



## NLNG Building For Commissioning Nov 30

**P**reparatory to the official commissioning and handing over of a state-of-the-art complex to the Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals (CGRP) on November 30, 2015, officials of the Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) were on hand to embark on a final facility tour which commenced with a courtesy visit on the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, last Monday, reports *Otikor Samuel*.

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## Side Bar

Centre for Conflict and Gender Studies held the Third Conflict Analysis Dialogue at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, last Friday. Details next week ~Editor



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## 127<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Arokoyu Lists Gains Of Spatial Transformation In National Dev

By Obinna Nwodin

**T**he need to take into consideration issues of space transformation in any planning process took centre stage when Professor Samuel Arokoyu of the Department of Geography and Environmental Management delivered the 127<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Lecture of the University of Port Harcourt at the Ebitimi Auditorium, last Thursday. Also, sequel to the frequent conflicts arising from migration from one settlement to another, Arokoyu, who is a Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, argued that incidents of migration should not be a divisive process, but one of cultural homogenization and integration. The Inaugural Lecturer, who spoke on the topic: *The Audacity of Space Transformation Planning*, said that once a space is created, those who created it would live with it, adding that: "The space you create today will determine what happens to you tomorrow." He further stated that

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# FRSC Drills UniPort Drivers On Defensive Driving Skills

By Obinna Nwodin

In a bid to enhance the safety and performance of drivers in the University of Port Harcourt, the Protocol and Logistics Unit of the Vice-Chancellor's Office organized a two-day training for them on defensive driving techniques at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, between Thursday 22 and Friday 23 October, 2015. The intensive training exposed the participants to the intricacies of defensive driving, security awareness and how to read road signs.

Addressing the drivers at the closing ceremony, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, who commended the Federal Road Safety Commission for partnering the University to add value to the performance of the drivers in carrying out their jobs, advised the trainees to take seriously the knowledge they acquired from the exercise, expressing delight that drivers were finally able to take time off their hectic duty schedules to learn new techniques that would enhance their driving skills.

"As you conclude this important training exercise today, the University expects to see positive changes in your driving pattern and general conduct. It is expected that you would translate all the good examples you have learned in the classroom into good road habits. We expect to see drivers who are alert on the stirring; drivers who are security conscious, who can read road signs and be defensive when faced with reckless road users," the Vice-Chancellor admonished the drivers, assuring them that such training would be a regular feature of their driving career in the University.

In his remarks, Deputy Corp Commander of the Rivers State Sector of the FRSC, Mr. Joseph Udoabiah, disclosed that "participants were taken

through basic medical tests, including their eye sight and blood pressure, while the lectures focused on defensive driving, highway code, proper use of roads,



Prof Lale (arrowed) flanked by the DV-C (Admin), Prof Ibe (right), Deputy Corp Commander, RS Sector of the FRSC, Mr. Udoabiah (left), the trainers and trainees in a group photograph

managing drivers' health, legal issues, speed limit, road safety standardization scheme, as well as First Aid administration in emergency situations." He expressed optimism that with the quality of training received by the drivers, the University would witness a change in the driving culture of participants and productivity level.

At the opening ceremony of the workshop, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, who represented the Vice-Chancellor, commended the Protocol and Logistics Unit for mounting the programme, hoping that the training would enable the drivers update their driving skills. He noted that if such trainings continued on a larger scale, driving would be a safe and pleasurable exercise on Nigerian roads with reduced accident rates.

In a keynote address, Visiting Scholar to the University, Professor Vincent Idemiyor, who described the importance of good health in driving, listed necessary skills a driver must acquire before taking to the road. According to him, before an individual goes behind the steering, he or she must be healthy and be ready to abide by simple routines that would ensure safety on the road.

In their separate goodwill messages, Deputy Vice-

Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim, who was represented by the Director of Personnel Affairs, Dr. Dakoru Charles-Granville, Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Aliezi represented by the Deputy Bursar in charge of Budget Control, Mrs. Helen Owuonda-Wopara, as well as the Junior Staff Officer, Mrs. Elizabeth Ndiokho, emphasized the essence of the training, advising participants to make the best use of the knowledge acquired in the course of the training. They urged the drivers to always check

their health status on a regular basis, while refraining from consumption of intoxicants before taking to the stirring.

