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For information and enlightenment

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V-C Commissions UPWA Multi-Purpose Complex

It was an electric atmosphere as the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, led other top functionaries of the University to commission the second phase of the University of Port Harcourt Women Association's multi-purpose building that would house the International Daycare/Nursery and Primary Schools at the Gladys Cookey Resource Centre, University Park, reports *Ethel Timi-Johnson*.

More on p3



Side Bar ASAN-NIAS ANNUAL CONFAB

The South South Zone of the Animal Science Association of Nigeria (ASAN) in conjunction with Nigerian Institute of Animal Science (NIAS) holds a joint Annual Meeting on Tuesday, 20th to Thursday, 22nd September, 2016, at the Ebikimi Banigo Auditorium. Details Next Week.

~Editor

6th Egbogah Legacy Lecture

Experts Brainstorm On Declining Oil Revenue Under Price Volatility

By Obinna Nwodin

Issues bothering on ensuring that the revenue accruable to the country from crude oil was properly utilized under the current harsh global economic realities formed the main thrust of the 6th Emmanuel Egbogah Legacy Lecture Series which took place at the Emerald Energy Institute, IPS Park, last Wednesday.

Delivering the Keynote Address on the theme: *Managing Petroleum Revenue Under Volatile Price Dynamics*, Chief Executive Officer of International Institute of Petroleum, Energy Law and Policy, Dr. Timothy Okon, stated that issues that currently bedevil the economy were reflected in the way and manner the huge revenue that previously accrued to the country was utilized by the political class, stressing the need for government to evolve a basic plan for

properly harnessing and prioritizing oil revenue to better the lot of Nigerians groaning under economic recession.

Dr. Okon said that understanding price movement in the unpredictable oil and gas sector was the right strategy for any forward-looking government, adding that the volatility in the petroleum sector was not a new occurrence. He pointed out that the Nigerian

More on p6



ICGN Ends Career Training Programme

Story on p2



Academic Medics Applaud Fawehinmi's Appointment

Story on p3



Health Centre Tasks Staff On NHS Registration

Story on p4



Red Cross Inaugurates UniPort Detachment

Story on p5



Faction Protests UniPort USSA Branch Election

By Williams Wodi

The emergence of a new Executive to run the affairs of the University of Port Harcourt Branch of the University Secretariat Staff Association (USSA), has been challenged by an aggrieved faction that believed that the exercise was fraught with irregularities and should be nullified to pave way for another poll that would be generally acceptable to members.

In a strongly-worded protest letter addressed to the National President of the Association which was jointly signed by Mr. Donald Iheberi and Mr. Precious Orumie on behalf of their colleagues, a copy of which was made available to *UniPort Weekly*, the aggrieved members described the poll as a charade, claiming that the exercise was "orchestrated by the National President and his collaborators in the University of Port Harcourt."

The signatories further claimed that the national conference that produced the contentious Executive was brought to UniPort through their personal effort, making them the authentic leaders of the local Branch of the Association.

Explaining that election into the Branch Executive was never part of the agenda for the National Delegates Conference that held in the University about a fortnight ago, the protesters observed that it was neither reflected nor captured in the address presented by the Branch Chairman at the opening ceremony. "It should also be noted that an item as important as a Branch Officers' election could not have been smuggled in through the back door as was done by the National President and his collaborators," the protest letter read in part.

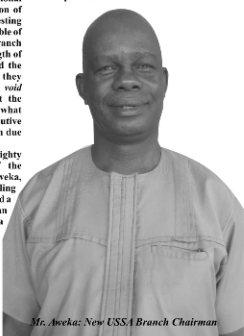
Further claiming that a quorum was not formed at the conference that produced the disputed Branch Executive, the factional leaders submitted that the election should have been shelved until a more auspicious occasion for the exercise to hold.

Explaining that the appropriate constitutional procedures were not followed in the election of officers into the Branch Executive, the protesting group warned that what happened was capable of undermining the activities of the UniPort Branch of the Association with a membership strength of over 300. The protesters, therefore, prayed the National Secretariat to declare what they described as a purported election null and void and of no effect, offering instead to put the appropriate machinery in place to usher in what they described as "a properly elected Executive that would be acceptable to all concerned in due course."

When contacted for his comments on the weighty allegations, newly elected Chairman of the UniPort Branch of USSA, Mr. Sunday Aweka, rubbished the claim by the protesters, calling them bad losers who ought to join him to build a strong Branch of the Association, rather than dissipating energy on finding faults in a process that he described as transparent and credible.

"Mr. Iheberi has been an unelected Chairman for ten years and I don't know if he wants to be Chairman for life. Again, if they claim that the election was 'illegal', why did Mr. Orumie contest against me? The National President conducted the election that produced the Executive in a transparent manner and we are surprised

that they are turning around to accuse him of partisanship. I can only appeal to them to join hands with us to build a vibrant Branch that would make meaningful contributions to the growth of the national body and University of Port Harcourt," Mr. Aweka told our Correspondent.



