

UPTH Terminates Appointments Of Negligent Staff

Following the destruction of property and disruption of work that trailed the death of a second-year student of the University of Port Harcourt, Miss Kelechi Ndulagwu at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), on August 30, 2015, the Management of the hospital has recommended the termination of the appointments of two duty nurses on account of negligence, reports Williams Wodi.

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Side Bar

Nigerian Association of Animal Health and Husbandry Technologists held its 28th annual national Confab in UniPort last week.

Details next week
~Editor

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Principal Officers Fete Former Registrar

Nnodim Bows Out, Nzimiro Steps In As Acting Registrar

By Mercy Adeniji and Otikor Samuel

After what was generally described as an impressive performance at the helm of the Registry Department of the University, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim finally bowed out as 6th Registrar and Secretary to Council of the University, last Monday.

She handed over the affairs of the Registry Department to the oldest serving Deputy Registrar and Director, Mrs. Bridget Nzimiro in acting capacity amidst spontaneous outpouring of emotions by her immediate office staff and pensioners who gathered to bid her farewell.

Mrs. Nnodim had assumed duty as 6th Registrar on October 30, 2010, following her satisfactory performance at an interview conducted by the Dr. Dan Shere-led Governing Council to replace her predecessor, Mr. Messiah Onyige, who had served out his tenure.

Speaking in a brief handing over ceremony in the Registrar's Office, Mrs. Nnodim, who expressed hope in the ability of Mrs. Nzimiro to provide quality leadership, pending

when the Governing Council would appoint a substantive Registrar, showered praises on Mrs. Nzimiro for cutting short her vacation in America to fill the vacancy to avoid any vacuum in the Office of the Registrar.

"The University advertised for the position of Registrar since September 14, 2015, but the interview has not held and the Governing Council has not produced anyone in acting capacity.

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Meet Cookey-Gam, Staff *Par Excellence*

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Driven by a motivation to stand out from the crowd, just as the University of Port Harcourt stands out unique among universities, Mr. Kingdom Cookey-Gam, a staff in the Bursar's Office, says his drive to remain unique has been his watchword in the line of duty. Apart from being punctual and committed to his work schedule, Mr. Cookey-Gam is self-motivated, personable and turns out in the best civil service dress code Monday through Friday without being prompted by his superior officers. Mentored by the likes of former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sylvanus Cookey and Dr. Chris Tamuno, this exemplary worker noted that a staff who is privileged to work in a University that has produced former *Miss World* in 2001, Miss Agbani Darego, serving and past state governors, ex-president, top government officials and other distinguished alumni, should show total commitment and dedication to duty as a mark of privilege and gratitude.

"We should really consider it a privilege working in Unique UniPort and this uniqueness should reflect in our dress code, work ethic and the way we carry ourselves. I believe that a staff should be

punctual at work and be prepared to serve to the best of his or her ability. Lateness and other unacceptable behaviours betray our conscience as we have to justify the salaries we earn at the end of each month. Punctuality to work earned me an award as the best staff in the University Library in 2006 and promotion to the rank of Acting Documentation Librarian," he said. Cookey-Gam, who assumed duty in the University in 1998, disclosed that he is also encouraged to put in his best on the job based on the zeal displayed by former and serving Vice-Chancellors, who usually resumed work as early as 7.00 am daily and worked late into the evening, despite their hectic job schedules.

"An advice from former Registrar, Dr. Chris Tamuno, has been my guiding principle on this job. She taught me that I have a name and image to protect. Now I know that whatever I do rubs off either positively or negatively on my name; so, I try at all times to protect my name and the uniqueness of the University that is highly-placed in Nigeria and Africa. It is not about money. The joy I derive from knowing that

I was able to add value to the system gives me enough satisfaction and I am very committed to doing the job to the best of my ability," Cookey-Gam said.



Mr. Cookey-Gam

Gbosi Shines At Nevada Confab, Proffers Solutions To Declining Economy

By Otiok Samuel

Director of Bamanga Tukur Institute for International Trade and Development, Professor Augustus Gbosi, has described as very rewarding his experience at the 2015 International Multidisciplinary Academic Conference organized by the Academic Organization for Advancement of Strategic and International Studies (Academic OASIS) in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, which held between October 25 and 27, 2015.

Also, Professor Gbosi has called for urgent

attention to Nigeria's rapid economic decline, urging policy-makers to summon the political will to bail the economy out of the woods to ensure national prosperity and stability.

Speaking to our Correspondent on arrival from the conference, last Tuesday, Professor Gbosi, disclosed that he presented a paper entitled: *Naira Exchange Rate Movements and Macroeconomic Stability in Nigeria*, at the event which attracted participants from 25 countries, expressing delight at the very warm reception accorded his presentation by participants at the event.