Earlier in a welcome address, Director of the Centre for Logistics and Transport, Professor Osi Akpogomeh, who was represented by the Deputy Director, Dr. Gladys Emenike, said that driving involved acquiring basic car control skills and exercising good judgment behind the wheel, adding that it required a good knowledge of the highway code and general rules, including knowledge of road signs, stopping distances, lighting requirements, speed limits and lane markings, amongst others.

Facilitator of the training, Dr. Sylvester Udeorah, thanked the Vice-Chancellor for approving the exercise, stressing that the training would go a long way in improving the performance of drivers in the line of duty. "Drivers in the University have not been exposed to this type of in-house workshop for a very long time and we thought it expedient to take them off their stirring and give them an opportunity to learn new trends in the performance of their duty schedules," he said, hoping that the training would motivate them to greater productivity.

The Centre for Children with Developmental and Communication Disorder (CCDCD), has announced sale of form for admission into the Postgraduate Diploma programme for the 2015/2016 academic session.

A statement signed to that effect by the Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim and made available to UniPort

## CCDCD Announces Sale Of Form

By Mercy Adeniji

Weekly, disclosed that "the programme is aimed at availing graduates the opportunity to develop a strong interdisciplinary foundation in social, legal and political concepts of disability and communication disorders. It is also a vital tool in providing services in learning opportunities for agencies, service providers, Governmental and Non-governmental organisations. "The programme is also aimed at maximizing the potential abilities in special education and to build up the manpower capacity of personnel with basic academic requirements in specialized education in Nigeria," the statement disclosed.

On the admission requirements, the Registrar said admission into the programme is open to graduates of the Humanities, Education, Social Sciences and Health Sciences and other related disciplines with a minimum of Second Class Honours (Lower Division). "The programme will run with the University's School of Graduate Studies Curriculum for the 2015/2016 session. It is a Full-Time programme that would run for 12 Calendar months. During the period, students shall be exposed to practical case history with children with disabilities and communication disorders in directed field work."

Mrs. Nnodim further directed interested candidates to obtain the application form from the Centre's office located at the International Students' Centre, along Aluu Drive, University Park. "It can also be uploaded at the Centres e-mail: [ccdc@uniport.edu.ng](mailto:ccdc@uniport.edu.ng) or candidates should visit the University of Port Harcourt website [www.uniport.edu.ng](http://www.uniport.edu.ng) with a non-refundable application fee of N20,000 (Twenty

thousand naira), only in certified Bank Draft made payable to the Centre for Children with Developmental and Communication Disorder (CCDCD). Payment can also be made directly into the Centre's Account Number (5210031375), Fidelity Bank Nigeria Plc, UniPort Branch or UniPort/Choba Microfinance Bank, through Account Number (0152831058), University of Port Harcourt, Choba. The Bank Draft or Teller can be presented at the Centre's office or scanned and forwarded via the above-mentioned email /website as evidence of payment.

"The sale of application form started on Monday, August 3. For further enquiries, prospective candidates should contact the Administrative Secretary, call the Director on 08034913688 or 08033092885. At the end of the programme, successful students shall receive the Postgraduate Diploma to be awarded by the Senate of the University," the statement said.



Mrs. Nnodim, Outgoing Registrar

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Speaking on behalf of the visiting team, Head of Media Relations, Mrs. Anne-Marie Ikuku, who disclosed that the project inspection visit was to enable the hydrocarbon giants to formally meet the new Vice-Chancellor and also assess final preparations for commissioning the signature project, said the construction of the complex which was documented in a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the partners in June 2014, was part of the company's University Support Programme initiative aimed at growing local expertise in gas technology.

"Basically, we are here to meet the new Vice-Chancellor and deepen the Corporate Social Responsibility effort of the Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas aimed at improving research and scholarship through our popular University Support Programme initiative. Using the National Universities Commission (NUC) ranking, we identified the University of Port Harcourt, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, University of Ibadan, University of Ilorin, University of Maiduguri and Ahmadu Bello University from different regions of the country for these landmark projects that are aimed at building institutional capacity in our specialisation. We are so far pleased with the results of these partnerships and the level of cooperation we have received from participating universities," Mrs. Ikuku said, expressing satisfaction with the level of work already accomplished at the site located behind Emerald Energy Institute.

