

Law Faculty Dean Heads Panel On Ex-SSIT Students' 'Extortion'



Totally irked by emerging allegation of graft by some senior officers of the University dating back to 2013, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Ale, has appointed the Dean of the Faculty of Law, Professor Lucky Worika to Chair a Panel charged with responsibility to investigate the alleged official sleaze. Although details of the reported extortion are still sketchy, *reports Letom Nnen* *More on p3*

Side Bar 44th Medical Induction

The College of Health Sciences held its 44th Induction Ceremony for new Medical Doctors and Dental Surgeons on Thursday, May 30, 2019 at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium. Details next edition
Editor

158th Inaugural

Obafemi Tasks Urban Planners On Smart Cities In Nigeria

By Otokor Samuel

As Nigeria's population continues to grow geometrically without corresponding improvement in urban planning and municipal services in line with the recommendations of the United Nations for an all-inclusive, safe and sustainable human settlements, Professor Andrew Obafemi of the Department of Geography and Environmental Management in the Faculty of Social Sciences, has called for the use of geospatial mapping and modern technologies to attain urban development anchored on the concept of smart cities.

He regretted that no Nigerian city has, so far attained an urban status in global ranking of habitable smart cities that can boost of modern municipal services that address the needs of the growing population of urban dwellers.

Professor Obafemi made the submission while delivering the 158th Inaugural Lecture entitled, *Transiting Unhabitable Habitats to Sustainable Smart Urbans: The Place of Geospatial Mapping and Technologies* at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, last Thursday.

The 158th Inaugural Lecturer observed that lack of proper town planning and total neglect of public infrastructure had contributed to underdevelopment of the urban areas that



have become largely uninhabitable for about 70 per cent of the global population that live in the comfort of modern cities.

Professor Obafemi called for the use of geospatial mapping and technologies to

transit from poorly planned cities littered with uninhabitable habitats to sustainable smart urban areas in line with emerging global trends. He called for regular maintenance of

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Story on p6

Experts on trade and other stakeholders have advocated the adoption of Global Value Chain as an emerging global trend to enhance Nigeria's competitive advantage in the era of trade wars amongst major trading partners. This was the outcome of the 2019 World Trade Day celebration which held under the auspices of the Institute of International Trade and Development, University of Port Harcourt.

The event was organised in concert with the Rivers and Bayelsa State Branch of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), and Port Harcourt Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (PHCCIMA) at the Ebini Banja Auditorium, University Park on Wednesday, May 22, 2019.

Delivering the keynote address on this year's theme, *Global Trends: Opportunities and Strategies*, renowned economist, Professor Michael Kwanashie of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, described the intensity of global value chains as a key indicator of global economic integration. "The past decades have witnessed a strong trend towards the international dispersion of value chain activities such as design, production, marketing and distribution," he said. He added that increased third world participation in global trade would enhance sustainable development and growth amongst emerging economies.

Professor Kwanashie listed promotion of human capital development, facilitating the penetration of modern technology that would accelerate technological processes, improvement of business environment and delivery of infrastructure, removal of domestic capacity constraints and restrictive trade, including investment regimes, as some forward-looking strategies that the Nigerian government could adopt to boost participation in global

Experts Brainstorm On Global Trade Relations At WTD Celebration



Rep of the VC, Prof Ogali (arrowed), Prof Kwanashie (left), DVC Acad, Prof Hakeem Fawehinmi, Dean Fac of Social Sciences, Prof Prince Momoh, MAN Chairman, Senator Pepple flanked by other Principal Officers and guests

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

trade. Chairman of Rivers and Bayelsa State Branch of MAN, Senator Adawari Pepple, described the theme as very timely, especially against the backdrop of ongoing trade wars. "This theme will help us understand the true position and how we can best harness the opportunities presented by emerging global trends," Senator Pepple added. He noted that managing risks associated with emerging trends in global trade, geopolitical instability and market volatility in emerging markets would be key to free flow of goods and services across national boundaries. Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Regina Ogali who stood in for the Vice Chancellor, noted that WTD offered stakeholders an opportunity to participate in trade-related discussions affecting consumers around the world. "International trade is an important instrument for wealth creation. The theme is appropriate in the context of global imbalance in trade patterns. There is therefore a need to diversify trade engagements for purposes of raising living standards," the

Vice-Chancellor's address read in part. The event featured a panel discussion and goodwill message from stakeholders.

In his contribution, ITD Director, Professor Sylva Kala, described global trade as an ever-changing landscape. "Considering the diversity of global markets, understanding each region may be a formidable task. Many a times, local companies think of other markets as an extension of the home market and hence fail to make major inroads into other territories," he said.

FMH Appoints Siminialayi MDCN Member

By Letom Nnen

The Federal Ministry of Health has appointed the Provost, College of Health Sciences, Professor Iyegun Siminialayi a member of the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN).

A letter signed by the Head of the Department of Hospital Services, Dr Joseph Amedu on behalf of the Minister of Health, dated April 29, 2019, disclosed that Professor Siminialayi would represent Provosts of Colleges of Medicine in Nigeria.

"This appointment should be viewed as an opportunity to make useful and selfless contributions towards the regulation of the practice of healthcare delivery in Nigeria," the letter read in part. The statement added that the duration of the appointment is at the discretion of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Professor Siminialayi is a member of the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN). A letter signed by the Head of the Department of Hospital Services, Dr Joseph Amedu on behalf of the Minister of Health, dated April 29, 2019, disclosed that Professor Siminialayi would represent Provosts of Colleges of Medicine in Nigeria.