Mr. Aweka: New USSA Branch Chairman

ICGN Ends Career Training Programme For Students

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The South-South Zone of the Institute of Certified Geographers of Nigeria, domiciled in the Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences, has ended a two-day Mandatory Geo-professional Career Training (MGCT) for students of the Department.

Welcoming the students to the two-day training programme, which held on Friday, 19 and Saturday, August 20, 2016, at the Conference Room of the Donald Ekong Library, Acting Head of the Department, Dr. Vincent Well, described geographic technologies such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Remote Sensing and Global Positioning Systems (GPS) as among the most emerging fields for

understanding the complex world. He stressed the need to prepare the students to join the future workforce.

"The challenge we face today is how to connect disciplinary instruction with more broad-based training that would yield marketable and valued skills in the modern workplace," he said, advising students to keep an open mind and be prepared to learn from their mentors.

Delivering a Lecture on the theme of the training: *Being Professionally Relevant as a Geographer*, Director of the Centre for Logistics and Transport Studies (CELTRAS) in the University of Port Harcourt, Professor Osi Akpoghome, described Geography as a profession that basically deals with space and environmental management. "Geographers who wish to remain relevant in this profession must

seek to specialize and practise a sub-division of the specialisation," he submitted.

In his address, the South-South Zonal Coordinator of ICGN, Victor Sunday, explained that the training focused on mentoring young Geographers to be professionally relevant in their choice of career specializations, urging the students to network and interact with experts, who have been selected for the training for effective professional mentoring towards a sustainable career choice in the broad field of Geography.

Some of the papers presented at the training session included: *Equipping Yourself Professionally for a Career in Planning*, by Ebah Emmanuel, Deputy Director in the Federal Ministry of Housing, Power and Works, *Being Professionally Relevant as a Geographer in the Oil and Gas* by Professor Wiston Bell-Gam of Upton Ville Oil and Gas Institute, Port Harcourt and *Equipping Yourself Professionally in the Academia* by Dr. Moses Nwagbara.



Coordinator, S'South Zone of ICGN, Mr. Sunday (arrowed), some facilitators and the students after the training

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Cont'd from Page 1

Speaking at the event which held on Friday, September 9, 2016, a visibly delighted Vice-Chancellor showered praises on UPWA for its commitment towards the development of the University, expressing gratitude to the Association for upgrading facilities at the International Daycare/Nursery and Primary Schools to acceptable standards.

"We are gathered here today to celebrate success and on behalf of the University Management, I wish to express gratitude to UPWA members for the great job they are doing to uplift the University. It is only those that are enthusiastic about the University that would contribute to its development the way UPWA has done since its inception. I am told that pupil subscription to the school has already exceeded the total installed capacity and that some pupils are being turned away. Without appearing to praise my own, I wish to observe that the school has not had it so good since it was established by its pioneer proprietress and Wife of our second Vice-Chancellor, the late Mrs. Gladys Cooksey," Professor Lale remarked.

In his opening comments, Chairman of the event and Executive Director of the University of Port Harcourt Foundation, Professor Henry Alapiki, lauded the role of the Association in the upbringing of children through its nursery and primary educational programmes, pledging the commitment of the Foundation towards the provision of more facilities for the school.

"The Foundation would soon constitute a Committee to raise funds for future projects by the Association. The idea is to uplift UPWA UniPort to make it a model for other universities in developmental endeavours. To achieve this goal, the Foundation is committed to helping cultivate prospects that would assist in achieving the objectives for which UPWA was established," Professor Alapiki assured the organisation.

In her address, UPWA President and Wife of the Vice-Chancellor, Mrs. Joy Lale, commended the University

V-C Commissions UPWA Multi-Purpose Complex



V-C, Prof Lale performing the tape cutting ceremony, flanked by Prof Alapiki (left), V-C's wife, Mrs. Lale, DV-C (Admin), Prof Anthony Ebe, Dean of Faculty of Dentistry, Prof Chukwudi Onyiaso and other UPWA members

Management and other stakeholders for their contributions towards the actualization of the project, disclosing that the two-storey building comprised six fully furnished classroom blocks, an expansive auditorium, computer room, offices and rest rooms. "We have also constructed a water tank to service the new building and we are soliciting more support to enable us undertake more transformational projects in the school," she said.

The Vice-Chancellor and his entourage later inspected the facilities after the commissioning ceremony. Highlights of the commissioning ceremony included a dance drama by a troupe from the Department of Theatre and Film Studies and hard hitting comedy by *Kaduna Son*. Principal Officers and other top Management staff also attended the colourful event that was rounded off with a cocktail party.

Academic Medics Applaud Fawehinmi's Appointment As DV-C

By Otikor Samuel

Medical Doctors under the aegis of the University of Port Harcourt Branch of the Association of Specialist Medical Doctors in Academics (ASMDA), have commended the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndlovu Lale for nominating their colleague, Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi for the position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), describing him as the right man for the onerous assignment. They also praised the Senate of the University for electing their colleague to the exalted position in a rancon-free exercise, last February.