"I did not use power-point presentation or aided by paper, but I was able to get the job done in just 10 minutes with resounding applause from participants that indicated a job well done. After my presentation, a Professor from the University of Turkey told me that my presentation was the best he had witnessed in recent times. Based on my performance, I was scheduled to present another paper at Miami Beach, Florida from May 4 to 6, 2016, courtesy of the same organization. It will interest you to know that before I arrived at the conference venue, my paper was already published in the *Journal of Strategic and International Studies*," Professor Gbosi told our Correspondent.

On the relevance of his paper to the present economic challenges facing the country, the Director stated: "The paper I submitted recounted the origin of the naira from its inception till date. I also discussed the factors responsible for fluctuations in the value of the Nigerian currency. In a bid to stabilize the naira as part of the Structural Adjustment Programme, former self-styled military President, retired General Ibrahim Babangida, used the International Monetary Fund Reformed Package to devalue the currency with the stated aim of stimulating export and discouraging importation of luxury goods. Other similar measures were adopted to save the naira, yet by 1986, the naira had lost its value. Then, it was N10.00 to the dollar which rapidly moved up

to N22 in 1995 under the so-called Guided Deregulation Policy."

Gbosi, who decried hastily-conceived policies that could not save the currency from continued depreciation against the dollar and other international currencies, stated that between 1980 and 2015, the naira had depreciated by more than 5,000 per cent with adverse consequences for the economy and the living standard of the average Nigerian family. He attributed the current woes of the economy to political crises and instability, money laundering and the slump in global crude oil prices.

"All these factors led to the unstable macroeconomic environment in the country and based on the sharp depreciation, most observers who erroneously add the rate of inflation to unemployment get the so-called Macroeconomic Discomfort Index, which is a situation in which the economy cannot stand on both legs as a result of internal and external pressures," he said.

Proffering a way out of the woods, Professor Gbosi appealed to the organized private sector and the government to first get the depressed economy back on track to guarantee its sustainable growth. "This will create jobs, increase income, reduce inflation and stabilize the naira exchange rate, and for macroeconomic policy to be objective, it should be well-coordinated and complemented by external sector policy," he explained, calling on policy-makers to focus more attention on strategies that would bring about rapid economic recovery and save Nigerians from further fall in their living standards.



Prof Gbosi

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Also, two staff of a private security company attached to the hospital have been recommended to their Management for dismissal for abandoning their duty post on the day of the incident.

Addressing the media on the recommendations of a high-powered panel that probed the incident, Chief Medical Director of the hospital, Professor Aaron Ojule, said that the allegation of official negligence was proved against the affected nurses, who he said failed to follow established protocol in handling the case of the late student at the Accident and Emergency Department. The late Miss Ndulagwu was allegedly denied treatment by the duty nurses on the excuse that she could not be admitted because there was no bed space when she was brought to the hospital.

"Two staff who flouted established protocol that are applicable in the hospital were issued queries and based on their unsatisfactory responses, they have each been placed on a three-month suspension without pay, while awaiting approval from the Federal Ministry of Health for the termination of their appointments," the Chief Medical Director said in the statement.

The media briefing which took place in the Boardroom of the hospital on Tuesday, October 27, 2015, was in fulfilment of the hospital's promise to get to the root of the matter at the first media briefing which held on Tuesday, September 1, 2015.

UPTH Terminates Appointments Of Negligent Staff

The Chief Medical Director appealed to the Management of University of Port Harcourt to "further investigate and punish those involved in the stealing and destruction of property at the hospital. They (students) should also be advised to properly channel their grievances through the established authorities of the University, and not resort to self-help," disclosing that the Management of UPTH would liaise with authorities of the University to work out modalities for the repair and replacement of damaged property.

Professor Ojule used the opportunity to, once again, commiserate with the family of the late student, the entire students and authorities of the University of Port Harcourt, assuring the general public of improved healthcare delivery services in the hospital, even as he urged stakeholders to understand the difficult operational environment of UPTH as a tertiary healthcare institution.

Also at the media briefing were Chairman of the investigating panel, Professor John Ikimalo, Director of Administration, Mrs. Boma Amaom-Jumbo and Chief Nursing Officer, Mrs Mary Maa.



Prof Ojule, Chief Medical Director, UPTH

Stakeholders List Ways To Curb Cultism At CCGS Dialogue

By Obinna Nwodin

Strategies aimed at curbing cult activities in Rivers State formed the main thrust of the 3rd Conflict Analysis Dialogue of the Centre for Conflict and Gender Studies (CCGS), which took place at the NIM Lounge, Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, on Friday, October 30, 2015. The participants drawn from security agencies, civil society organizations, community leaders and media across Rivers State, highlighted the negative

impact of cultism in the society, calling on government to rise up to the challenge of stemming the growing tide of violence associated with the hydra-headed monster that has claimed many innocent victims.