Prof Siminialayi

Two Junior Staff Honoured For Diligence Thank Mgt

By Mercy Adeniji and Letom Nnen

Two Caretakers who were among staff honoured by Management of the University for their punctuality and diligence, Mrs Cecilia Adolphus and Joana Owulie, have expressed gratitude to the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale for the unexpected honour done to them.

The two ladies were amongst those conferred with the University's Best Performing Staff Award by Management of the University during the Chancellor's Dinner/Award Night. The Award Night was a major part of activities that marked the combined 32nd Convocation Ceremony of the University which held on Friday, March 29 and Saturday, March 30, 2019.

The women who are still celebrating their recognition for rendering dedicated services to the University, heaped praises on the Management of the University for considering them worthy of the award, even when

they did not lobby for it.

Expressing their delight in separate interviews with *UniPort News* Correspondents on Wednesday, May 15, 2019, Mrs Adolphus said she never envisaged that her contributions to the growth of the University would be recognised and rewarded at the highest levels of administration. "I was very happy to receive the Distinguished Staff Award from the Vice Chancellor of the University. I am always at my duty post at 7.00am and always ready to carry out any other duty that may be assigned to me. I treat students in the Units I work as my own biological children," the award recipient said.

On her part, Mrs Joana Owulie told our Correspondents that she did her best in the various places she was deployed to work. "I was just doing my work to the best of my ability without knowing that my effort has been noticed by the Management. I did my work diligently and I made sure that there were no lapses anywhere I was posted. I report to work early, clean the classrooms on a regular basis to make them conducive for lectures. I never knew I was being watched. I am very proud to receive the Distinguished Staff Award from the University and my prayer is that God should bless and reward all those He used to make this honour possible," she said.

The two awardees who are presently serving in the offices of the Deans, Faculty of Humanities and Pharmaceutical Sciences, respectively, advised other staff to take their work seriously in addition to being polite to students and other clients of the University.



VC, Prof Lale (centre), flanked by Adolphus (right), and Owulie

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Professor Worika and his members have been empowered to probe deep to unravel the circumstances that resulted in the brazen extortion of money from some unsuspecting students of the defunct Institute of Science Laboratory Technology (ISLT), now School of Science Laboratory Technology.

The terms of Reference before the Committee includes: to investigate the alleged case of extortion of money from some students who applied for exemption from the National Youth Service Corps scheme under the auspices of the Student Affairs Department in 2013; to identify those involved in the alleged extortion of money from the affected students (if any), and determine the circumstances surrounding the delay in the issuance of NYSC Exclusion Certificate to the affected U2008 set of students of the defunct ISLT. The Panel is to make

Law Faculty Dean Heads Panel

appropriate recommendations and submit its final report to the Vice Chancellor within four weeks from the date of its inauguration. UniPort News learnt that the Panel has since commenced sitting on the matter.

Other members of the Panel are: Professor Olubusiji Kilani of the Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Executive Director of the University of Port Harcourt Foundation, Professor Henry Alapiki, Professor Joyce Akaninwor of the Department of Biochemistry, and the Associate Dean in the Faculty of Management Sciences, Dr Ikechukwu Nnamdi; while Mrs Peace Stowe of the Legal Unit will serve as Secretary.



Prof Alapiki



Prof Kilani

As part of their pre-field consultations before embarking on

a study to ascertain the status of the tertiary healthcare sector in Rivers State, Group 6 participants of Senior Executive Course 41 at the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru, near Jos, paid a courtesy visit on the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale on Monday, May 13, 2019.

Explaining the purpose of their visit, the Director of

NIPSS Research Group Calls On V-C

By Otokor Samuel

Research at NIPSS, Professor Habu Galadima, disclosed that the delegation was on a fact-finding mission to ascertain the challenges facing the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital in the discharge of its mandate to the public.

"The participants are interested in studying the funding

of healthcare delivery in Rivers State, using the UPTH as a test case. This is because Rivers State is an important case study for those who formulate national healthcare policies. We will be looking at factors militating against effective healthcare delivery in this part of the country and make appropriate recommendations to policy-makers," Professor Galadima assured his host.

In his response, the Vice Chancellor commended the group for stopping over at the University before proceeding to the UPTH. "Although it bears our name, the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital is under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Health. We are, however, pleased that you decided to call on us before commencing your assignment. It is my hope that your findings would result in appropriate recommendations for better healthcare delivery in Rivers State," Professor Lale said.

A Permanent Secretary in the office of the Secretary to the State Government, Dr George Nweke, served as a local tour guide to the group which also had the Director of Studies at NIPSS, Brigadier-General Chukwuemeka Udaya.



V-C, Prof Lale (arrowed), with Senior Officers of the University and the NIPSS delegation

Some Professional Courses, Vocations Will Be Obsolete By 2030 ~NIIT

Leading Information Communication and Technology firm, NIIT, has listed such professional occupations as Accounting, Book-keeping, Electronic/Telecommunications Installations, Repairs, Payroll Clerks and Bank Teller Operators, as some of the jobs that would be obsolete by 2030.

Quoting projections by the World Economic Forum (WEF), the India-based ICT giant further revealed that Data Analysts, experts on Internet-based Operating Systems and Artificial Intelligence, would thrive in the new ICT application and *dot.com* ecosystem that is bound to leave many behind the digital divide.

Manager of NIIT India, Santosh Jha, who dropped the bombshell at a workshop his company facilitated for students of the University, noted that the programme was designed to enhance the ability of participants to adapt to the paradigm shift in modern ICT training processes.