Branch Chairman of ASMDA, Professor Princewill Chike made the commendation when he led other members of the group on a courtesy visit to Professor Fawehinmi in his office on Wednesday, September 7,

2016. Professor Chike showered praises on the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for his string of achievements in professional practice and medical education over the years, assuring the Vice-Chancellor that he would be a valuable asset in his new position.

Turning to Professor Fawehinmi, the leader of the group said: "We are very impressed by your numerous achievements in the medical profession and sterling leadership qualities as former Acting Head of the Department of Human Anatomy and Dean of the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences. We have no doubt that you will bring the same tested leadership qualities you exhibited then to bear on your new position as Deputy Vice-Chancellor."

He urged Professor Fawehinmi to also use his present office to advance the course of medical education in the University, which he described as his primary

constituency, promising that the group would continue to support him to succeed the same way they had previously supported him as their Dean.

Responding, a visibly delighted Professor Fawehinmi expressed gratitude to the body for the visit, commending its members for the support they gave him when he served as Dean and also for pledging to maintain the same goodwill towards him in his present position.

"From the beginning of my career, I identified with you and I wish to place it on record that I would not have been here today without your individual and collective support. I want to thank you for the excellent personal and working relationship that we have established in the Faculty which has continued to grow stronger by the day. We have worked together as a family before the present appointment that took me out of the Faculty on a temporary basis and it is my desire that we continue to forge even closer ties, despite the distance between the Faculty and the Senate building where I currently have my office."

"Let me, however, assure you all that I will continue to uphold the high standards and ethical values for which the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences and the entire College of Health Sciences are known in and outside the University," Professor Fawehinmi told his colleagues, urging them to always feel free to reach him at any time. He further sought their understanding on the non-payment of some outstanding entitlements, stating that Management of the University would not hesitate to pay staff their due entitlements and allowances once revenue allocation from the Federal Government improved.

The delegation which consisted of Lecturers in the Departments of Human Anatomy, Human Physiology, Medical Biochemistry and Pharmacology in the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, later presented a plaque to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor as a token of their appreciation on his appointment.

Those on the entourage included Dr. Oluhaguo Adienbo (Vice-Chairman), Dr. Ordu Kenneth (National Secretary and Secretary of UniPort Chapter), Dr. Udenne Georgewill (Financial Secretary), Professor Iyegbun Nsiminalayi, Dr. Joachim Odigie, Karibon Okari, Fortune Anah-Tariah and Mike Oyakhire.



DV-C (Acad), Prof. Fawehinmi (centre) flanked by Branch Chairman of the ASMDA, Prof. Chike (left) and other members

Health Centre Tasks Staff On NHIS Registration

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

A Acting Director of the Health Services Department, Dr. Chinwe Ezirim, has warned that there would be no more treatment for staff who failed to register with the O. B. Lulu Briggs Health Centre under the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS).

A statement dated Thursday, September 8, 2016 and signed by Dr. Ezirim which was made available to *UniPort Weekly*, disclosed that registration with the NHIS has officially commenced, requesting staff who are yet to register with the Health Centre to contact the Records Unit with their Staff Identity Card and the Health Centre Card for the purpose.

The statement further added that a final list would be compiled and sent to the NHIS Office to enable it plan for a MOP-UP registration exercise at the Ebitemi Banigo Auditorium, University Park on a date to be stipulated by managers of the scheme.

"The current list of staff that enrolled with the Health Centre is about 2000. Capitation for this

number has been paid to the Central Account of the University to cover healthcare for a two-month period only. This fund will cater for essential drugs, laboratory tests for primary care and refund for drugs that may be temporarily out of stock at the Health Centre," the statement read in part, stressing that to prevent staff from abusing the privilege of refund for drugs purchased from external pharmacy shops, patients must present a University Staff Identity Card, Health Care Card, NHIS Registration Card and prescription sheet from the Lulu-Briggs Health Centre.

The Acting Director further stated that NHIS enrollees using the Health Centre would be required to pay 10 percent of the total cost for drugs prescribed and received at the Health Centre, adding that drugs not included in the Essential Drug List would not attract a refund. "By the end of the month, the list and total bill would be collated, approved, audited, processed and refunded by our Finance Officer," the statement noted.



Dr. Ezirim, Ag. Director

Our University Accommodates All Belief Systems, DV-C Assures ECKANKAR Delegation

By Obinna Nwodin

The University of Port Harcourt environment has been described as a community of very enlightened people that accommodates all shades of opinion, belief systems and ideas, as long as they help to foster harmony and peaceful co-existence on Campus and in the larger society.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, made the observation when he received the leadership of ECKANKAR Nigeria on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndwana Lale, on Wednesday, September 7, 2016.

Professor Ibe said that Nigeria was lucky to be a secular state that accommodated every belief system, praying that such a mosaic of religious opinions and diversity would continue to be maintained in order to forge a common front, irrespective of what citizens of the country may choose to believe or how they may choose to worship.