They observed that there was need for government to put in place equitable and justifiable policies to address the imbalance in social structures through job creation that would take vulnerable youths off the streets and away from the antics of mischief makers, who use them to achieve their pecuniary

interests. The stakeholders also advocated autonomy for security agencies to effectively check the malaise of cultism, calling on government to apply existing laws on cult-related activities, as well as adopt more proactive ways in dealing with cultism and related issues in line with extant rules and best international practices.

In his remarks, former Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) and Pioneer Director of the erstwhile Centre for Ethnic and Conflict Studies (CENTECS), Professor Mark Anikpo, stated that government had the responsibility of creating a conducive environment for peaceful coexistence. According to him, incidents of cultism which started in Nigerian tertiary institutions in the 1960s had permeated the society, resulting in the rise of dangerous groups that continue to unleash mayhem on the Society. He identified social inequality arising from graduate unemployment and social injustice as major factors responsible for the increase in



Stakeholders at the roundtable discussion

cult-related activities. "Inequity in the social system in Nigeria produced cultism as a by-product of perceived and obvious marginalization which manifests in youth unemployment," Professor Anikpo explained, calling for policies that would reduce the alienation that young people feel in an unjust society.

Earlier in his address, Acting Director of the Centre, Dr. Fidelis Allen, stated that the Dialogue series which is an initiative of the Centre in collaboration with the Rivers State Conflict Management Alliance (RSCMA), and support from the Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme, was aimed at providing a non-political platform for analysis of lingering or emerging conflict issues in Rivers State in order to make recommendations to relevant public institutions on the way out of such perennial conflicts in Rivers State.

REDEPLOYMENT

S/No	Name	Designation	Former Dept/Unit	Present Dept/Unit
1.	ONYIGE, Chinedu Dele UPH/2006/2967	Snr. Asst. Registrar	Academic Office, Senate Building	Student Affairs (Reversed)
2.	NLEMANYA, Samuel UPH/1978/122	Chief Supt. Driver	UDPS	Dean, School of Graduate Studies
3.	NWONKWO, Godpower UPH/1978/2559	Chief Supt. Driver	Music Department	UDPS
4.	AWHE, Johnson UPH/1982/566	Chf Supt Driver	National Centre for Marine Pollution Monitoring & Sea Food Safety	Health Centre
5.	NWIYEE, Joseph UPH/1986/850	Snr. Supt Driver	Student Affairs	Est. Division (on relief duty)
6.	OWHONDA, Wogunka UPH/1998/2308	Snr. Supt Driver	Faculty of Science	INRES



Participants at the Workshop

Teacher Education Centre Ends W'Shop For UISS Staff

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The Centre for Teacher Education and In-Service Training in the Institute of Education has ended a three-day workshop for teaching staff of the University of Port Harcourt International Secondary School (UISS), Nkpola, Port Harcourt.

Declaring the workshop which had the theme: *Updating Teachers' Knowledge to Meet Recent Challenges in the 21st Century Educational Sector*, open, Director of the Institute, Professor Oledinma Nwanna-Nzewunwa, told participants that the exercise was aimed at highlighting the challenges of delivering knowledge in the 21st century, charging teachers to be receptive to new ideas that would help grow their careers.

Stressing the role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in 21st Century Education, Professor Nwanna-Nzewunwa, urged the teachers to incorporate ICT resources into their

knowledge delivery methodology for meaningful learning to take place. "You must strive to adopt effective and efficient classroom management strategies in which multimedia facility serves as a medium of interaction so that students are afforded an opportunity to fulfil their lifelong learning experience," she admonished participants, explaining that the outdated teaching method was no longer relevant to the modern learning processes.

Reiterating the need to correct outdated curricular that lacked human capacity development strategies, the Director pointed out that the 21st century curriculum should be modified to integrate ICT into the educational process to meet the requirements of the new knowledge-driven society. "To become effective change agents in their classrooms, teachers should have full content, pedagogical and technological knowledge of all subjects and how to deliver them to students with effective feedback mechanism that benefits everybody," she stated,

stressing the need for school authorities to create an enabling environment that would motivate teachers and learners to enhance productivity and interact freely.

A communiqué issued at the end of the workshop emphasized the need for teachers to master entrepreneurship education that could develop requisite skills in their students who may wish to go into self-employment with confidence in their ability to excel.

The communiqué further stressed the importance of regular in-service training sessions for teachers in relevant disciplines to enhance their skills. It also stated that teachers should be motivated to teach subjects in high demand at the Junior Secondary School levels, urging Management to introduce guidance and counselling offices to facilitate professional practices and also train teachers on ICT to bridge the digital divide in a knowledge environment that is increasingly going online.