"Industry 4.0 or the 4th Industrial Revolution is a new global trend which means that most industries are now struggling to attain technological advancement as their only guarantee of remaining afloat in the press button economy. Application of technology to everything in the 21st century has major impact in all aspects of learning, business and personal life," Jha told the participants. According to him, the workshop was packaged in furtherance of his company's corporate social responsibility initiative, aimed at giving the students an opportunity to update their ICT-driven learning, exposure to modern operating systems and professional certification programmes. Emphasising that rapid global changes have

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

given rise to rapid changes in Information Communication Technology, Jha noted that students at the verge of graduation must be ICT-compliant, if they hope to compete in industries that have already migrated to modern technological applications that may not be available in their universities. "It is very important that students are familiar with the trending ICT facilities to make them job-ready on graduation. Nigeria has the largest ICT market in Africa today, a positive development that presents students with big opportunities. It is, therefore, important that policy-makers must integrate new technologies into the university curriculum to help them keep abreast of the competition on a global scale," he added.

The NIIT team had earlier paid a courtesy visit on the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, during which Mr Jha

called for a partnership with the University on subsidised training that would enable students add professional certification to their academic qualifications. "We have partnership with a number of universities across the globe with more emphasis on Africa. NIIT has carefully selected the University of Port Harcourt as one of the beneficiaries of this partnership," Mr Jha disclosed.

Responding, the Vice Chancellor commended NIIT for extending the ICT training opportunity to the University. "I wish to assure you that the University is open to new ideas that would help us develop our students. The training we give to our students is to expose them to a certain level of knowledge and intellectual capacity, which they can apply to any field of human endeavour on graduation," Professor Lale remarked.

Professor Lale praised the Acting Director of the Centre for Sandwich and Skills Acquisition Programmes, Dr. Glory Amadi for facilitating the interface between the University and NIIT, pledging Management's full support for the ICT initiative. The Centre Leader of NIIT, Enyele Lemorhi, and other staff of the Port Harcourt Office, Ogbu Precious, Bighari Vincent-Erortu, Stephen Tete, Ekanem Okon and Odungwem Deborah, also accompanied Mr Jha on the visit.

V-C, Prof Lale (5th right), flanked by Manager, NIIT India, Jha, Principal and other Senior Officers of the University



Prof Agbagwa (center), flanked by UniPort SIWES Director, Prof Aiyelaja, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Prof Monday Godwin-Egbin, (left), ITF Head of Training, Paul (right), other ITF team members and Senior staff of the University

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale and other speakers have stressed the need for students on Industrial Training to take the programme seriously to acquire hands-on skills that would serve them on graduation. They were also charged to abide by the rules and regulations governing the programme during their training. The advice was given by the Director of Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QAQC) Unit, Professor Ikechukwu Agbagwa during the 2019 SIWES orientation exercise which held at the Convocation Arena on Thursday, May 16, 2019. "SIWES orientation is a very important programme for eligible students and it is important that students who would participate in the Industrial Training programme must understand the rules of engagement

V-C, Others Task Students On SIWES Programme

By Mercy Adeniji

so as not to operate outside the rules. Some Departments run the programme for six months, while others do so for one year," he said. "It is not something you can waive and it is also not a holiday period as some students erroneously believe. Rather, it is an active academic period during which participants are closely monitored and you would have yourself to blame if you decide to play truancy in place of purposeful participation in the scheme," Professor Agbagwa disclosed. Delivering an address on behalf of the Rumuokwuta

Area Office of ITF, the Head of Training, Mr Ashore Paul, explained that SIWES enables students to acquire practical experience. "SIWES programme affords the students an opportunity to familiarise themselves with work methods and techniques in handling equipment and machinery that may not be available in their institutions. You will find your attachment period to be not just fulfilling, but also the beginning of your success story in life," he told the students.

Speaking earlier, the Director of SIWES Unit in UniPort, Professor Adedapo Aiyelaja, disclosed that the scheme is designed to provide ample opportunities for students to acquire practical industrial experience in their respective disciplines by spending a minimum of six months in relevant industrial outlets. "Your IT period is a continuation of the academic work in practical terms. The orientation is necessary to acquaint students with the operational guidelines governing the scheme. Remember that your conduct during the IT period may open doors for you as an employee and also open door of industrial attachment to other prospective students from your Department," Professor Aiyelaja charged the students.

Top Administrators For NIPSS Confab July 8

By Otokor Samuel

Senior administrators from the rank of Senior Assistant Registrars to Deputy Registrars, are billed to attend a conference at the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru, near Jos in Plateau State. The conference is under the auspices of the Association of Nigerian University Professional Administrators (ANUPA). Making the disclosure at a UniPort Chapter Congress of the Association which held at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, the Chairman, Dr Mite Ngegh, disclosed that 22 senior administrators have been selected to attend the conference. She enjoined staff not captured in the central budget to activate the vote for training in their respective Units or Faculties to be part of the conference scheduled between July 8 and 11, 2019.

Other major highlights of decisions reached at the Congress included presentation of a report on Account Harmonisation Committee headed by Mr Kolora Orukotan. The findings and recommendations of the Committee would be discussed at the next meeting of ANUPA.



ANUPA Chairman, Dr Ngegh (standing) and Vice Chairman, Dr Nnabuo



Dr C (Acad), Prof Fawehinmi (arrowed), some Principal Officer with the participants in a group photograph at the graduation ceremony

We Are Committed To Staff Development, Mgt Pledges At STADU Graduation Ceremony

By Letom Nnen

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, has pledged the resolve of Management to focus more attention on continuous professional development for all staff to enable them give their best to the University.