"It is important that individuals and groups should be free to worship in whichever way they deem fit in a secular society, where religion should be a strictly personal matter

between the individual and his Maker without interference from government or intimidation by other religious groups. Here in the University, we allow each group to worship freely in designated areas, provided such freedom is not exercised at the expense of academic activities which is the main purpose of our presence here as staff and students. In some societies, people are persecuted or prosecuted because of what they believe in and the way they choose to worship their Maker," Professor Ibe told his guests, wishing the group fruitful deliberations in the University.

Earlier in his speech, leader of the delegation and Regional ECK Spiritual Aide (RESA) in Nigeria, Ifeatu Areh, had expressed gratitude to the authorities of the University for the warm reception accorded his team, explaining that they were in the University to participate in their regular seminar series aimed at enlightening the public on their belief system. He described ECKANKAR as a religion of light and sound that teaches love and peaceful co-existence, extending invitation to staff and students to join the group.

"It is ignorance that makes people misjudge what ECKANKAR truly stands for and from

all indications, the organisation is growing very fast in Nigeria. It is our duty to explain to non-members that ECKANKAR is a feeling of love and nothing more and we only focus our mind on the love of God, which should be the ultimate goal of every true believer. We welcome members of other religious persuasions and the University community to join us or come to observe our activities," Areh told the Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

In his contribution, President of ECKANKAR Nigeria, Professor Henry Alapiki, disclosed that the courtesy visit was an opportunity to present the organisation's view of life and existence to the University community, adding that the gathering was also aimed at encouraging tolerance amongst individuals. "People misunderstand what we stand for and it is our hope that activities such as the seminar that we are holding in the University would afford curious staff and students an opportunity to gain insight into our belief system," Professor Alapiki said, urging people to approach ECKANKAR with a free mindset to enable them understand what the religion truly represents outside the realm of superstition.

Also speaking, a former Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry, Professor Ambrose Obiechiana, expressed gratitude to the Management of the University for accommodating the group on Campus, pointing out that as ECKISTS, they

love their religion. "The hallmark of the religion of any individual is his or herself. ECKANKAR stresses peaceful co-existence and personal example which is what we want people to understand. Whatever we do must be reflected in our personal conduct and we must be ready to live by the standards we preach to others," Professor Obiechiana said.



DV-C (Administration), Prof. Ibe (seated centre) flanked by Prof. Alapiki (left), Leader of the delegation, Mr. Areh (right), some Principal Officers and other members of the delegation

After series of postponements following its formation way back in 2003, the University of Port Harcourt Detachment of the Nigerian Red Cross Society has finally been inaugurated amidst fanfare and colourful parade at the Ebithi Banjo Auditorium on Friday, September 2, 2016.

The inauguration of the UniPort Detachment which was a major highlight of the weeklong series of activities, also featured the induction of the Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), Dr. Charles Tobin-West and Associate Dean of the Student Affairs Department, Dr. Adedaramola Onyesos as Patrons of the Society.

In his speech, Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic matters, Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, praised the Rivers State Branch of the Red Cross Society for its role in facilitating the inauguration of the UniPort Detachment after over ten years of its formation.

"This inauguration is auspicious and I must sincerely thank the Rivers State Branch of the Society, especially the Port Harcourt and Obio/Akpor Divisions for their presence at this ceremony. The Patrons inducted today are serious staff of the University and I am, therefore, hopeful that they will continue to nurture the Detachment to greater heights. Management of the University is also delighted over the training of staff, students and security personnel on how to handle emergency cases that may arise on Campus," Professor Fawehinmi told members of the Detachment, promising the Detachment of continued support in the discharge of its lawful activities.

In their separate speeches, the newly-installed Patrons, Drs. Tobin-West and Onyesos, praised members of the Detachment for the recognition accorded them, expressing willingness to identify with the objectives of the Society to save lives, promote good health and quality lifestyle in the University community.

Red Cross Inaugurates UniPort Detachment, Inducts Patrons

By Otokor Samuel

In his address, Commandant of the UniPort Detachment, Achonye Tochukwu, reiterated the commitment of the Detachment to initiate more training programmes for the various Faculties and Departments, pledging to be aggressive in his campaign and advocacy for better life amongst staff and students.

"Our mission is to ensure that all staff and students of the

University acquire basic knowledge and skill about how to save lives and the Society will continue to do all that is within its reach to ensure that our vision and mandate are realised," the Commandant said.

Other highlights of the inauguration ceremony included drama presentation, administration of first aid and colourful parade. The event ended with a Thanksgiving Service at Our Saviour's Chapel (Interdenominational) on Sunday, September 4, 2016.



Dr. C. (Academic), Prof. Fawehinmi (arrowed) inspecting the guard of honour mounted by the UniPort Detachment

Researchers Tackle Parasitic Infections Mapping, PPCPs Use At AEB Seminar Series

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Issues bordering on the Assessment and Mapping of Parasitic Infections and Ecotoxicity potentials of Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products (PPCPs) in Rivers State, formed the main thrust of the 8th edition of the seminar series of the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology in the Faculty of Science, which held at the Department's Auditorium.