Onuchuku Cautions Against Naira Devaluation

By Obinna Nwodin

Following ongoing arguments for and against the devaluation of Nigeria's currency, Professor of Economics, Okey Onuchuku, has backed the position of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) not to further devalue the naira, pointing to a poor economic climate that was not right for such an action at the moment.

Onuchuku, who has just been elected National Vice-President of the Nigeria Economic Society (NES), opposed the rising clamour for devaluation of the naira in an insightful interview with *UniPort Weekly* in his office, last Tuesday.

He stated that devaluation as canvassed in some

quarters was not the solution to Nigeria's deepening economic woes, pointing out that as a mono-economy, such policy was not healthy for the country's monetary policy. "Devaluation would result in deliberate reduction in the value of the country's currency, which would in turn, make products cheap on the global market and further reduce the standard of living," Professor Onuchuku told our Correspondent.

"Once you devalue your currency, it will make the products from the country cheaper, resulting in an increase in demand for them, but in the case of Nigeria, we are talking of just one product, which is crude oil, whose price and production are determined by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and other market forces that are outside our control, he stated, adding that even if devaluation encouraged increased external demand for Nigeria's products, such a demand would not apply to the country's crude oil which is the main foreign exchange earner at the moment.

Onuchuku, who is also Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, stated that devaluation of the naira would worsen the economy with the weakening of the currency, as well as putting it under undue pressure. "We are aware that most of our industries are income-dependent and with a weak naira, the cost of production will be on the increase, resulting in increased cost of goods and services locally, thus compounding the current high rate of unemployment," he submitted, urging utmost caution in the country's monetary policy to safeguard the interest of the already impoverished citizenry.

"The net effect of currency devaluation will be stagflation—an untenable economic situation in which inflation is accompanied by stagnant growth rate, resulting in massive unemployment and recession that could cause further economic dislocation, poverty and social tension in the land. For now, it is not right

to devalue the national currency," he warned, explaining that those calling for devaluation of the naira were insensitive foreign investors and their local collaborators, who were bent on taking advantage of a weak naira which they hope to exploit for profit maximization at the expense of poor Nigerians.

Onuchuku said that the only panacea to the country's economic woes was to diversify the economy to generate additional revenue from non-oil sources. He explained that Nigeria's current economic woes were the result of prolonged neglect of other sectors of the economy by successive administrations. "What will make our economy strong again is what we can produce as a nation. Government should address the issue of production capacity to increase its internally-generated revenue pool. We also need to create jobs that would stimulate the economy and bring about increased demand for goods and services. It is only when we produce and sell to the world that we can boast of a strong economy with alternative sources of foreign exchange," he stated, adding that to achieve such a feat, government should create an enabling environment for investors and be fully involved in the production process.

The Dean stated that abandoning the production process to the private sector was not good enough, advising government to boost production by developing a deliberate plan that would drive the productive process, as well as ensure that such a plan was followed up with the necessary action and political will.

The former Head of the Department of Economics also advised that there was a need to look at the revenue profile of government in the face of dwindling oil revenue to shore up internally generated revenue, recommending periodic review of government's economic policies with a view to fine-tuning the process for greater efficiency. "We need to review our tax system to generate more money for government to develop the country," Professor Onuchuku said, describing proper planning as very essential in efforts aimed at refloating the economy.



Prof Onuchuku

Principal Officers Fete Former Registrar

By Mercy Adeniji

In recognition of her distinguished service to the University, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, led other Principal Officers to accord a rousing farewell reception to the immediate past Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim preparatory to her final disengagement from office last Monday.

Speaking at the reception which took place at the Vice-Chancellor's Committee Room, on Friday, October 30, 2015, University Librarian, Dr. Obiangi Nwodo, who spoke on behalf of her colleagues, congratulated Mrs. Nnodim for the feat she recorded as Registrar in the last five years. "This is a very emotional moment for me and the other Principal Officers, who collectively waded through thick and thin to render quality service to the University. I just did not think that I would be the one nominated to speak on behalf of my colleagues on an occasion like this one. This is because your coming into office was magical and your exit remains a magic to many of us. I just don't know how we are going to continue without your valuable input and interventions at critical moments."

"As Registrar, you were gifted with great insight about the internal dynamics of the administration. Your skills and mastery of the statute of the University are well-known. You also cultivate very excellent personal and institutional relationship with your subordinates, most of

who did their jobs because of your motherly approach to duty. We hope that this University can find another skilled administrator who can fit into your shoes as you take your leave of us as Registrar. As the saying goes, however, the only permanent thing in life is change. There comes a time when we are faced with the inevitability of change and as the popular saying goes, everything that has a beginning must certainly have an end, but we all know that this has been a wonderful ending because you have done your job well and anyone who is objective enough would agree that you acquitted yourself creditably as Registrar."