Professor Lale made the pledge before he presented certificates to the first and second batches of administrative and technical staff, who participated in a three-month basic computer application course. The passing out ceremony which held at the School of Basic Studies Lecture Hall on Wednesday, May 15, 2019, was jointly organised by the Staff Training and Development Unit (STADU) and the Information Communication and Technology Centre (ICTC).

Addressing beneficiaries of the training, the Vice Chancellor observed that not much can be achieved in the modern office setting without computer literacy. "The workplace is changing and you need to be fully ICT-compliant to fit into the workplace and society today. The certificate we are giving you is just a confirmation of the knowledge you acquired during the training. It is now your turn to prove that you truly earned it by continuously applying what you learned to your duty schedules. Management would be watching to see if the training you received is beneficial to the University," he charged the participants.

Commending the Vice Chancellor for supporting staff development in the University, the Registrar, Mrs Dorcas Otto, assured him that the beneficiaries would reflect their new skills in the discharge of their duty calls. Mrs Otto charged the trainees to show proof of the training in the discharge of their official functions to

justify the time and energy expended in organizing it. "Let it not be that there would be no tangible results after all the resources the University has invested in you. Those who benefitted from previous training exercises, including myself, acquired requisite competencies that still serve us in the discharge of our functions," the Registrar said. She promised that more staff would be captured in subsequent training programmes.

In his address, STADU Officer, Mr Fidelis Jahka, noted that the ICTC drew up the training manual in concert with the Staff Training and Development Unit of the Registry Department. "What we have come here to do today is to harvest the first and second batches of the Registrar's vision, and we commend her for driving staff development in the Registry," he disclosed. Mr Jahka announced that the third batch would commence their training on Thursday, May 23, 2019.

In her contribution, the ICTC Training Officer Mrs Elizabeth Okey-Wali, stressed the importance of computer literacy in the modern office setting. "We can ensure confidentiality of information if we process and produce it by ourselves. Another benefit of computer literacy is reduction of paper work and cost," she told the participants.

Declaring the ceremony closed, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, congratulated the beneficiaries for completing the programme. "I wish to charge all the beneficiaries to be open-minded and ready to learn more to complement what they received from this training. I wish to advise you to always put what you were taught into practice so that you don't forget," Professor Fawehinmi charged them.

The urgent need for new directions in music education in Nigeria formed the main thrust of the 15th Annual Conference of Music Educators in Nigeria (COMEN) which held at the Amatu Braide Lecture Hall, University Park from Monday, May 13 to Friday, May 17, 2019. The five-day conference had "Africa-sensitized Music Education" as its theme.

Delivering the keynote address entitled, *Africa-sensitized Music Education in Nigeria: Setting New Paradigms and Relevance for Nigeria in the Global Music Space*, Professor Christian Onyeji of the Department of Music at the University of Nigeria,

Nsukka, stressed the need for a new paradigm shift in music education to develop new contents, methods, theories and skills rooted in Nigeria's indigenous music practices.

"The theme of this conference underlines a growing perception of the need for a paradigm shift from the entrenched western educational processes perpetrated by trained music educators in Nigeria up till now. On the other hand, the theme raises a critical issue of relevance, questioning the outcomes, hegemony and direction of the existing educational content and methods. There is an increasing yearning and desire for ownership of the educational contents processed in Africa," Professor Onyeji disclosed.

In the lead paper entitled: *Towards the Decolonisation of Education in Nigeria*, one-time Acting Head of the Department of Music, Delta State University, Abraka, Dr Arugha Ogiisi, called on music enthusiasts to sponsor upcoming music educators. He emphasised the need for music to be included at every level of education to enable naturally gifted students to specialise in the art. "Music should be unique, knowledge-based, utilising, entertaining. Our music must meet societal needs and if it does not, then it is useless," Dr Ogiisi stated.

Stakeholders Advocate New Directions In African Music Education



Rep of the V-C, Prof Fawehinmi (7th left), COMEN President, Dr Loko, Keynote Speaker Prof Onyeji (right), Dean, Social Sciences and Chairman of the occasion, Prof Mmom and other stakeholders at the conference

By Mercy Adeniji
and Letom Nnen

Declaring open the conference, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, commended the Faculty of Humanities, the Head of Department of Music and other music scholars for hosting the conference in Port Harcourt. "We are happy that this conference is being hosted in the University of Port Harcourt. The theme of this conference is very timely, because it would reverse our preoccupation with western music which has been emphasised for so long, while our own indigenous music is relegated to the background. As an Entrepreneurial University, we have a duty to promote the creative arts," Professor Fawehinmi said. Speaking earlier, President of COMEN, Dr Olusunmba Loko, described the theme of the conference as relevant to the promotion of African indigenous music. "We have a duty to practically guide policy-makers, the organised private sector and the general public on the instrumentality of Africa-sensitized music education as a key driver of growth and national development," Dr Loko

said.

Also speaking, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Prince Mmom, commended the organisers for drawing attention to Afrocentric music education. "Music is a language of feeling and passion and it expresses our moods, feelings, emotions and nourishes our soul as well. As a lover of African music, I believe that this conference will enhance the teaching of indigenous music in our schools," Professor Mmom told the participants.

Earlier, Acting Head of Department, Dr AdeOlunwa Okunade, revealed that the University was hosting COMEN for the first time in the Niger Delta. "Our Department has been placed on the global map on account of various academic and music-related accomplishments, and we will strive to improve on our record," he said.

The event featured presentation of award to the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa, Lale, Daniel Okoh, Daniel Wilson represented by Walter Anga, highlife veteran, Chief Anthony Odili and Dotun Adelekan, represented by Dr David Bolaji and Enitoun Iyalla, respectively.