In a paper entitled: *Assessment and Mapping of Intestinal Parasitic Infections in Rivers State Using Geographic Information System (GIS)*, Dr. Austin Abah, explained that his research pioneered the use of GIS to map intestinal parasitic infections in Rivers State and the rest of the country. "Through this groundbreaking research, we have been able to produce a map of infections, predict infection rate and a map of areas of risks of infections," he explained, adding that the study was conducted in 13 of the 23 Local Government Areas of Rivers State.

"Through a case study of 13 LGAs, we were able to focus on the prevalence rate of intestinal parasites, using it to predict what the situation is in the whole State. We

discovered that there is an urgent need for intervention in Abiodia LGA, while about 1.65 million children are at risk of intestinal parasitic infection in the whole of Rivers State," Dr. Abah disclosed, listing the need to intensify efforts aimed at controlling intestinal parasitic infections, especially in the most endemic areas of the State as established by the study. He also listed aggressive school de-worming, personal hygiene programmes and provision of basic amenities as critical steps that would facilitate the control of intestinal parasitic infections in Rivers State.

In her own study on the *Ecotoxicity Potentials of Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products—A Case Study of Residual Paracetamol in Household Waste at the University of Port Harcourt*, another Lecturer, Miss Philomena Kika, explained that her research was aimed at finding out the quality of waste, PPCPs and residual paracetamol in two selected locations on Campus.

Recommending that waste should be properly collected, while sorting should be done on site before final disposal to reduce improper disposal of drugs via household waste, Kika stressed the need for regular public

awareness programmes on the effects of illegal use, abuse and disposal of drugs as a way of reducing high level of drug resistivity. "Individuals should be encouraged to finish their drugs and reduce the use of PPCPs because of their acute and chronic effects on the environment," she recommended.

A recipient of the Commonwealth Scholarship to pursue a Postgraduate degree in Environmental Management (Conservation) tenable at the University of Stirling, Scotland in the United Kingdom, Kika who graduated with a First Class degree in 2012 from the Department and the overall best in the Faculty of Science, said she was selected for the award because the Department was in dire need of a Conservation Biologist.

In her response, Acting Head of Department, Dr. Aline Noutcha, showered praises on the two scholars for delving into relatively new fields, describing Dr. Abah's use of GIS in mapping infectious diseases as the first of its kind. "Miss Kika's work on the conservation component of environmental science focuses on what exists, predicting that what exists now should be available to future generations; and this is the main motivation for conserving our fragile biodiversity," the Acting Head of Department said. She expressed optimism that the contributions of both scholars in the areas of conservative biology and disease mapping would address some of the challenges of biodiversity conservation and infectious diseases mapping in Rivers State and the rest of the country.

Dr. Noutcha also commended Emeritus Professor Samuel Okiwelu for his continuous mentorship of both younger and senior academics in the Department, noting that the seminar series provided some staff with another opportunity to learn what they may have missed out in the classroom as students. She was also full of praises for her immediate predecessor, Professor Florence Ndaka, for her uncommon interest in the promotion of research and development in the Department and mentorship of younger academics.

"I am very pleased to note that the Faculty of Science is also hoping to replicate the AEB lecture series in other departments for the benefit of lectures and students," she stated, promising that her Department would sustain the initiative as a mentorship process for younger academics.



Emeritus Prof. Okiwelu (5' right) flanked by the presenters, Dr. Abah (left), Miss Kika, Ag. HoD, Dr. Noutcha (right) and other staff

Experts Brainstorm On Declining Oil Revenue

Cont'd from Page 1

government should have been in a position to understand the signs of an oil glut in the sector long before it happened. To address the parlous situation, Dr. Olkon submitted, there was an urgent need to discuss the revenue governance framework of the country in the short and long terms.

"There were many tools that should have enabled policy makers to manage the economy in a volatile situation such as we currently find ourselves. Our failure to create the necessary buffers early enough to forestall the current predicament has resulted in the situation we now find ourselves in. When prices were high, we ought to have saved for the rainy day, but we regrettably failed to do so. That was what led to the belated creation of the Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF) from which other oil producing countries such as Norway, Kuwait and Qatar have reaped huge profits," Dr. Olkon said.

The Keynote Speaker also warned government against adopting such economic populism as the diversified subsidies in petroleum products, adding that it was not only unsustainable, but also damaged the long-term economic development of Nigeria. He called for both revenue and economic diversification as a way of mitigating the current economic problems facing the country, warning that a situation in which most states entirely depended on the revenue that accrued from the centre for sustenance was unproductive and portended grave dangers for the economy.

Dr. Olkon regretted that with 600 miles of coastline available to the country, only Lagos State had shown some promise of becoming self-sufficient by 2020, an example he recommended to other States of the Federation if they wished to remain economically viable.

In his remarks, Chairman of the occasion and Executive Governor of Anambra State, Chief Willie Obiano, who was represented by his Chief of Staff, Professor Joe Asike, described Dr. Eghogah as a man who believed in core competencies, extolling his qualities as a foremost Petroleum Engineer, philanthropist, educationist and great mentor.