"As you prepared to take your leave, the Principal Officers decided to do something that would be memorable and worthy of showing off, even to your children. We are very proud of what you are and what you have achieved in office in the last five years. It is true that there is nothing anyone of us can do to repay you for the selfless service you rendered to the University of Port Harcourt. Many seek greatness but only a select few achieve it; may God give you long life to continue to

achieve greater glory as you conclude this phase of your career."

In her response, a visibly humbled Mrs. Nnodim commended Principal Officers for shelving everything else to celebrate her. "What has unfolded today drew tears of joy from my eyes. We are here as colleagues, working in concert for the development of the University, but there is a personal sense of fulfillment and satisfaction when your colleagues go out of their way to show appreciation for your services and also shower encomiums on you. It simply shows oneness, team spirit, mutual respect and love for one another. I count myself extremely lucky to have been privileged to work with this wonderful crop of people, whose love radiate even in a stressful work environment such as we find ourselves on daily basis."

"I pray that as we exit one by one, every one of us would receive the same measure of appreciation and love that you have shown to me today. I am really overwhelmed and touched in my innermost being. As I prepared to take my leave, I tried to be very strong and this is the first time I broke down and the reason I could not hold onto my emotion is very obvious. I am very grateful to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale for his outstanding leadership of the Principal Officers Meeting, and also to my colleagues in the Principal Officers family for their valued friendship. I am very grateful to the entire University community for the cooperation I received in the line of duty, and hope that the same measure of institutional support would be extended to whoever would emerge as my successor," she said.

Present at the farewell reception were Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe and Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Aliezi. Also present was Secretary to the Principal Officers, Mr. Roland Wabali.



V-C, Prof Lale (centre) flanked by immediate past Registrar, Mrs. Nnodim, DV-C (Admin), Prof Ibe, Director, Council Affairs, Mr. Wabali (left) and Univ. Librarian, Dr. Nwodo, Bursar, Mr. Aliezi and DV-C (Academic), Prof Joe (right)

UN Agency Appoints Babatunde Expert In Coastline Studies

By Otokor Samuel

Lecturer in the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Dr. Bolaji Babatunde, has been appointed an expert by the United Nations nuclear agency, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The appointment followed full utilization of the expertise garnered from series of technical training sessions under the auspices of the Agency.

Babatunde in a chat with our Correspondent on Thursday, October 29, 2015, disclosed that the "IAEA established a technical corporation agreement with the Federal Government through the University of Port Harcourt, based on a proposal submitted to it by Professor Francis Sikoki and myself. The technical

corporation agreement was to enable us monitor natural and artificial radioactivity, trace-metals, organochlorine, petroleum hydrocarbon and nutrients along Nigeria's coastline."

Dr. Babatunde further disclosed that "since 2008, the IAEA has provided technical training for more than 30 scientists of which more than 80% are from UniPort with expertise in application of nuclear techniques in pollution monitoring, sediment dating and human health risk assessment. I was a beneficiary of the benevolence of the IAEA based on my expertise in sediment dating, using Pb-210 dating models, radiometric assessment of natural and artificial radioactivity in seafood, sediments, water and other media. We trained in Germany, Brazil, Egypt, France and United Kingdom, amongst other countries."

On the application of the expertise at the Centre for Pollution Monitoring and Seafood Safety, University of Port Harcourt, Dr. Babatunde said: "We have succeeded in dating the sediments of the Bonny and New Calabar Estuary systems back to 100 years. We have reconstructed the pollution history of trace-metal back to about 72 years ago and also assessed the effective dose of radiation on seafood in the Niger Delta. We have also related our findings to the potential health effects of radiation on the people, including cancer."

According to Dr. Babatunde, it was in recognition of the utilization of the expertise garnered from the rigorous training sessions that the IAEA appointed him an expert in coastline pollution. "What that means is that the Agency will take me to other countries to train requisite manpower when the need arises," he disclosed.

He commended Management of the University for encouraging the Centre for Pollution Monitoring and Seafood Safety through provision of an enabling environment that has facilitated effective discharge of its responsibilities. He said the move had contributed to groundbreaking research recorded in the Centre with a huge potential to positively project the image of the University to the outside world. Dr. Babatunde also showered praises on Director of the Centre, Professor Sikoki, for what he described as his quality mentorship, which assisted him to grow and attain such height under his guidance.



