Mogu ,Chairman, (ICALEL) LOC and over 300 participants.

The programme began at about 10.30 am with dignitaries such as the Vice-Chancellor, Guest Speaker being invited to the high table. The opening prayer and National anthem followed thereafter.

At the event with the ICPC Chairman were the HOD Education Department Mrs. R. A. Okoduwa who interacted with about 200 students of the Department of English and Literary Studies of the University, and Mr. Ahmed Abdul (ACEO) who projected the documentary on ‘Real People Real Impact’ while an ICPC exhibition stand displaying ICPC Publications was also mounted at the entrance of the venue.

**Remarks by the Convener Dr. S.A. Ansa**:

Opening remarks was given by HOD English and Literary Studies and Convener of the Conference, Dr. S.A. Ansa. In her remarks, she thanked the University authority for its support for the conference while also appreciating the ICPC for partnering with the Department of English and Literary Studies, University of Calabar to organize the 22nd Annual International Conference on African Literature and English Language. She also commended the participants and wished them a fruitful conference.

**Remarks by the Dean, Faculty of Arts, Prof F.U. Angrey**

The remarks of the Dean, Faculty of Arts, Prof F.U. Angrey was given by his representative Dr. John O. Iyang. He welcomed all present and highlighted the significance of ICACEL which he described as an annual ritual and an important assembly of writers and critics who converge annually to chart a way forward on the predominant social vices that affect the socio- economic development of the Nigerian state.

He further stated that the choice of this year’s theme ‘‘Corruption and National Security’’ was apt and thus requested participants to focus their presentations on issues of corruption and national security and come up with communiqués that will assist the anti-graft agencies like ICPC and EFCC to reduce the menace of corruption. He concluded his remarks with urging the Department of English and Literary Studies to sustain ICACEL.

**Welcome Address by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. James Epoke:**

The Vice- Chancellor and Chief Host, Prof. James Epoke welcomed the Guest Speaker – Chairman ICPC and appreciated his willingness to attend and address the Conference as the guest speaker. He also welcomed and thanked participants for attending the conference and wished them successful deliberations, paper presentations and discussions.

**Guest Speaker’s Address**:

In his paper titled Corruption and National Security the Hon. Chairman ICPC, Barr. Ekpo Nta, commended the Department of English and Literary Studies. He stated that ICACEL had brought international honour and respect to the Department and the University of Calabar and reiterated Commission’s willingness to support ICACEL because African Literature helps in shaping national consciousness and some of the African literary works for example, Chinua Achebe’s **No Longer at Ease and Man of the People** satirize corruption thus complementing the mandate of ICPC.

The kernel of the paper was on corruption, its forms and effects especially on the youths. Lateness, bribery, nepotism etc. were described as forms of corruption. The Guest Speaker stated that corruption brings about insecurity especially when citizens are denied the basic needs due to corruption they may likely take the law into their hands thus, leading to insecurity.

The paper highlighted the roles of ICPC in promoting National Security to include detection and investigation of corruption cases which is one of the causes of insecurity in the country; establishing ACTUs in MDAs; conducting Systems Study and Review in MDAs; University Systems Study and Review, educating members of the public on and against corruption, among others.

The Chairman informed the participants that the Commission was working with the National University Commission NUC in order to upload all transcripts of Nigerian Universities on website to allow easy accessibility to all that needed it, and that the Commission had gotten court order to close 67 illegal universities which he said will soon be implemented.

He further stated that United Nations Office of Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) would introduce Anti-corruption Studies in 20 universities across the globe and two Nigeria universities would be beneficiaries. Thus, he assured University of Calabar that it would be one of the beneficiaries. He concluded his paper by thanking the University for finding him worthy to deliver the paper.

**Presentation of 3-flex Banners to University of Calabar**:

 While urging the university to be at the vanguard of fighting corruption, he presented three flex banners to the Vice –Chancellor as Commission’s IEC materials. In his response, the Vice – Chancellor thanked the Commission for the kind gesture and requested that the partnership be sustained.

 **Interactive Session with Students:**

The Director, Education ICPC, Mrs. R. A. Okoduwa interacted with about 200 students of the Department of English and Literary Studies. She discussed corruption and its effects. She also charged the students to resist, reject and report corruption; that they should be useful to themselves and de-emphasize materialism, among others. The Commission through Education Department thereafter provided light refreshment for the students.

 **Chairman’s Courtesy Call to Executive Governor, Cross River State:**

 At about 4.30 pm, the Chairman ICPC paid a courtesy call on the Executive Governor, Cross River State and was accompanied by Director, Education, Mrs. R. A. Okoduwa, Mr. John Odey , Mr. Ahmed Abdul , Mr. Ufot Edet (all from the ICPC) among others.

In his remarks, the Chairman outlined the functions of the Commission to the Executive Governor and Members, Cross River State Executive Council present and informed them that ICPC is focusing on its preventive mandate of Systems Study and Review at Ministries, Department and Agencies and Public Education and Enlightenment alongside the enforcement mandate.

In his response, the Executive Governor, Cross River State, Senator Liyel Imoke congratulated the Chairman on his appointment and expressed his administration’s readiness to partner with Commission in the areas of:

* Training of Local Government and State Government functionaries
* Systems Study and Review; and
* Public Enlightenment.

He also informed the Chairman of some of his administration’s policies in Cross River State which included:

* Fiscal Responsibility
* Qualitative Education ( not free)
* Due Process in Contracting and Procurement
* Budgeting for Local Government, among others.

The visit ended with the Chairman presenting the ICPC plaque, ICPC Law Report and one flex banner to the Executive Governor Cross River State as Commission’s IEC materials.

 **Conclusion:**

The event ended on the 10th May 2013. The ICPC exhibition stand remained mounted at the venue of the conference on the 10th May 2013. During the closing ceremony of the conference, Mr. Ahmed Abdul presented two flex banners to the Department of English and Literary Studies on behalf of the Commission.