He said that it was in recognition of the strategic geographical location and contribution of the University to the petroleum sector that Dr. Eghogah made huge endowments, assuring that

with the prospect of Anambra State joining the league of oil producing States, the Government would ensure that institutions of higher learning in the State come to the University of Port Harcourt to acquire training on how to properly harness and manage the emergent hydrocarbon industry.

Also speaking, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndawa Lale, who represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, stated that Dr. Eghogah's "unique acts of philanthropy and love for quality education gave birth to the Emerald Energy Institute that is doing a commendable job in helping to shape the future policy direction of the Nigerian hydrocarbon industry," expressing gratitude to him for the gesture "which has put the University on the global map in the study of petroleum policy, especially in this era of volatility in the global oil price and its attendant effects on our national economy and impending social dislocation."

Earlier in his address, Director of the Institute, Professor Wumil Ibedare, explained that the Emerald Energy Institute was "established to provide a forum to generate policy debates and conduct applied research on energy, especially contemporary petroleum and power policy issues, with a mission to equip, empower and engage energy professionals and managers."

The event, which also had a Petroleum Policy Roundtable on the Theme: *Geopolitics of Petroleum Supply: Implications for a Petroleum Dependent Economy*,

featured the cutting of Dr. Eghogah's 74th birthday cake. The panel was chaired by the former Group Executive Director in charge of Exploration and Production in the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, Engineer Philip Chukwue. He was joined by the Director of Claude Ake School of Government, Professor Eme Ekwe, President of the Chartered Institute of Taxation, Chief Mark-Anthony Dike and an Adjunct Professor at the Emerald Energy Institute, Dr. Joseph Elibi. Other dignitaries that were in attendance included the fifth Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Niall Briggs, seventh Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajekia, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Ote and University Librarian, Dr. Susan Umunor, amongst others.



A cross-section of Principal Officers and other participants at the event

Entrepreneurship Centre Ends Skills Acquisition Training For Corps Members

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The Entrepreneurship Centre in collaboration with a Port Harcourt-based business outlet, Trans-Consulting, has ended a four-week training programme for National Youth Service Corps Members serving in Obio/Akpor, Port Harcourt City and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State. The one-day training programme took place on Thursday, September 8, 2016.

Declaring open the training session for the first batch of Corps Members which held in the Auditorium of the Entrepreneurship Centre at the University Park, representative of the Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Okei Onuchuku, stressed the need for the participants to acquire specific skills that would enable them set up their own businesses, while awaiting paid employment after their service year. "You are here to make a breakthrough in

entrepreneurship in line with the new expectation of society that you should strive to earn a livelihood to support yourself and your families. As things stand today, you do not need anybody to tell you that unemployment has become a major problem in our country which is reeling under the worst type of economic recession in decades. This period requires creative thinking and innovative application of entrepreneurial skills to complement what you studied in the university. In this season of recession, only those who can adapt to the harsh economic environment will survive it, while those who may choose to continue waiting for paid employment would have to do so for a very long time with all the attendant frustration," he told them.

Professor Onuchuku advised the Corps Members to benefit maximally from the training provided by the Entrepreneurship Centre and utilize the skills they acquired to boost their personal circumstances, including improving the country's GDP.

Commenting Trans-Consult for the partnership with the Entrepreneurship Centre to impact young people positively, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic matters, Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, described the training programme as a shining example of that critical symbiotic relationship between *town and gown* in a mutually benefited manner, urging the participants to make good use of the opportunity to better their lot.

"This training programme would provide you an opportunity to think out of the box and create something that would distinguish you from your colleagues who are still dreaming of securing paid employment on passing out of the NYSC programme. Acquiring requisite hands-on skills can change you from mere job seekers to employers of labour within a very short time," Professor Fawehinmi admonished the participating Corps Members, commending the Acting Director for repositioning the Entrepreneurship Centre to achieve its mandate.

Earlier in his welcome address, Acting Director of the Centre, Dr. Williams Olori, listed the gains of the training programme for the Corps Members, noting that the Centre offers opportunities abundant for wealth creation in other sub-sectors of the economy such as agriculture, horticulture and fish farming, amongst others.

Explaining that the resource persons and the trainings were selected to equip the Corps Members with expertise and skills in the selected areas of training, the Acting Director noted that certificates would be issued to participants at the end of the training programme as added incentive for them to practise what they have learned.

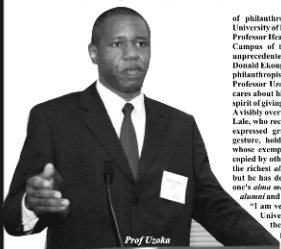
In their separate addresses, Managing Director of Trans-Consulting, Leo Okekeke and Zonal Inspector of the NYSC for Emohua Local Government Area, Paul Amoba, commended the partnership between the University and Trans-Consult to train Corps Members to become self-reliant on their passing out of the programme. Stressing that the skills acquisition scheme was introduced by the NYSC to curb unemployment in the country, the duo noted that UniPort had a lot to offer prospective clients as an Entrepreneurial University. The training programmes covered Cosmetics and Makeup, Catering, Bread making and Cosmetology, Close Circuit Television (CCTV) Installation and Maintenance, Fashion Design, Events Management and Computer Repair, amongst other skills taught the participants.



