

APPENDIX IV

PROGRAMMES DEVELOPED FOR THE CLEMENT ISONG CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF UYO

DOCUMENT OF RESUSCITATION AND ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

PROPOSAL FOR THE RESUSCITATION OF THE CLEMENT ISONG CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (CDS), UNIVERSITY OF UYO.

To: The Vice Chancellor
University of Uyo

INTRODUCTION

The Clement Isong Centre for Development Studies (CDS) was established by the University of Cross River State and was domiciled in the Faculty of Social Sciences. At that time it was simply called Centre for Development Studies. The statutes and exact dates which this Centre was established, I believe, are in the University records but are not available to me at the moment.

The CDS had a two-room office accommodation in the building shared by the Department of Economics and the GIS Unit of the Department of Geography. I recall that in the earliest days, Prof Essien Udom might have been the Director, but I do know that latter, Prof Ignatius I. Ukpong and Prof Christian O. E. Enoh were Directors at one time or the other. Prof Christian. O. E. Enoh(late) was the last director of the CDS.

In the early days of the University of Cross River State and latter, the University of Uyo, the CDS was noted for its vigorous scholarly activities, particularly in organizing and hosting of scholarly workshops and symposia in a wide range of current developmental issues of the time including governance, public finance and administration and planning. The earliest outlets for ideas, publications and inputs into government policies were facilitated by the CDS. A land-mark publication at that time was the book edited by Prof Ignatius. I. Ukpong and Dr Peter Iniodu(late) from which colleagues are still claiming contributory articles for their assessment.

The CDS remained for a long time under Prof I.I.Ukpong even after he had become a contracted staff and had become academically inactive. The CDS continued to remain inactive without a director after Prof I. I. Ukpong (Department of Economics) eventually pulled out completely from service. In late 2003 or thereabout, late Prof C. O. Enoh (Department of Geography & Regional Planning) was appointed Director by Prof A. H. Ekpo to reorganize the centre. I recall that Prof Enoh made consultations with me concerning the CDS (I was Dean of Social Sciences at that time). It appeared that Prof Enoh's final proposals were either not submitted or were not approved. In addition, his tenure was not eventful until he retired from service and the CDS lapsed into inactivity. No other Director was appointed to replace him. The Department of Economics then absorbed the two-room accommodation of the CDS into her holdings. From that time, the CDS became moribund.

For the past five or six years, very few people have mentioned the CDS but its conspicuous sign post still adorn the high walls of the building. In fact, many students and staff may not even be aware that such an important Centre had once contributed to scholarship in this community. The reason is not far fetched. The inactivity of the last two directors was the turning point in the fortunes of the CDS and this was compounded when the Faculty of Social Sciences lost the accreditation of all her academic programmes in 2005. The CDS became irrelevant as all attention and efforts were directed at recovering the lost programmes. Now that the Departmental programmes are strong and healthy, it is my opinion that there is sufficient justification to strengthen the research and scholarship base of the Faculty of Social Sciences and indeed of the University by resuscitating the Centre for Development studies (CDS).

WHY THE CDS SHOULD BE RESUSCITATED

1. The CDS is a rallying point for research-oriented activities (particularly those with interdisciplinary focus) within the University.
2. The CDS is the most appropriate unit for seeking collaboration (and establishing collaboration) with local, non-state or community based organizations to research on a wide range of current issues that impact on the larger society.
3. The CDS is the most appropriate unit to initiate collaboration with governments on issues that the University can contribute to debates on policy and good governance.

4. The CDS is a most appropriate unit to seek linkages with similar Centres in Nigeria (or elsewhere) and explore opportunities to increase or build the capacity of the staff of the University of Uyo.
5. The CDS has the capacity to generate funds or acquire funding to support some of its activities with minimal demand from the University.
6. The CDS is an image-making unit of the University because its activities are usually widely publicized.

ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH BASE

It is my opinion that a resuscitated CDS requires a strong academic and research base as part of her regular activities. These will enable the Centre to be constantly active. I therefore propose the following mandates:

- (a) Development and coordination of relevant and targeted interdisciplinary academic/training programmes that meet current developmental needs of the society (see Appendix A and B).
- (b) Publication of Developmental Monographs, periodically based on the output of either workshops, symposia or invited presentations.
- (c) Publication of selected theses or dissertations in book form (possibly all disciplines). These University of Uyo/CDS Publications will make available the research findings in readable form from the University to a wider public (see Appendix 3).

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

It may not be possible to recover the offices and equipment of the moribund CDS as they were five or six years ago. But considering the importance of this centre, the following modest support could be a starting point:

- i) Two contiguous rooms for offices.
- ii) Two computers with internet connectivity
- iii) One printer/photocopier combination
- iv) Shelves and cabinets, desks, chairs and other essential furnishings
- v) Computer literate clerical and administrative staff.

CONCLUSION

It is my opinion that the CDS will be a most viable Centre in the University if resuscitated.