New Pharmacists Speak On Induction

A total of 87 Pharmacists were licensed by the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria (PCN) at the 8th Induction/Out-taking ceremony of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences on Friday, May 3, 2019. Correspondent, LETOM NEN, spoke to some of the Inductees on how they felt joining the Pharmacy profession. Please read on:



PRECIOUS GOSPEL

As a pharmacy graduate from this University, I can boldly proclaim that the quality of training we received in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences is one of the best in the country and Africa at large. The training was of a very high quality that meets

global standards. I am very lucky that I came to this University to study. I hope to specialise in Community Pharmacy practice which is of great interest to me. Today's induction was a thing of joy and I appreciate God, my teachers and family on the success of the ceremony.

VITALIS UGWU

To be very sincere, the quality of training I received in this University is very unique and matches the best anywhere. The Faculty imparted knowledge in me and I am very proud to be a graduate of the University of Port Harcourt. By God's grace, after my internship which I believe will equip me with more practical knowledge of how drugs work, I hope to render quality health services to the society. Being inducted today as a Pharmacist is what I had longed for all through my post-secondary school days. I am very happy that my dream finally came true in style today with my induction as a Pharmacist.



BENJAMIN ABONYI

I can assure you that the training I received in this University was very wonderful, and it has prepared me to become a high flying Pharmacist. With the knowledge I acquired from the Open Pharmacy practice, I can boldly say that the quality of training here cannot be compared to what obtains in other universities. I am proud of what is going on in this institution. It has equipped me as a Pharmacist with knowledge to compete favourably with colleagues elsewhere in the profession. It is a thing of joy that UniPort is capable of giving this quality of education to students. It is a long awaited academic victory and I am poised to render quality services to society.

EFE OVAKHIRE

The quality of training I received in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences of this University is of very high quality and I am satisfied with the training I received here. I have been groomed not just in academics, but in all areas of life. My character has been molded and discipline instilled in me. I am looking forward to solving as many problems of



SONIA JACOBS

society as possible in my own little way. It was not easy at all and I almost did not graduate with my set. I feel great and overjoyed to be among the inductees today.



The training I received from the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences was really great. We were taught everything we needed to know about the specialisation and our full personality was also developed. I have no regret studying Pharmacy in this University. I studied Pharmacy so as to render quality health services to

those with health challenges and that is exactly what I am going to do. Being inducted today as a Pharmacist makes me feel happy and fulfilled as a professional.

AMEZHINIMAMAKIRI

I received some of the very best training as a Pharmacist in the University. We had excellent lecturers who taught us well and equally directed our paths in life. I was adequately trained and I am very glad to be a graduate of the University of Port Harcourt. I want to be in academics, which means that after my internship, I am going to pursue my Masters and Ph.D degrees to prepare for academic life. Today is the happiest day ever for me; it is a day of joy. Today's induction crowns all my efforts in the Pharmacy programme and my university education.





Inaugural Lecture, Prof Obafemi (arrowed) flanked by the VC, Prof Lale (right), Registrar, Mrs Dorcas Otto and other Professors before the Lecture

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public and private property to make them more functional and responsive to the changing needs of the people in a dynamic society.

"Like a dynamic living organism, human settlements everywhere continue to grow overtime and in the case of urbanism, as cities change and grow, the needs of the people living in cities also change. To maintain and improve the level of habitability or livability of a city, the services and infrastructure often provided by governments and other stakeholders need to be regularly reviewed to make them more functional and responsive," he recommended. Professor Obafemi listed the use of modern geospatial and 3D city maps as vital tools in proper decision-making at different levels of planning and execution of a 21st century compliant urban centres and cities.

The 158th Inaugural Lecturer advised the Nigerian government to align itself with the campaigns by relevant organs of the United Nations for responsible management of cities and urban centres. "There is need to fully identify and participate in the annual campaigns like the *New Urban Agenda (Agenda 2030)*, *World Habitat Day* observed every first Monday in October globally and the *World Cities Day* marked on every 31st of October. This is because the *World Cities Day*, for instance, has enabled cities and communities around the world to come together on this important platform to learn and share best practices on sustainable cities and their practices," Professor Obafemi submitted.

"Livability which also used to connote habitability simply refers to the degree to which a place is suitable or good for living. In other words, it is a measure of how habitable or comfortable a place is for living in or how habitable an environment is," he disclosed. Professor Obafemi further pointed out that livable cities were usually driven by urban planners who commit themselves to building

Obafemi Tasks Urban Planners

stronger local communities that enhance the quality of life of all inhabitants.

The Professor of Geography, Geoinformation and Environmental Management explained that the livability of a city is largely measured by objective and subjective factors. He listed climate, cost of housing, quality of the environment, infrastructure, safety and stability, access to health and education, amongst others, as objective factors, while subjective factors included personal and emotional influences such as the likes, dislikes, feelings, traditions and spiritual connections that were not easily measurable.

He disclosed that several surveys on Most Livable Cities (MLC) and Least Livable Cities (LLC) carried out by the *Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)* since 2008 had shown that only Lagos met the minimum criteria for inclusion on the exclusive list of 140 cities of the world.

"In 2011 when Lagos joined the globally-ranked cities, it ranked third from the bottom for two consecutive years. The best performance so far was when it occupied the 137th position that is the fourth to the last of the worst cities in the world from 2013 to 2015. By 2016, it dropped again to the 138th position and thereafter, in the 2017 and 2018 global rankings, Lagos further dropped from the second to the last worst city at 139th position," he explained.

Professor Obafemi recommended the adoption of the smart city concept to develop Nigerian cities to be at par with other global cities that generate revenues to the state through tourism. He described a smart city as a municipality that uses Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) primarily for purposes of achieving operational efficiency, information sharing with the public to improve both the quality of government services and citizens' welfare.