Dr. C (Academic), Prof Fawehinmi (4' right standing) flanked by Director of the Centre, Dr. Olori, NYSC Zonal Coordinator, Mr. Amoba, M.D. Trans-Consult, Mr. Okekeke (right), Prof Onuchuku, Dr. Charles-Granville, immediate past Ag. Director of the Centre, Dr. Amah (left), the Corps Members and other guests

BOOK DONATION

The Uzoka Example



Prof Uzoka

of philanthropy by a distinguished alumnus of the University of Port Harcourt.

Professor Henry Uzoka's name may not ring a bell on the Campus of the University of Port Harcourt, but his unprecedented donation of 400 book volumes to the Donald Ekong Library has finally earned him status as a philanthropist *par excellence*. In making the donation, Professor Uzoka wants to stand out as an alumnus who cares about his *alma mater* and also seeks to engender the spirit of giving amongst other graduates of the University. A visibly overwhelmed Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lake, who received the books on behalf of the University, expressed gratitude to Professor Uzoka for his kind gesture, holding him out as a distinguished alumnus whose exemplary philanthropic gesture deserves to be copied by other graduates. "Professor Uzoka may not be the richest alumnus of the University of Port Harcourt, but he has demonstrated that giving back something to one's *alma mater* is a worthy course of action that other alumnus and alumnas of the University should pursue.

"I am very sure that there are richer alumnus of the University who have not made any contribution to the development of their *alma mater* since they graduated from here. Such people are waiting to be cultivated before they can identify with the University; but here is a man who does not even live in Nigeria, and yet he so readily remembered to donate such a large volume of books to uplift his *alma mater*. I have nothing but immense gratitude and praises for Professor Uzoka and hope that others will follow his good example as we strive to accelerate the pace of development of this University, especially in these lean times," Professor Lake said at the occasion.

Handing over the books to the Vice-Chancellor, facilitator of the initiative and immediate past Director of the Student Affairs Department, Mrs. Bridget Nzimiro, explained that Professor Uzoka who graduated from the Department of Economics, always had his *alma mater* at heart and had promised to do even more to uplift the University.

"Professor Uzoka has promised to assemble more books to be donated to the University in due course. I am very honoured to make this donation on behalf of Professor Uzoka, who is very passionate about the development of his beloved *alma mater*. This gesture is part of the donor's acknowledgement of the positive impact the University played in his life as a student," Mrs. Nzimiro said at the brief presentation ceremony.

The University Librarian, Dr. Susan Umecozor, expressed gratitude to Professor Uzoka for donating the books, which she said were in dire need at the Library, promising to put them to good use for the benefit of researchers, students and the reading public.

"I wish to thank Mrs. Nzimiro for facilitating the book donation and through her to Professor Uzoka for his public-spirited gesture. We are happy to note that he is preparing to donate more books, especially in Nursing Science and it is our prayer that God replenish his pocket to enable him engage in more philanthropic efforts in future," the University Librarian said.



Dr. Umecozor, University Librarian

Ston Press

PATRONISE UNIPORT PRESS

The University Printing Press has been granted the right of first refusal on all printing jobs brought to the Press by customers from within and outside the University. This resolution was conveyed by the Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, following the 118th Meeting of Principal Officers held on Thursday, August 11, 2016. The decision was taken to encourage the University Press to grow, compete with its peers and become profitable.

ANNUAL LEAVE FOR 2015/2016

Staff who are yet to proceed on their Annual Leave for the 2015/2016 session are advised to do so before the end of September 2016 or be prepared to forfeit their leave for the year. A statement dated September 6, 2016 and signed on behalf of the Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto by the Director of Personnel Affairs, Dr. Dakeru Charles-Granville, directed all affected staff to submit their duly completed Annual Leave Form before the end of the month. "Staff are also advised to ensure that they utilize their Annual Leave before the end of September each year," the statement further advised.

HANGING OF BANNERS ON CAMPUS

This is to notify individuals and groups wishing to hang Banners/Flex, Posters, Roll-Up Stands, Billboards, Signages on Lamp Posts, including mounting Road Shows and other publicity activities at any location in the University to formally apply and obtain permission from the Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit before proceeding to do so. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) must convey approval for hosting any event on Campus before sponsors of such events can apply for approval to hang Banners.

Also, Banners must not exceed 4x4 in length and width and should only be hung at designated locations in each of the three Parks, hereafter. All Banners must be cited and checked for appropriateness of text and pictures to ensure that they do not offend public sensibility. Banners shall no longer be tolerated outside the designated locations. All individuals, associations and cooperative bodies should note that the Main Gate into the University from the AP/IPS axis has been declared a Banner-free zone without exception.