"The building is a collaborative effort between our company and the University. Ours is just to provide funding and the right operational environment; it is the University that made the choice of materials and we are highly impressed with what we have seen on ground. We have been assured that the equipment would arrive on October 30, while installation would be concluded before the commissioning on November 30. Once the facility is commissioned, we would rely on the University for the right kind of expertise to make it fully operational to achieve the purpose for which it was established," she added.

Responding, a visibly enthused Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, who thanked NLNG for the recognition accorded the University through siting the project here, stated that the University would continue to do everything that is within its powers to ensure sustainability of the blossoming partnership. The Vice-Chancellor expressed happiness over the partnership,

## NLNG Building For Commissioning Nov 30



V-C, Prof Lale (centre, seated) flanked by Head, Media Relations of NLNG, Mrs. Ikuku, DV-C (Academic), Prof Igbo Joe (left), DV-C (Admin), Prof Anthony Ibe and Univ. Librarian, Dr. Obiangeli Nwodo (right), members of the NLNG delegation, Deputy Director, CGRP, Dr. Oduola (middle, standing), SAV-C, Mr. Kingsley Wogwe and Deputy Registrar (Info), Williams Wodi (back row)

promising the NLNG Management that requisite expertise exists in the University to turn the facility into a centre of excellence in gas technology within the shortest possible timeframe.

"We consider ourselves very lucky to have been chosen for such a strategic partnership. We know that the hydrocarbon industry is a very technologically-complex enterprise that requires a properly trained workforce. On our part, we promise to safeguard the sensitive equipment that would be mounted in the complex for purposes of training high impact personnel that would reduce the country's dependence on expatriates and huge foreign exchange drain," Professor Lale told the delegation.

In his brief, Deputy Director of the Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals, Dr. Koyejo Oduola, who averred that the commissioning date was agreed upon by the Technical Committee that oversees the project implementation in the six participating universities, disclosed that the Governor of Rivers State, universities in the Niger Delta and technical partners are expected to grace the event which is expected to serve as a regional centre of excellence in gas engineering.

It would be recalled that the General Manager, External Relations of NLNG, Dr. Kudo Eresia-Eke in a statement

obtained by this publication, dated March 19, 2014 had said that: "NLNG will spend N340 million (\$2million) in each university for the construction of modern engineering laboratories that would be equipped with cutting-edge technology at the University of Ibadan, University of Ilorin, University of Port Harcourt, University of Maiduguri, Ahmadu Bello University and University of Nigeria, Nsukka in a project titled: NLNG University Support Programme (USP)."

The General Manager had disclosed then that the six universities were selected based on their established track record of performances in the various geo-political zones as reflected in the rankings of the National Universities Commission (NUC) and other international bodies, adding that the participating institutions were also selected for their contributions to local capacity development which paved way for grooming notable Nigerians.

The statement further revealed that educational intervention was a primary focus of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of NLNG, adding that the USP was part of the company's contributions to complement the efforts of government, the academia and other stakeholders in improving the quality of tertiary education in the country.

## Ex-UDSS Students Donate To Alma Mater

By Otiokor Samuel

Library equipment, including cartons of books, five book shelves, five reading tables and 70 chairs, estimated at about half a million naira were donated to their *Alma Mater* by the 1995 class of ex-students of the University Demonstration Secondary School (UDSS) at a brief ceremony.

Speaking at the *Morning Assembly* that marked the grand finale of a weeklong series of events on Friday, October 23, 2015, former Head Girl, Mrs. Aya Akhimien, who spoke on *Reviving the Reading Culture in Nigerian Children*, said the donation was part of the group's effort to inculcate the habit of reading and the spirit of giving amongst the students.

"The scarcity of books, together with the prohibitive cost of acquiring available reading materials has also contributed to the steady decline in the reading culture amongst students in Nigerian schools today. Aside from textbooks which are readily available, other recreational books that expose students to a wide variety of topics are in very short supply," she

lamented, stating that the donation was aimed at partially addressing the dearth of reading materials at the disposal of the current students of the school that gave the ex-students a head start in the academia.



Some of the equipment donated by the ex-students

Mrs. Akhimien, who is now a practising Lawyer, admonished parents, religious groups, organizations and companies to join the crusade to revive the reading culture among young people, calling for regular inter-school competitions to bring out the best in the students. She also solicited the donation of reading materials and establishment of more public libraries to encourage the reading culture amongst young people, advising Government to sanction schools that operate without proper library facilities.