Dr. Babatunde

Int'l Science Foundation Announces Scholarship

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The International Foundation for Science (IFS) has announced its research grants for scientists in developing countries, a statement from the Exchange and Linkage Programmes Unit of the Vice-Chancellor's Office disclosed, last week.

To be eligible, prospective candidates must be citizens of a developing country and scientists with, at least, a Master's degree equivalent/research career. They should be under 40 years of age at the beginning of their research career and must be attached to a university, national research institution or a research-oriented Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in a developing country.

"Research areas to be funded by IFS include Biological Resources in Terrestrial Systems, Water and Aquatic Resources, Food Security, Dietary Diversity and Health Livelihood," a statement issued by Director of the Exchange and Linkages Programmes Unit (ELPU), Professor Ache Akakuru, read in part.

According to the statement, applications are accepted all year round. For administrative purposes, however, prospective candidates should note two application deadlines, 30 June and 31 December, each year. The Director advised interested applicants to contact the ELPU at the International Students' Centre along Aluu Drive, University Park for further information on eligibility and application procedure.

Prof Akakuru, new ELPU Director

Nnodim Bows Out As Registrar

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So what I am doing now is in line with acceptable extant rules and global best practice which requires me to hand over to the most senior administrator in the Registry to ensure hierarchy and continuity," the immediate past Registrar explained, assuring the University community that her impending Sabbatical Leave, would not stop her from making herself available to offer explanations and guidance on grey areas when necessary.

"I trust that Mrs. Nzimiro would not find it difficult to navigate all the contours of the Registry Department. She actually had to cut short her well-earned annual vacation to make the sacrifice of filling the vacuum that would have been created at the end of my tenure. What she did is a bailout and I wish to thank her very much for making herself available for this purpose. I wish to bid everyone farewell and I am grateful to God, the Governing Council, Management, Staff, Students and other stakeholders in the affairs of the University for the opportunity given me to serve and the cooperation I enjoyed from all of them," Mrs. Nnodim said.

Responding, Mrs. Nzimiro, who disclosed that the University always comes first in all her activities, assured the former Registrar of her total commitment to the discharge of her new position as Acting Registrar pending the appointment of a substantive Registrar by the Governing Council.

"I want to congratulate you for your brilliant performance as Registrar in the last five years. I am here to hold fort until a new Registrar is appointed since the University is an ongoing enterprise. I am here for everybody and so I want to assure all staff that I will do my best in all fairness to uphold the dignity of the office and Registry Department," the Acting Registrar pledged, urging staff to bring out the best in them

to contribute towards the overall growth of the University.

"There is nothing as important as self-assurance in meeting organizational goals. I want everybody to feel the collective passion of contributing to the growth of the University," she admonished staff. It would be recalled that Mrs. Nzimiro assumed

Department from where she served as Faculty Liaison Officer for the Faculty of Humanities.

The Acting Registrar has served meritoriously in the Student Affairs Department on four consecutive occasions. She also served in the Academic Office, Exams and Record Unit and as Deputy Registrar in charge of the Information and Communication Technology Centre (ICTC) before her elevation to the position of Director and deployment to the Student Affairs Department, a position she held before her appointment as Acting Registrar. Before handing over to Mrs. Nzimiro, the former Registrar received the Executive of the University of Port Harcourt Chapter of the Nigeria Universities Pensioners' Association (NUPA), headed by its Chairman, Mr. John Wonne. In a written address he read at the brief ceremony, Wonne described Mrs. Nnodim as a caring Registrar, who committed herself to the welfare of pensioners during her tenure. "We wish to

thank you for the special care and concern you treated us with that made it possible for us as a group of retirees to continue to enjoy good welfare services from the University throughout your tenure in office as Registrar," the Chairman said. Speaking while presenting a portrait of the immediate past Registrar as a souvenir to her, Mr. Wonne, recalled that Mrs. Nnodim considered pensioners in the allocation of welfare packages, following the introduction of Christmas package by the erstwhile Professor Joseph Ajenka-led

administration. The Association commended the former Registrar's philanthropic disposition and concerns for the elderly, praying God to direct her future endeavours.

Before her final departure, Mrs. Nnodim went from office to office, thanking staff for their contributions to the success of her tenure, which recorded several landmarks, including presentation of two important documents at the 4th Registry Day Celebration, namely: *Registry Handbook* and *Undated Version of Regulations Governing Staff Condition of Service*.



6th Registrar, Mrs. Nnodim (8th left), Acting Registrar, Mrs. Nzimiro (6th right) and staff of the Registrar's Office



R-L: Acting Registrar, Mrs. Nzimiro, immediate past Registrar, Mrs. Nnodim and Deputy Registrar (Information), Williams Wodi

duty as a staff of the University on October 22, 1982. Her services to the University which were shaped by some of the best founding administrators, including the 3rd Registrar, Dr. Emman Achere, has spanned three decades so far. She started as a Senior Finance Officer in the Bursary Department and was later placed on secondment as a founding General Manager of the UniPort Consult that later metamorphosed into University Port Harcourt Investment Limited (UIL).

