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Special Release

28 February, 2021

PRESERVATION OF AWBA DAM

This is to reiterate to the University community that the Awba Reservoir has been the major source of water supply on the campus while also serving many academic departments for teaching and research as well as other socio-economic benefits to the University.

These benefits from Awba Dam may not be sustainable if urgent steps are not taken to prevent the ongoing damages to the Awba reservoir ecosystem, especially its watershed, precipitated by anthropogenic activities.

For a very long time, observations made revealed that some anthropogenic activities around the reservoir, especially the watershed are posing serious threat and will ultimately lead to its total collapse if urgent and decisive steps are not taken.

These activities include but not limited to the following:

1. Farming around the reservoir, especially on the watershed has led to its siltation. Sand and other debris from exposed farmlands ended up in the dam when rain falls thereby not only reducing the Dam's water retaining volume significantly but negatively impacting on the water quality;
2. Inorganic herbicides being used on farmlands may be washed into the Dam thereby putting the entire university community in danger of poisoning through chemical contamination of the water body; and
3. There were reports about illegal harvesting of fishes in the Dam by some people using obnoxious fishing methods.

In light of the above, farming activities within the boundaries of Appleton Road, Faculty of Science, Departments of Statistics and Mathematics' new buildings, Faculty of Technology to Gongola/Imo Streets are hereby prohibited with immediate effect.

Trespassers will be sanctioned in line with the University's regulations.

Thank you.

MANAGEMENT