Another ex-student, Mr. Solomon Akere, who is now a successful Lagos-based Management Consultant, spoke to the students on how to effectively combine their studies and also explore their natural potentials through entrepreneurship in a competitive global market.

"Have a role model; somebody whose lifestyle influences you. It could be someone you don't know, but if the qualities meet acceptable standards and influence you, then such a person could be your role model," Mr. Akere told the students, advising them to study very hard to prepare themselves for tougher challenges in future.

In his response, Principal of the School, Mr. Anel Ogechi, who expressed the happiness of Management of the School with the philanthropic gesture of the ex-students, said: "This set of students has set a pace that is worthy of emulation and I am very grateful that this is happening in my time as Principal. I will want our current students to learn from this remarkable show of public service. It is good for one to give back to a system that produced one as a token of appreciation and worthy example to others."

Vice-Chairman of the Parent-Teacher Association, Dr. Nathaniel Ojekudo, also showered praises on the ex-students for donating to their *Alma Mater*, expressing gratitude to them for the career talk that is expected to motivate the students to aspire to be like them on leaving the UDSS. He promised to convey the kind gesture to parents during the next meeting of the PTA of UDSS.



UDSS Principal, Mr. Ogechi, Vice-Principal (Academic), Mr. Godwin Wali, Vice-Chairman, PTA, Dr. Ojekudo (9', 10' and 12' right), Ex-Head Girl, Mrs. Akhimien (6' left) and the 1995 class after the donation

One hundred days marks the end of seminal experiment and the season of sublime romanticism for any new office holder. The American origin of one hundred days is steeped in the Cold War era and its carry-over to modern governance is a triumph of service in and outside the boardroom. A man takes office and gets about the business of acquainting himself with the contours of the job and before he knows it, time flies fast and he comes face-to-face with the first one hundred days of his appointment. Somehow, this significant event quietly passed off unnoted on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 by anybody; not even the celebrant himself! The emergence of Professor Ndawa Lale as the 8<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt ranked amongst the fiercest of legends in a society that gossips to godfatherism and Indonesian-style cronyism!

The expression of admiration, collective enthusiasm and eager anticipation that greeted Professor Lale's assumption of office on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2015, smacked of personal resolve and divine ordination. The University was already blinking red when Professor Lale took office in an atmosphere that was characterized by unprincipled divisions that threatened the peace of the Campus. Some gladiators for the job took inactivity to such ridiculous levels that sapped the race of vitality.

A community that was already weary of slogans became even more apprehensive of Lale's new mantra of a "wholesome and prosperous" University on his watch. His supporters sought to ride out the storm generated by an acrimonious campaign for the Vice-Chancellorship position, while skeptics waited in eager anticipation of faltering steps as the new helmsman stepped out to claim his prize.



New V-C, Prof Lale (left) in a warm handshake with his predecessor



Prof Lale addressing parents and guardians at maiden University of Port Harcourt Parents' Forum

# Revisiting Lale's One Hundred Days In Office

By Williams Wodi



V-C, Prof Lale receiving symbols of authority from V-C, Prof Joseph Ajenika

measure of merit alone. He has covered himself in glory in thirty-three years of unbroken commitment to the academia with plenty acres to show for his effort on all fronts.

"I knew that the job was going to be a very challenging one like most organizations, but I have been very lucky to receive cooperation from every quarter in a community of diverse opinions and interests. I did not expect everybody to be on my side," he said in a revealing interview that gave him away as an incurable optimist and a master of human nature. The executive pressure a Vice-Chancellor faces in the line of duty is replete with perspiration like that of a long distance runner.

Already working himself to exhaustion in just one hundred days, Professor Lale would do well to protect his health in the face of the strain and stress that ravage the body on the executive seat. Managing energy is one of the secrets of longevity and triumphant exit down the road. The daily deluge of files that assail his table is an endurance test for the most energetic leader. As Lale made the transition from the classroom to the executive office, he came face-to-face with the shenanigans that trouble the once hallowed corridors of the academia. In one hundred days, he has come to terms with the centrifugal forces which he is increasingly turning to positive ends for the good of the University.

