

**PROJECT TITLE:**

**UNILAG ULTRA MODERN ZOOLOGICAL AND BOTANICAL GARDEN (By Sabo Victor E.)**

Sustainability, as a term, is being used more in the sense of human sustaining the planet. However, for a better understanding of the term, I will want to use it in the concept sustainable development. Sustainable development is the development that meets the needs of the present without jeopardizing the needs of the future generations.



On the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2007, it was announced by the erstwhile Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Tolu Odugbemi, on the school website of the intention to develop an Ultra modern Nature Park comprising a zoological garden, botanical garden, and research and relaxation area at the University’s Lagoon front. According to Professor Duro Oni, the botanical garden has been transformed from a “no go area” to a lively and conducive place for relaxation after the day’s work.

In addition, according to Prof. Toyin Ogundipe, a member of the committee in charge of the project, and also the former Dean of the School of Postgraduate studies, the project was being financed through the Build-Operate and-Transfer (BOT) system. In his words “the Nature Park would be the first of such projects in any institution in the country. The tourist centre would provide education, information and entertainment in a serene and beautiful atmosphere. All the medicinal plants that would be on display would be labelled, so that tourists and researchers would know the uses and sources of such plants.”

According to the initiator of this project, Prof. Odugbemi, it is the first of its kind to be developed in any academic institution in the country. It stretches through the Lagoon front to the back of the University’s main library.

This has been a major tourist attraction centre. The Vice Chancellor hinted in his mission statement that botanical and zoological gardens was built for learning, research and services and truly, it has been serving this purpose.

It should be noted however that the botanical and zoological, though has in its environment diverse species of plants, it lacks different species of animals. For this reason, it is not functioning at its maximum potential. This, I think, is due to lack of finance and a poor maintenance culture.

**FORMER LOOK**

**NEW LOOK**

