Women Affairs Minister: I was sexual harassment victim

Date: 2023-09-26

Source: https://thenationonlineng.net/women-affairs-minister-i-was-sexual-harassment-victim/

Women Affairs Minister: I was sexual harassment victim  
  
Govt to draft DSS operatives to probe UNICAL lecturer  
  
VC condemns alleged assault, calls for investigation  
  
Women Affairs Minister Uju Kennedy-Ohanenye has said she was once a victim of sexual harassment in her university days.  
  
The minister said her lecturer on Constitutional Law, who she accused of harbouring an ulterior motive, almost made her miss going to the Law School.  
  
She said the lecturer ensured that she failed several times because she refused to play into his hands.  
  
Kennedy-Ohanenye said this while addressing reporters and leaders of Nigerian universities on sexual harassment in tertiary institutions yesterday in Abuja.  
  
Also, the minister said her ministry was examining a plan that would ensure they form cooperatives for many aspects of production.  
  
She said: “So, there are ways these things are investigated. It was one of the reasons I stood firmly on the Calabar case and asked for justice. That was all I asked for. I can’t support anyone because I don’t know what happened. I wasn’t there. All I asked is let a thorough investigation be carried out.  
  
“On the University of Calabar case, I made those calls personally. If a child can come out and carry placards on the streets, is it to speak to a mother like me that will be a problem? Now, all I asked for was justice to be done.  
  
“We all went to the university and we know how some students go for more marks and some lectures victimise students.  
  
“I was also a victim while in the university. I also wrote a letter for a particular course on constitutional law for my paper to be remarked because a lecturer had been failing me and asking me to pay for a place and invite him to come.  
  
“I wrote a letter after others left for Law School without me. I wrote a letter and requested for a remark of my paper in another school and refused to compromise to him.  
  
“When a panel was set up and my paper was brought, they realised he wrote 80 per cent but pasted fail on the list.  
  
“So, for the Uni-Calabar case, I spoke with the students, the vice chancellor and the professor asked us to write him a letter. Now, we are getting more people involved, including the DSS, for investigations to be carried out because there are talks that show that there is more going on besides sexual harassment. Without investigations, we won’t know and we would not allow emotions to be involved to ensure we get justice.”  
  
Also, UNICAL Vice Chancellor, Prof. Florence Obi, has condemned an alleged assault on students of the institution by a suspected lecturer.  
  
Obi was reacting in a statement yesterday in Calabar to a video clip that surfaced online on Sunday night of a suspected UNICAL lecturer beating up a group of students at the entrance to a classroom with a belt.  
  
Quoting reports, the VC said the students were those of the Department of Microbiology in the Faculty of Biological Sciences waiting for their practicals before the incident occurred.  
  
“Although I am currently on an official function outside the state, my attention has been drawn to the said clip.  
  
“The Acting VC, Prof. Angela Oyo-Ita; the Director of ServiCom, Prof. Patrick Egaga; the Dean of Students Affairs, Dr. Tony Enyang; and the Acting Chief Security Officer (CSO) of the institution, Capt. Austine Bisong (retd.) are already handling it.  
  
“The incident is unprofessional and against the university’s rules of engagement,” she said.