Battling to change official creed set Lale on a collision course with vested interest in the early days of his administration, but he ploughs on with mafia courage

and the zeal of a Pentecostal minister with impressive results to show. So far, he has masterfully dodged the bullets of intellectual intrigue which are a part of our robust university community and human nature. After all, God was sensible enough to delay the creation of man till the sixth day on account of his trademark capacity to mess up things, even in the pristine Garden of Eden.

The ongoing reforms, which we hope would be a force for good, have called into question the virtues of a bloated institutional bureaucracy that almost bogged down the system. The completion of the ongoing overhaul is expected to reposition the University to pursue its stated ambition of becoming a world class centre of academic excellence with Lale firmly on the driver's seat. His tenure appears to be focused on high-value innovations that are expected to transform Unique UniPort into a first choice destination for talented students and teachers with high returns to society.

"We are beginning to deepen the academic culture by restructuring and rationalizing some academic units for greater efficiency. We have re-engineered the partial collegiate system back to the Faculty system to achieve uniformity and better coordination of academic activities. We successfully introduced the Direct Entry mode of admission into the University. Senate has become more vibrant with improved attendance, while round pegs are being put in round holes for high impact performance. We are raising a new forward-looking

generation of young leaders to secure the future of the University. We have awarded contract for the construction of public toilets which I promised on assumption of office," he said, regretting that the Treasury Single Account (TSA) has become a major obstacle race in his administration's drive for quality service delivery. Indeed, the almighty TSA is the cruelest manifestation of the infamous 'dead hand of bureaucracy' in the current dispensation! Once he took office, Lale toured hostels, the host communities and organized a highly-patronised Parents' Forum that is expected to drive aspects of institutional development. He started policing contractors to complete projects initiated by his predecessor and appointed a new Director who is already rebranding, marketing and networking the University of Port Harcourt Foundation. He hosted the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea which resulted in the award of eight scholarships, promise of internship and employment prospects by Daewoo Nigeria Limited. Flood control measures are currently ongoing at the Flooded Site of the University through an integrated drainage system. A proactive security plan has resulted in the acquisition and deployment of cutting-edge technology that has enhanced surveillance, putting criminal elements on the back pedal.

"I have excellent working ties with the Unions and students because they can see that I am running a transparent system that can be easily accessed by

anybody at short notice. We have also improved access to quality and prompt healthcare delivery through facility update and humane patient engagement. We have completed the new Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences building and the Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals (CGRP). The 2016 budget makes provision for new buildings for the College of Health Sciences, School of Graduate Studies and a new University Bookshop. A magnificent Business District would soon rise at the Choba Park under a Public-Private Partnership agreement with Everyday Supermarket to give us a memorable shopping experience," the Vice-Chancellor disclosed.

Expressing general satisfaction with what has been achieved in one hundred days; Professor Lale attributed the feat to God's guidance and cooperation from the University community which is responding to purposeful leadership that is not mounted on a high horse.

"The Governing Council is in agreement with our vision and if we continue like this, we will actualize our dream of building a wholesome and prosperous University as was declared in my campaign manifesto. I am quite grateful to everybody that has so far worked in concert to build a new UniPort. The achievements of these one hundred days show that what we envisioned is possible," the Vice-Chancellor said with a measure of self-assurance that is sure to last him the distance.

His parting words: "I am very humbled and honoured to serve as the 8th Vice-Chancellor of this unique University and a promise approach my job with a sense of responsibility and urgency."

We expect Lale to stand on the podium and cover himself in a blaze of glory at the end of his tour of duty.



Prof Lale with Nye Nwe Ali, Akpor Kingdom, His Majesty, Eze Anel Oriebe in his palace



Completed Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences Building



V-C presenting his Inaugural Address to Congregation



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## Arokoyu Lists Gains Of Spatial Transformation

"spatial organization as a major theme in human geography helps us to understand the space production and transformation processes," stressing that emphasis was usually on man made environments and how they were affected by space.

He described space as "a contested philosophical concept which is particularly important because it provides an important ordering system interlacing all facets of thought about human habitation, settlement and survival of planet earth."

Arokoyu, who was the immediate past Director of the Centre for Disaster Risk Management in the University of Port Harcourt, stated that Nigeria's national planning policy must be space based, decrying the prevailing situation in which national planning policies sought to solve global problems, rather than the ones in local communities.