In 1988, she was redeployed to the Registry



Mrs. Nnodim (4th right) with EXCO of UniPort Chapter of the Nigeria Universities Pensioners' Association

GUIDEPOST

BRIEFS FROM OTHER VARSITIES

APPOINTMENT

Professor Dulu Appah, Department of Petroleum and Gas Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, appointed *Director, Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS)*. The four-year appointment which took effect from November 6, 2015 will terminate on November 5, 2019.

Professor Tambari Leton, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, appointed *Director, Centre for Occupational Health, Safety and Environment*. The two-year appointment which took effect from November 6, 2015 will terminate on November 5, 2017.

Dr. Koyejo Odola, Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, appointed *Acting Director, Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals*. The two-year appointment which took effect from November 6, 2015 will terminate on November 5, 2017.

Dr. Francis Beka, Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, re-appointed *Acting Director, Centre for Petroleum Geosciences*. The two-year appointment which takes effect from November 19, 2015 will terminate on November 18, 2017.

Dr. Boniface Oriji, Department of Petroleum and Gas Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, appointed *Coordinator, Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) Programme, IPS*. The two-year appointment which took effect from November 6, 2015 will terminate on November 5, 2017.

APPOINTMENT

Professor Gideon Abu, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, granted a two-year appointment to represent *Senate on Students' Welfare Committee*, effective August 26, 2015.

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Professor H.C. Inyama, Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science, granted *Renewal of Appointment as Adjunct Professor*, effective October 3, 2015.

Dr. Sinyefori Brown, Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Technology, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective January 28, 2016 to January 27, 2017.

Dr. Aline Noutcha, Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Faculty of Science, granted a two-year *Expatriate Contract Appointment*, effective December 1, 2015 to November 30, 2017.

END OF CONTRACT

Professor Steven Odi-Owei, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, ends *Contract Appointment as Adjunct Professor* on November 10, 2015.

Mr. Godwin Nnake, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering ends *Contract Appointment* on November 30, 2015.

Dr. R.A. Ejimofor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering ends *Contract Appointment* on February 2, 2016.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Professor Gregory Awiri, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, granted a one-year *Sabbatical Leave* to Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Nkpulu-Oraworukwo, Port Harcourt, effective October 14, 2015 to October 13, 2016.

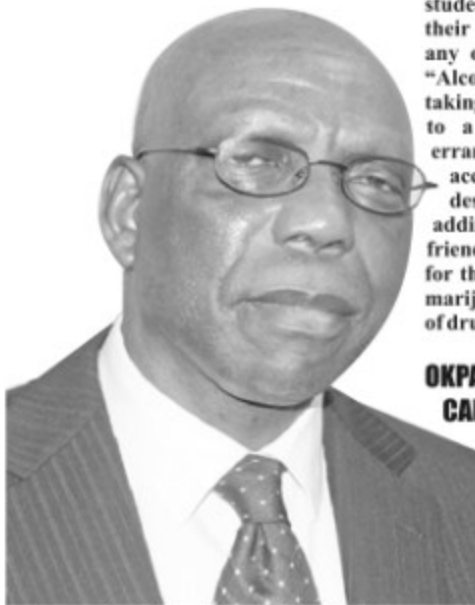
Dr. Andrew Obafemi, Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences granted a one-year *Sabbatical Leave* to Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State, effective September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016.

REVIEW OF STATUS

Dr. Endurance Diemuodeke, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, elevated from *Lecturer II to Lecturer I*, effective November 5, 2014.

SAMSUNG OFFERS E-BOARD TO REDEEMER'S VARSITY

Electronic giant, Samsung Electronics West Africa, has inaugurated 30 Electronic Boards at the Redeemers University, Ede, Osun State, to improve teaching and learning experience. According to the Director of Samsung Business Enterprise, Mr. Charles Ojei, the initiative is part of the company's plan to revolutionize the education sector. Mr. Ojei, who spoke at the inauguration ceremony, said: "The adoption of tablets, social and digital content by youths is changing the learning environment. The E-Board will help to deliver rich contents and interactivity to the classrooms. They will also provide the Lecturers with great control over their classrooms and increase students' engagement while ensuring a more efficient transfer of materials to students". Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Adebawale



Prof Julius Okojie, NUC Scribe

Adeyewa who commended the firm for the gesture, urged the students to embrace the technology to bridge the yawning digital divide with their counterparts in other parts of the world.

