**THE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF UNIZIK CLOSES DOWN:**

**CLINICAL LECTUERS EMBARK ON INDEFINITE STRIKE…**

Following the expiration of the ultimatum issued by the Clinical Lecturers under the aegis of Medical and Dental Consultants’ Association of Nigeria (MDCAN), a body of all Medical and Dental Specialist with Medical Fellowship, the body started an indefinite strike, this day 25th September, 2024.

Recall that the body wrote letters to the office of Pro-Chancellor dated 2nd August 2024, and also sent ultimatum on 17th September, 2024 following obnoxious advert targeted for the position of the Vice-Chancellor of the University with a deliberate intention to exclude all the qualified lecturers of the Faculties of Medicine, Basic Clinical Sciences and Basic Medical Sciences, and to disenfranchise the Clinical lecturers with FELLOWSHIP as highest degree (and not PhD, which is by choice for those in Clinical practice). The obnoxious advert among other things had a prerequisite that applicant must have a PhD of 15 years, without including postgraduate Medical Fellowship of 15 years.

Despite this pre-information, these lecturers were therefore shocked to see an advertisement for the position of Vice Chancellor of Nnamdi Azikiwe University (NAU), published in page 33 of Vanguard of Thursday 12th September 2024 purported to have been authorized by the Pro-Chancellor (and signed by the Registrar/secretary of the council) that selectively and maliciously excluded all of the members from the entire Faculties of Medicine and Basic Clinical Sciences from applying for the vacant position of the Vice Chancellor of Nnamdi Azikiwe University. This was unprecedented and unacceptable to the lecturers.

MDCAN therefore held an emergency congress on Saturday the 14th of September 2024 and issued an ultimatum which was communicated to all relevant authorities.

The congress rejected the advertisement and resolved that this injurious and obnoxious advertisement be withdrawn, within **seven (7) days** from the date of the ultimatum letter, failure of which the entire CLINICAL/MEDICAL LECTURERS will be left with no option than to embark on an indefinite industrial action until this advert is withdrawn.

 In their earlier letter, the lecturers demanded that the new advert should factor in the academic pathway of Medical/Clinical lecturers by putting Post-Graduate Medical Fellowship anywhere PhD appears and excluding Master’s degree from requirement, considering their long standing pathway. This ultimatum has not received the attention of the Pro-Chancellor as at the time that industrial action commenced.

The ongoing industrial action entails the withdrawal of all the medical/clinical lecturers from the Faculties of Medicine, Basic Clinical Sciences and Basic Medical Sciences from all academic function.

For clarity and emphasis, the academic pathway for Clinical Lecturers, known by all, is as follows:

a. First degree (MBBS, BDS),

b. Primary Fellowship Examination,

c. Part I Fellowship Examination, and

d. Part II/Final Fellowship Examination, with dissertation leading to the award of a **Medical Fellowship**. **(see the Nnamdi Azikiwe University “Blue” (staff hand) book for promotion for guidance).**