Professor Arokoyu identified components of audacious, spatial and sustainable transformations, eco-cities, smart growth, regional environmental development planning, and resilient transformation planning. The one-time Head of the Department of Geography and Environmental Management, highlighted evolved and planned organization of space, as well as its planned reorganization, as viable approaches to spatial organization, regretting that the development processes of Nigeria were directly traceable to regional inequality. The 127<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Lecturer explained that "strategic transformation management involves deciding the future direction and scope of the environment in line with perceived opportunities and threats, while ensuring that the chosen strategies can be implemented. The basic concern is ensuring that planning concentrates on identifying and evaluating alternative courses of action for the environment, so that more

opportunities are created."

The immediate past Associate Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences identified key success factors in the use of strategic transformation planning, adding that "an important aspect of the knowledge generating mechanism of regional economic growth and transformation is the creation of knowledge clusters of creative cities." He stressed the need for planned settlement of migrants in Nigeria's cities, blaming observed deficiencies on the crisis generation potentials of separate ethnic enclaves in many urban centres.

Professor Arokoyu, who described migration as an adjustment mechanism for the relocation of mobile factors of production from well-endowed to poorly-endowed areas, noted that "it is implicated in the territorial process of urbanization, spatial structuring and restructuring, spatial concentration of activities, production and reproduction of geographical patterns of flows, promoting better utilization of factors of production as an important process in the reduction of spatial inequities in the space economy of a nation." According to him, spatial transformation is a very complex activity requiring audacious comprehensive effort, showing that improved and appropriate spatial knowledge can become the engine of economic growth and development in the country.

Arokoyu, who recently assumed office as Associate Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, suggested that

"Nigerian scientists will need to develop tested local spatial strategies tailored to properly manage the development damping and poor transformation generating process confronting Nigeria. Geographers have important roles to play in socio-spatial transformation of Nigeria. However, audacious actions are required to bring about change in the power relations within the research process to deconstruct the failed transformation planning of social knowledge that alienate, disempower and disenfranchise Nigerians." He identified a nuisance-free, employment-opportunity, recreational-opportunity, housing opportunity, educational-opportunity, modern amenity, health opportunity, equal opportunity, aesthetically-appealing environments as characteristics of spatial transformation that could aid longevity.

In his remarks, Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Administration, Professor Anthony Ibe, who represented the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, commended Professor Arokoyu for reducing an otherwise abstract concept to the understanding of the laymen and scholars alike. Stressing the importance of planning in the orderly development of modern cities, Professor Ibe restated the need to "plan the use of our space otherwise we will fall back to spending money to re-plan our cities. Most of the problems encountered in the planning process are as a result of lack of space planning."



Inaugural Lecturer, Prof Arokoyu (6<sup>th</sup> left), flanked by DV-D (Admin) Prof Ibe (right) and other Professors and Deans before the lecture

## Music Dept Ends Centenary Church Music Confab

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Scholars and lovers of music gathered in the University to participate in a historic Centenary Church Music Conference organized by the Department of Music, Faculty of Humanities to mark 100 Years of Church Music in Nigeria that spanned between 1914 and 2014.

Delivering the keynote address at the well-patronised event, Professor Richard Okafor of the Godfrey Okoye University, Enugu State, disclosed that Church Music in Nigeria has improved tremendously following the

introduction of Christianity, listing some factors that militated against the effective growth of Church Music in Nigeria.

"The inability of performers to harness the potentials of melodic instruments to achieve better results, heavy instrumentation as a result of the combination of the keyboard, synthesizers, band and traditional instruments, lack of proper training and poor interpretation of the pieces rendered," were some of the factors that hindered the flourishing of early Church Music, the Guest Speaker told the gathering.

Regretting that music was one of the disciplines easily

eroded by amateurs, Professor Okoye, however, submitted that the mode of instruction, the involvement of various Church groups, the use of vibrant and instrumental music, hastily-convened music festivals and competitions, the use of electronic media such as television and radio, contributed to improving the quality of modern Church Music in the country.

"Seminars and workshops would also facilitate musical knowledge of Church Choir Masters, thereby raising the standard of performances by the Choirs," he posited, calling for the exploration of new ways to enhance the music, which catered to the spiritual uplift of the congregation and lovers of good music.