UNIBEN STUDENTS TAKE DRUG ABUSE CAMPAIGN TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Pharmacy Students of the University of Benin, Edo State, under the umbrella of Anti-Drug Misuse and Abuse Program (ADMAP) have taken their awareness campaign on drug abuse to Secondary Schools around the Uslu environs in Benin. With the theme "Save the young, save the afflicted and help the addicted" the students preached the gospel of abstinence from narcotic substances, at a two-day campaign against mental illness. Chairman of ADMAP, Isaac Ehimen, said though students are under obligation to obey their parents, they should never accept any offer by anyone to drink alcohol. "Alcohol can lead to dependence and taking alcohol at this early age could lead to a very catastrophic future. Run errands for your parents, but never accept alcohol from anyone because it destroys," he advised the students, adding that they should not allow any friend tempt them into trying anything for the first time as substances such as marijuana, Indian hemp and other forms of drugs could lead to mental illnesses.

OKPARA VARSITY LAUNCHES INTRA-CAMPUS SHUTTLE

The Management of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture (MOUA) Umudike, Abia State, has formally launched an intra-campus taxi service for transporting staff and students of the Institutions. Commissioning the 20 branded Suzuki cars for the Taxi Shuttle which were added to the 20 cabs and buses previously operating on the Campus, Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Hilary Edeoga, announced an immediate ban of commercial motorcycle operations within the Campus. He said the taxis were introduced for the convenience of the students, while the buses were to save the staff and students from extortions by commercial transport operators from the University gate to Umuahia and back. Commending the big relief and immense service the new intra-campus taxi shuttle has brought to them, Vice-President of the Students Union, Miss Maria Ukonu, expressed gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor for always addressing the students' well being.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT

WEATHER OBSERVATORY

FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 08 - SATURDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2015.

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 08 NOV, 2015	32.0 24.0	71	NE	24.0	6:18 18:13	Thunderstorms expected late in the day. Mostly cloudy day anticipated.
MONDAY, 09 NOV, 2015	32.0 24.0	74	NE	7.5	6:18 18:13	A few Thunderstorms expected. Mostly cloudy day forecasted.
TUESDAY, 10 NOV, 2015	31.0 23.0	75	NE	2.1	6:18 18:13	Thunderstorms expected late in the day. Partly sunny day forecasted.
WEDNESDAY, 11 NOV, 2015	32.0 23.0	73	NE	2.9	6:18 18:13	Thunderstorms expected early in the day. Partly sunny day expected.
THURSDAY, 12 NOV, 2015	32.0 23.0	76	NE	5.3	6:19 18:13	Thunderstorms expected early in the day. Partly sunny day anticipated.
FRIDAY, 13 NOV, 2015	32.0 23.0	73	NE	5.6	6:19 18:13	Thunderstorms expected early in the day. Partly sunny day forecasted.
SATURDAY, 14 NOV, 2015	32.0 23.0	74	NE	6.7	6:19 18:14	Thunderstorms expected early in the day. Partly sunny day expected.

Dr. Gladys Emenike
Acting HoD

Dr. Prince Mmom
AG. Director, (CDRMS)

4th Registry Day

The 4th Registry Day celebration of the University of Port Harcourt took place on Tuesday, October 22, 2015 at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park. The event which marked the last official public outing of the 6th Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim, was used to unveil the Registry Manual. Our Cameraman, **MITCHELL EBI-EKIYOR** captured highlights of the event:



Mrs. Matilda Nnodim delivering her Valedictory Address



V-C, Prof Ndowa Lale, speaking as chairman of the occasion



Guest Lecturer, Mr. Steve Ojeh, delivering his paper



Representative of Ignatius Ajuru University of Education (left) and Registrar, Rivers State College of Arts and Science, Mrs. Georgina Ben Woke, giving their goodwill messages



Chairman, Planning Committee, Dr. Agatha Ataga speaking



Director, Academic Affairs, Mrs. Dorcas Ono, presenting a gift on behalf of Registry Department



Mrs. Amonia Eze decorating Mrs. Nnodim with traditional attire on behalf of the Faculty of Education



Special Guest of Honour, Ambassador Desmond Akawor, represented by Mr. Benneth Chu unveiling the Registry Manual



V-C, Prof Lale (3rd left), President UPWA, Mrs. Joy Lale (on his left) and others cutting the celebration cake



Former Registrar, Mr. Messiah Onyige, presenting a plaque to retired Deputy Registrar, Mr. David Anyanwa



Scene from a playlet by UniPort Theatre and Film Studies troupe



A cross-section of staff at the event



L-R: 5th Registrar, Mr. Messiah Onyige, Mrs. Nnodim, V-C, Prof Lale, Mr. Ojeh, DV-C (Academic) Prof Igbo Joe and Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Allez