He listed the predominant tools for urban planning in

smart cities to include geospatial mapping and technologies, stating that "geospatial technology is a term used to describe the range of modern tools contributing to the geographic mapping and analysis of the earth and human societies."

On his contributions to knowledge, the 158th Inaugural Lecturer disclosed that one of his lectures established that noise pollution in the city of Port Harcourt varied over land use types, describing commercial land use zones as the noisiest. Such findings necessitated his recommendation for the adoption of a sustainable and holistic approach to attenuate noise impact on city dwellers.

In his remarks, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, agreed with the Inaugural Lecturer on the need for smart cities to evolve in Nigeria. He, however, noted that the ghetto experience had inspired some inhabitants into great creative works. Professor Lale further observed that some of the soul-lifting music of the early 1960s and mid-80s were composed and produced by musicians who experienced ghetto life.

"One thing we can take away from this lecture is that there is no smart city in Nigeria, except probably Abuja with all its distortions. So we are looking forward to such cities; certainly not the type of cities in which we no longer have recreational space, proper ventilation, access to natural vegetation and municipal services," the Vice Chancellor stated.

He announced that Professor Sylva Kalu of the Department of Marketing in the Faculty of Management Sciences will deliver the 159th Inaugural Lecture entitled, *Eke, Orie, Afo, Nkwo in Perspective: Any Lessons for Contemporary Times*. The Lecture will take place at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Thursday, June 13, 2019 at 3:00pm.

OPM General Overseer To Build Hostel In UniPort

By Otokor Samuel

Worried by the number of students who stay off-campus against the backdrop of heightened insecurity in Rivers State, the General Overseer of Omega Power Ministry (OPM), Apostle Chibuzor Chinyere, has pledged to build a hostel facility in the University to address the accommodation shortage. The Man of God made the pledge when he paid a courtesy visit on the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, on Wednesday, May 15, 2019. The visit was preparatory to a one-day mega-crusade under the auspices of the Students' Union which held the following day to intercede for peace and accelerated development of the University. "I wish to commend the Vice Chancellor and his team for the positive changes taking place in this University since he assumed office. It is clear to everybody that you are a focused and courageous leader and your good work is

showing everywhere in this University. Part of my visit here is to acknowledge and identify with what your administration is doing and also to ascertain where we can help to support you. We are requesting a piece of land to build a befitting hostel that would accommodate some of the students who are currently exposed to insecurity outside the campus.

"OPM runs several programmes to reduce poverty and ill-health in the land. We have been collaborating with the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital on critical health interventions amongst indigent people in society; but by the special grace of God, we have recently built our own hospital with state-of-the-art medical equipment to cater for those who cannot afford to pay expensive hospital bills to access quality healthcare," the General Overseer told the Vice Chancellor.

Apostle Chinyere stated that he was motivated to embark

on humanitarian services as a result of his own experience with grinding poverty before God lifted him up. "Twelve years ago, I was hopeless and homeless. I did not even finish secondary school; so, having been blessed with spiritual power with over 150 branches of OPM worldwide and membership that cuts across all strata of society, I decided to give everything back to glorify God. I concentrate in helping the poor because I have been there and I know what they are going through in life," he stated. Responding, Professor Ndowa Lale expressed gratitude to the OPM General Overseer for promising to build a hostel facility in the University. "The University Management is privileged to come into contact with this great Man of God. Unlike some other preachers, you have evidently impacted positively on society through your spiritual and philanthropic activities that are widely acknowledged. We will arrange for a facility tour of your hospital by specialists from our College of Health Sciences to assess areas we can support you for effective healthcare delivery to patients who visit the facility. I am also excited that you want to build a hostel for our students. We will promptly provide a piece of land, depending on the type of hostel you want to build," the Vice Chancellor assured the General Overseer.

Professor Lale praised the President of the Students' Union, Loveday Sorbari and his Executive for inviting Apostle Chinyere to the University, describing the move as a manifestation of responsible unionism. Acting Dean of the Student Affairs Department, Dr Otun Ekepenyong, had earlier stated that the General Overseer was invited by the students to rededicate the campus and their First Semester Examination to God. Principal Officers also attended the courtesy visit.



V-C, Prof Lale (centre), flanked by Dr V.C. (Admin) Prof Ogulu (right), Apostle Chinyere, Dr V.C. (Acad), Prof Fawehinmi, Registrar, Mrs Otto (left), other Principal and Senior Officers of the University during the courtesy visit

GUIDEPOST

APPOINTMENT

Dr Catherine Stanley, Department of Pharmaceutical Microbiology and Biotechnology, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of Department*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect will terminate on May 2, 2021.

Dr Oladimeji Akadiri, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Faculty of Dentistry, re-appointed *Acting Head of Department*. The two-year appointment which took effect from January 30, 2019 will terminate on January 29, 2021.

Dr Modupeoluwa Soroye, Department of Preventive Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, re-appointed *Acting Head of Department*. The two-year appointment which took effect from May 19, 2019 will terminate on May 18, 2021.

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Dr Ayin Achor, Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management, Faculty of Agriculture, granted a one-year *Renewal of Appointment as Adjunct Senior Lecturer*, effective April 29, 2019 to April 28, 2020.

Professor Donatus Uwah, Department of Crop and Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, granted a one-year *Renewal of Adjunct Appointment*, effective May 1, 2019 to April 30, 2020.

Dr Anthony Udez, Department of Pharmaceutical and Clinical Pharmacy, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted a one-year *Renewal of Adjunct Appointment as Reader*, effective April 7, 2019 to April 6, 2020.