Lead paper presenter, Professor Inibong Udodem of the Department of Philosophy in the Faculty of Humanities, spoke on 100 years of Church Music in Nigeria: A Review of the Features of Inculturation, describing "inculturation" as the groundwork of all Christian Missionary and evangelizing activities in the country and a tool for analysing and studying the development and evolution of Church Music in the past 100 years. "The last phase of Church Music in Nigeria is characterised by incarnational inculturation, wherein the musical forms emanated and is still emanating from the indigenous cultures of the people," he explained.

Representative of the Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic matters, Professor Igbo Joe, who pledged Management's continued support to make the Department a Centre of Excellence in African and Nigerian music, commended the Department of Music for portraying music as a serious subject with intellectual components, unlike the popular misconception that music cannot be taught.

In their separate addresses, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Head of the Department of Music, Professors John Enemugwem and Onyee Nwankpa, expressed hope that the outcome of the Conference would contribute to continuous advancement of Church Music in Nigeria.



Guests at the event

## GUIDEPOST

## STADU Ends Registry Staff Training

By Mercy Adeniji

In a bid to facilitate quality service delivery among staff of the University of Port Harcourt, the Staff Training and Development Unit (STADU), organized a three-day capacity training workshop for staff of the Registry Department, last Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, respectively, at the Basic Studies Unit, University Park.

Declaring open the well-attended workshop, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, who commended the Registrar and STADU Unit for organizing the training sessions, disclosed that it was aimed at building workers capacity for effective service delivery in a changing work environment.

"God uses human beings to help each of us to grow in our private and public life. To succeed in life, you need some identifiable skills and other human beings along the way. Again, you need social intelligence to move up your career line and this is not taught in schools; it is done during seminars such as this one and other informal interactive processes that increase your stock of knowledge on daily basis," he said, expressing optimism that the training would be very

valuable to the trainees. Reminding participants that enhanced productivity can only come through dedication and team spirit, the Vice-Chancellor said that "dishonest staff and those who cannot get along with their colleagues in the line of duty do not find it easy to progress as doors usually close in their faces. They are transferred from one office to another and the whole University gets to know them until they are finally transferred out of the University."

Also speaking, Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim, commended Management for approving funds for the training, expressing gratitude to the STADU Unit for organizing the event for Registry staff. Mrs. Nnodim, who was represented by the Director of Personnel Affairs, Dr. Dakora Charles-Granville, said: "When our immediate past Registrar, Mr. Messiah Onyige returned from Sabbatical Leave, we were very happy because he is an experienced professional, who would be in the background to add value chain to the Registry. Training programmes are very important because they help us to acquire new skills and engender communication and harmonious relationship with other staff. If you put what you have learnt into practice, I believe your bosses would see a great difference that would facilitate your next promotion."

In his own contribution, former Registrar of the University, Mr. Messiah Onyige, who corroborated the views of the Vice-Chancellor and the Registrar, charged staff of the Registry to strive towards enhanced productivity that would lead to accelerated growth of the University. "It is still not too late to be who or what you want to be in your professional and personal life; all it takes is determination and ability to function in a team. No matter where you are posted, people see and evaluate your output, which would speak for you when you seek upward mobility. Examples have shown that those who treat their duty schedules with levity do not really go too far in their professional career," Mr. Onyige told the trainees.

Former Registrar, Mr. Onyige (3<sup>rd</sup> right), Dr. Jahka (3<sup>rd</sup> left) and other facilitators of the training

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Delivering a paper entitled: *Work as the Essence of Man*, Dr. Godwin Ndene of the Department of Sociology, described work as very important to mankind, advising those who were lucky to secure jobs in this period of unemployment to guard them jealously as their growth, progress and social prestige depended on such jobs and how they performed them.

Dr. Ndene listed obedience to rules and regulations governing the University, such as "keeping official secrets, respect for the statutory rights of staff and students, not aiding and abetting examination malpractice or engaging in dubious transactions that would hurt the image and reputation of the University," as some of the work ethics that guide the University, stressing the need for staff to manage change and improve communication flow to aid enhanced productivity.

Junior Staff Officer, Mrs. Elizabeth Ndiokho, who spoke on *Human Resource Management, Performance Appraisal, Motivation and Stress Management*, identified planning, staffing, employee development and retention and maintenance culture as the four major areas of human resource management, advising staff to do what they have to do when they have to do it and work by the rules.

On performance appraisal, Mrs. Ndiokho described it as "deliberate stock-taking of the success which an individual or organisation has achieved in performing assigned tasks over a period of time. When this exercise is properly carried out, it helps the organisation discover whether something is missing in workers' delivery of their duties."