All such Banners and vehicles deployed for Road Shows without due authorization will be summarily confiscated and their owners will be appropriately sanctioned and surcharged by the Bursary Department. This new policy is designed to restore order and sanity to the hanging of Banners and mounting of Road Shows with the stated aim of keeping the University clean and green.

Even when Banners are approved, individuals and organisations that hung them must take full responsibility for their prompt removal at the end of each event. We appeal for cooperation from the University community and business operators to achieve the Unique UniPort of our dream. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation in this regard.

Contact: Deputy Registrar, IPPR Unit, 08033093371

PASSAGES

MRS. BEATRICE ORIJI

The death has been announced of Mrs. Beatrice Oriji, who until her demise was a staff at the Health Services Department. Her remains were laid to rest on Saturday,

September 10, 2016 at her home town in Choba, Ondo/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State.



Late Oriji

MR. STEVEN OKON

The death has been announced of Mr. Steven Okon, who until his demise was a Driver in the University. His remains were laid to rest on Saturday, September 17, 2016 at his home town, Okopedi-Okobo in Oren Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State.



Late Okon

The Donald Ekong Library became richer with the donation of over 400 book volumes by a distinguished alumnus and public-spirited academic in the diaspora, Professor Henry Uzoka, who promised to do more for the University, reports Editor, WILLIAMS WODI

Where would we be without good books and where can we find books except in well-stocked libraries? Great libraries are not made; they simply grow, declares British politician and writer, Augustine Birrell. Great libraries grow incrementally from the effort of their proprietors and combined generosity of public-spirited individuals and groups. An anonymous wiseacre instructs us to pick up books before picking gold. That is how important books are to our intellectual and mental development, especially in this hedonistic age in which all that glitters wear the colour of gold.

Francis Bacon has been repeatedly quoted as advising us thus: "Reading maketh a full man, conference a ready man, and writing an exact man." Those who desire to lead others must be rounded readers and thinkers. The monumental ignorance of those who choose not to read and open their minds cramps polished conversation and adds nothing to progressive thinking. When power leads man to arrogance, it is good books that remind him of his earthly limitations. All that mankind has done, thought, gained or been: it is lying as in magic preservation in the pages of books, declares Scottish historian and writer, Thomas Carlyle. Just imagine how greatly impoverished mankind would be if the books were left unread even for a fleeting moment! It is, indeed, a scary proposition to contemplate at any level and those who write and publish books enrich our collective knowledge pool.

Important as books are, they are regrettably becoming scarce by the day in Nigeria, where negligence and a very poor printing infrastructure have combined with other long-standing wrong-headed policies that have grossly undermined our once robust book industry and reading culture. *Nollywood*, *Facebook*, *Twitter*, *Instagram*, *WhatsApp*, *Television* and other such distractions have desecrated our solemn moments with the wisdom that lurks in book. Available statistics indicate that Japan prints about 20, 000 books per annum, while Nigeria can only boast of less than 500 books for the same span of time. No wonder that there are so many empty brains parading about that have lost the capacity to think today. So, when an Angel with a heart of gold unilaterally decides to enrich a university library with over 400 volumes of current books on diverse specialisations without counting the cost or standing tall to be garlanded in the full glare of the klieg lights, then such a shining example ought to be singled out and applauded by the beneficiaries of such a monumental act of philanthropy that has no recent parallel.

In a utilitarian age in which most people engage in twisted thinking that ends up in manufactured self-adulation, the donation of over 400 book volumes by a public-spirited individual may not mean so much; but those who still apply their time and energy to reading good books will readily appreciate the heart of gold behind this special act

NDDC Malaria Chair Endowment

The Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) endowed a Professorial Chair in Malaria Research aimed at finding a cure for the Malaria scourge in the region on Wednesday, July 13, 2016. Pictures below show highlights of the event as captured by our Cameraman, HEADMANALU:



DI-C (Admin), Prof Anthony Ibe, welcoming the Acting Managing Director, NDNC, Mrs Ibhin Seminiari



5th Vice-Chancellor and Chairman, Governing Board, CMRAP, Emeritus Prof Nimi Briggs welcoming Mrs Seminiari



Officials of the University and NDNC rise for the University Anthem



DI-C (Admin), presenting a welcome address on behalf of V-C, Prof Ndowa Lale



Chairman, Governing Board, CMRAP, Emeritus Prof Nimi Briggs speaking



Ag. M/D, NDNC, Mrs. Seminiari, formally endowing the Chair



Provost, CHS, Prof Christie Mato, decorating Mrs. Seminiari with the University Muffler



A cross-section of officials of NDNC



DI-C (Admin), Prof Ibe, making a presentation to Mrs. Seminiari



DI-C (Academic), Prof Hakcem Furwuhimi (left) in a tete-a-tete with DI-C (Admin), Prof Ibe



L-R: Director, CMRAP, Prof Iyeyupa Siminiari, his predecessor, Prof Chijioke Nwauche and Pioneer Director CMRAP, Prof Omonayo Eboag



Immediate past Director CMRAP, Prof Chijioke Nwauche in a handshake with Mrs. Seminiari



Group photograph of UniPort and NDNC officials