RESUMPTION FROM STUDY LEAVE

Dr Sylvester Atigbeje, Department of Crop and Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, resumed duty from *Study Leave*, after completing his PhD Programme in Agricultural Entomology in the Department of Crop and Soil Science, Lincoln University, Christ Church, New Zealand, effective March 28, 2019.

Ododohari Jike-Wali, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, resumed duty from *Study Leave*, after completing her PhD Programme in Human Nutrition in the Department of Home Science, Nutrition and Dietetics, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, effective March 1, 2019.

EXTENSION OF STUDY LEAVE

Mr Thomas Otobong, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, granted seven-month *Extension of Study Leave with Pay*, to enable him cover the period of submission of his final thesis and *viva voce* at the University of Liverpool, United Kingdom, effective November 1, 2018 to May 31, 2019.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Dr Grace Robinson-Bassey, Department of Nursing, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, granted a one-year *Sabbatical Leave* with Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, effective February 10, 2019 to February 9, 2020.

Dr Michael Oyakhire, Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, granted a one-year *Sabbatical Leave* with Pamo University of Medical Sciences, Port Harcourt, effective January 7, 2019 to January 6, 2020.

Stop Press

Health Educators Meet in UniPort June 13

The University of Port Harcourt Chapter of the Association of Health Educators have concluded plans to host the 24th Annual National Conference of the Nigerian Association of Health Educators (NAHE) between Wednesday, 12th and Friday, 15th June, 2019.

A statement by the Acting Head of Department of Human Kinetic and Health Education in the Faculty of Education, Dr Golda Ekenedo, disclosed that the conference will hold at the ICAN Lecture Theatre, University Park, adding that delegates would arrive on Tuesday, June 12. The theme of the 2019 conference is: "Issues and Challenges in Contemporary Health Education Research." The keynote address will be delivered by Professor Samuel Nwajie of Delta State University, Abirika, while Professors Cajetan Ilo of Ebonyi State University and Ernest Achau of the host institution are expected to present the lead papers.

FAD Partners US Exhibitor On Ceramics Design



Rep of V-C, Prof Ogali (3rd left), flanked by Prof Chau (right), Principal Officers of the University, Dean, Fac of Humanities, Prof Shaka, Staff of FAD and others during the courtesy visit

By Letem Nnen

As part of efforts aimed at equipping staff and students with modern ceramics making skills, the Department of Fine Arts and Design (FAD), in the Faculty of Humanities has initiated an international partnership with the American Cultural Exchange Exhibitors on ceramics design processes.

Making the disclosure during a courtesy visit on the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, the programme facilitator, Professor Du Chau of the Brookhaven College at the University of Texas, USA, described his visit as part of a cultural exhibition tour to the Department. He praised the University of Port Harcourt on the numerous art works displayed on the campus, describing it as proof of the skilful application of artistic knowledge by staff and students of the Department.

"I am really very happy to be here again and I am looking forward to having the first African-American cultural exchange exhibition in this University. After the exhibition, we shall invite our Nigerian partners to an interchange

exhibition at the African-American Museum in Dallas, South Cultural Centre, holding from September 7 to October 26, 2019," Professor Chau told his host.

Responding, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Regina Ogali, who stood in for the Vice Chancellor, commended Professor Chau for the choice of the University for the exhibition and proposed exchange programme. "I welcome you to the University on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale. It is good to partner scholars from other parts of the world for purposes of exchanging ideas that would enrich our own programmes," she remarked.

Earlier, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor Femi Shaka, had commended Professor Chau for proposing the collaboration. "I am happy to note that as part of his visit to the University, Professor Chau would facilitate a one-week workshop on ceramics design processes for staff and students of the Department of Fine Arts and Design," he observed. Professor Chau was accompanied on the courtesy visit by Dr Festus Uzzi of Olabisi Onabanjo University.

Chemistry Has Potentials To Accelerate National Growth, Says Abaye

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

As the central science, Chemistry is a powerful tool that can serve as a catalyst for the overall scientific and industrial development of Nigeria.

This was the position canvassed by the Head of Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, Professor Ovi Abaye. He made the declaration in a presentation to mark the 2019 International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements (IYPT2019) at the Amatu Braide Lecture Hall, University Park on Thursday, May 23, 2019. Delivering a public lecture entitled: *The Periodic Table* jointly organised by the Rivers State Chapter of the Chemical Society of Nigeria and the University's Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, Professor Abaye described the Periodic Table of Elements as a powerful tool for rationalising the different potentials of chemical elements in research and development.

"It describes the atomic properties of every known chemical element in a concise format, including the atomic number, atomic mass and relationships between the elements. The information contained in the Periodic Table allows scientists to ascertain how elements are put together atomically," Professor Abaye said. He added that

the history of the Period Table was tied to noble discoveries in Chemistry and the Sciences in general.

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Regina Ogali, who represented the Vice Chancellor at the lecture, disclosed that the IYPT 2019 afforded participants an opportunity to reflect on the many aspects of the Periodic Table, including its history, role of women in research, global trends and perspectives on science for sustainable growth. "I am glad that the Chemical Society of Nigeria is not left behind in the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of this great feat," she said.

In his remarks, Chairman of the Rivers State Branch of the Society, Professor Charles Obunwo, revealed that the United Nations declared 2019 as the International Year of the Periodic Table and the Centenary of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemists. "Today's event marks the first of a series of activities mapped out by the Society for 2019. It is expected that budding Chemists in our midst will come to terms with the beauty of Chemistry and appreciate its significance in nature and human development," he told the gathering that also comprised students and other stakeholders.