In her contribution, Dr. Celestina Johnson, who spoke on *The University as a System of Cooperative Workplace*, described self-management as the attitude of employees towards their training and career development. "It is the state of mind that determines what extent employees are willing to take their self-development into their own hands," she told the participants.

Also present at the event were STADU Officer, Dr. Fidelis Jahka and the University of Port Harcourt Branch Chairperson of the Non-Academic Staff Union (NASU), Mrs. Beauty Igwe.

## RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Mrs. Caroline Amaike, Works and Services Department, granted a one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment* as Assistant Chief Executive Officer (Secretarial), effective November 3, 2015 to November 2, 2016.

Mr. Friday Wubi, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, granted final *Renewal of Contract Appointment* as Senior Secretarial Assistant, effective May 12, 2016 to May 11, 2017.

## SABBATICAL LEAVE

Dr. Andrew Obafemi, Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences, proceeded on *Sabbatical Leave* to the Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State, effective September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016.

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Dr. Samuel Udeabor, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Faculty of Dentistry, College of Health Sciences, granted a one-year *Leave of Absence* to enable him sort out personal issues outside the country, effective September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016.

Mr. Chimaroke Mgba, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted a four-year *Leave of Absence* to enable him take up appointment as a Member of the Rivers State Independent Electoral Commission (RSIEC), effective July 10, 2015 to July 9, 2019.

## REINSTATEMENT

Mbaa, Barimue Fidelis, Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted *Reinstatement to Academic Programme* after serving punishment of suspension in the First Semester of 2013/2014 academic session.

## SUSPENSION

Princess Apiloko, Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities, suspended for Second Semester 2014/15 academic session for *Examination Malpractice and Impersonation*.

## STOP PRESS

## COREN Appoints Wodo ERM Inspector

Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN) has appointed Mr. Steve Wodo, Inspector in charge of Engineering Regulation Monitoring for the Port Harcourt Inspectorate. A statement dated August 17, 2015, and signed by the Registrar, Engr. Kamila Maliki, partly read that: "By this appointment, you are required to team up with other Inspectors in your Inspectorate to carry out the duties of ensuring that engineering practice is carried out professionally and in consonance with the ethics of the profession, acceptable development of engineering and the aspirations of the Nigeria nation. Your service should commence immediately by this letter."

The Registrar disclosed that "the Engineering Regulation Monitoring (ERM) programme was established by the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria, COREN, to ensure sanity in the practice of engineering in Nigeria. Through the machinery of the ERM, Council monitors and enforces compliance with the COREN Act, CAP EII of 2004. A team of COREN-appointed Inspectors, who are seasoned engineers, move from one establishment to the other to ensure the achievement of the aims and objectives of the ERM programme."

## DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT

## WEATHER OBSERVATORY

## FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 01 - SATURDAY NOVEMBER 07, 2015.

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI (°C)	TEMPERATURE LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 1 NOV, 2015	32.0	24.0	76	NE	37.6	6:17 18:14	Thunderstorm expected. Mostly cloudy day forecasted.
MONDAY, 2 NOV, 2015	32.0	24.0	72	NE	4.9	6:17 18:14	Thunderstorm expected late in the day. Partly sunny day forecasted.
TUESDAY, 3 NOV, 2015	33.0	23.0	72	NE	34.3	6:17 18:14	Thunderstorm expected. Mostly cloudy day anticipated.
WEDNESDAY 4 NOV, 2015	32.0	23.0	77	N	3.2	6:17 18:14	Thunderstorm expected early in the day. Mostly cloudy day forecasted.
THURSDAY, 5 NOV, 2015	32.0	23.0	74	NE	2.4	6:17 18:14	Thunderstorm expected early in the day. partly sunny day expected.
FRIDAY, 6 NOV, 2015	32.0	23.0	78	NE	3.1	6:18 18:14	Widely scatter thunderstorm expected. Partly sunny day anticipated.
SATURDAY, 7 NOV, 2015	32.0	23.0	74	E	8.4	6:18 18:13	A few thunderstorm expected. Mostly cloudy day forecasted.

Dr. Gladys Emenike  
Acting HoD

Dr. Prince Mmom  
AG. Director, (CDRMS)