DVC Admin, Prof Ogali (middle), flanked to the left by Prof Obunwo, and Abaye (right), DVC (Acad) Prof Hakeem Fawehinmi and participants at the lecture

Stakeholders Task PUTOR On High Impact Public Healthcare Research

By Otiakor Samuel

Health experts and other stakeholders have charged the newly-launched Africa Centre of Excellence in Public Health and Toxicological Research (PUTOR) to brace up to fill the yawning skills gap for effective healthcare delivery. They also described the establishment of PUTOR as a bold and welcome step by the World Bank to further boost research aimed at tackling public health challenges in Nigeria and neighbouring African countries. They spoke at the formal launch of PUTOR at the Ebithini Banigo Auditorium on Friday, May 17, 2019.

Delivering the keynote address entitled, *Public Health and Environmental Sustainability: A Right Step on the Journey Back to Eden*, Regional Community Health Manager of the Shell Petroleum Development Company, Nigeria, Dr Akinwumi Fajola, decried Nigeria's parlous health profile, calling for urgent measures to reverse the rot. He hailed PUTOR as a major initiative to address the myriad of challenges militating against effective primary healthcare delivery and high impact research in primary healthcare.

"The World Health Organisation measured the overall health system performance of all its member states and ranked Nigeria as 187th out of 191 countries in health system efficiency with respect to health expenditure per capita. Nigeria beats only four countries to the 'lowest bottom position'—the Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Sierra Leone, and Myanmar. Of these four, three are fragile countries struggling with or recovering from conflicts and this can be partially causative of their poor health indices," the keynote speaker disclosed. Dr Fajola, however, noted that the Federal Government has initiated some steps through the Basic Health Care Provision Fund with emphasis on primary health care aimed at changing the narrative.

On how PUTOR could become successful in a resource-poor operational environment, Dr Fajola enjoined the Management of the new Centre to embrace the five pillars of sustainability consisting of co-ownership, capacity building, collaboration, monitoring and evaluation, commercial mind-set and zero-tolerance for corruption.

"PUTOR gives us the audacity to dream for a cleaner, healthier and safer environment, supported by public health experts and toxicologists who are committed to using science for public safety. Early in my career, I learned that making a difference in our world is not always about resources but



L-R: CL, Dr Oga, Dr Fajola, Mrs Otto, Emeritus Prof Briggs, V-C, Prof Lale and Prof Etubu



Emeritus Professor Briggs

resourcefulness. Resourcefulness is key because one will not always have all the funding needed. It is of utmost importance that we learn to use available resources wisely—do more with less. This requires new thinking," he said.

In his goodwill message, Minister of Health, Professor Isaac Adewole, who was represented by Dr Peter Olatunji, said the launch of PUTOR would strengthen the health sector to deliver quality healthcare services to the people.

"The Federal Ministry of Health is striving to stamp out the bleak health indicators for which sub-Saharan African countries are known. Additional sources of funding, other than the budget lines such as the Basic Health Care Provision Fund will welcome innovations. There is full commitment to programmes and strategic policies geared towards securing the critical segments of the population," the Minister's representative stated, commending the World Bank for the PUTOR initiative.

In his address, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, expressed joy for the opportunity to host two Africa Centres of Excellence. "I am immensely proud that the University of Port Harcourt was adjudged fit and proper to benefit from a second Centre of Excellence. Before our very eyes, we have become one of only three universities in Nigeria to simultaneously host two Africa Centres of Excellence. We missed a third Centre of Excellence in Economics Research, not because we did not make a good presentation, but because we were stopped from taking everything on offer! This is what defines our uniqueness as a University," Professor Lale noted.

Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs who chaired the event, expressed happiness that the University had, once again, benefitted from another World Bank Centre of Excellence. "We are glad to be part of the beneficiaries of these World Bank Centres and those of us in the College of Health Sciences are particularly happy at this cheering news. Effective healthcare delivery is critical to society's wellbeing and productivity, so PUTOR, no doubt, will impact positively on our people," Emeritus Professor Briggs said. Centre Leader, Dr Daprim Oga, who gave a background to the emergence of the Centre, said: "PUTOR is a platform for providing inter-disciplinary academic stream of postgraduate programmes and rapidly bridge the current paucity of adequately trained personnel with terminal degrees in environmental health and toxicology in sub-Saharan Africa." He recalled that the Centre came into existence in November 2018, pledging quality leadership to realise the dream.

Guests who presented goodwill messages at the launch included: Vice Chancellor of Bayelsa Medical University, Professor Ebithini Etubu, representative of the Vice Chancellor of Covenant University, Ogun State, Professor Emeke Iwela, Chief Medical Director of Rivers State Hospital Management Board, Dr Kenneth Okagya, Director of Medical Services, Rivers State Primary Health Care Department, Dr Nduye Briggs, Centre Leader of the Africa Centre of Excellence for Technology Enhanced Learning at the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN), Professor Mohammed Abdullahi and Deputy Centre Leader, ACEPIEM, University of Malawi, John Mponda.

Others were the Permanent Secretary, Rivers State Ministry of Environment, Dr Emmanuel Urang; Chairman, Rivers State House of Assembly Committee on Environment, Hon Christian Abiake; Zonal Head, National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA), Cyrus Nkangang, representative of the Standards Organisation of Nigeria, Dr Omolara Okunola and NAFDAC, Dr Abimbola Adegbeye, including ACEFOR Centre Leader, Professor Ogbonna Joel.



Guest Speaker, Dr Fajola and two SPDC Staff



A group photograph of Principal officers, dignitaries and other participants at the PUTOR launch