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Igho Joe Hands Over To Fawehinmi



Story on p2

SPE To Strengthen Partnership With UniPort



Story on p3

Principal Officers, Office Staff Fete Igho Joe



Story on p4

Senate Approves Results



Story on p5

Adult Education Can Solve Nigeria's Environmental Problems-Eheazu

Professor Benjamin Eheazu of the Department of Adult and Non-Formal Education has described environmental degradation as a major global concern, which occupied third position in the hierarchy of the ten threats to international peace and security. He added that the dire environmental challenges facing Nigeria today were in no way less threatening to the existential circumstances of her citizenry, who he described as victims of the anthropogenic activities of humans who place profit over people, reports Humphrey Ogu

More on p3



Side Bar NLNG Building

The NLNG Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals building was formally commissioned last Friday.

Details next week
~Editor

V-C Inaugurates WAUG Local Organising C'ttee

By Otiakor Samuel

Preparatory to the 14th edition of the West African University Games (WAUG) competition billed for this November in the University, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, has inaugurated a Local Organising Committee.

The LOC, which is headed by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, comprises 11 sub-committees for the smooth conduct of the competition.

The inauguration, which was consequent upon the award of the hosting rights to the University in August 2015, had President of WAUG, Professor Kingsley Akpabio, strategic partners and other renowned sports administrators and enthusiasts in attendance. Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Okey Onuchuku, is Vice-Chairman, while the Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Aliezi and a representative of the Rivers State Government are members of the LOC.

Speaking before the inauguration, which took place at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, last Thursday, Professor Lale tasked members of the various Committees to work very hard to create the right atmosphere for all the visiting athletes, officials and spectators, expressing

optimism that the assignment would be delivered successfully going by the calibre of persons appointed to serve on the various sub-Committees.

On the records of the University in sports, the Vice-Chancellor said: "It is obviously on account of our verifiable exploits in sporting activities that we recently won the hosting rights for the WAUG games. Now, this cheering news calls for not only celebrations, but meticulous planning and painstaking execution to pull off a

memorable competition that should further confirm our established standing as the undisputed masters of sports on the West African coast. We do not just intend to win; it is important that we put up a gold standard that future hosts would strive to meet."

He recalled that WAUG games had held in the country on three different occasions since the competition was introduced in the early 1960s, the last being held in the University of Ilorin, Kwara State in 2012,

More on p6



Igho Joe Hands Over To Fawehinmi

By Otiok Samuel

Two-term Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Andrew Igho Joe, has handed over the Office to his successor, Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi in a brief ceremony last Tuesday. Professor Fawehinmi, who is of the Department of Human Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences in the College of Health Sciences, is now the 6th Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic matters for the next two years.

Presenting a Hand Over Note to Professor Fawehinmi, the immediate past DV-C, Professor Igho Joe, who congratulated Fawehinmi for his successful election and consequent appointment by the Governing Council, enumerated some of the duties of the Office. "The Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) is an arm of the Vice-Chancellor's Office and the occupant of that position carries out the duties assigned to him/her by the Vice-Chancellor particularly as they relate to academic matters. However, either statutorily or by convention, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) oversees certain matters that relate to academic affairs in the University," he said in his introduction to the Hand Over Note.

Professor Joe disclosed that the Office has a total of 12 with seven in the main office and five at the Staff Development Office (SDO), revealing that: "The Staff Development Office is under the control of the DV-C (Academic). This office deals with staff development matters particularly, in respect of Study Leave with Pay/No Pay, Leave of Absence, etc. The office deals with ensuring that staff are on various forms of leaves (Sabbatical, Study Leave, Leave of Absence, etc.), perfect bonds that they have to enter into before being granted such leaves."

He told his successor that the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic is statutorily the Chairman of Convocation Ceremony Committee, Board of the School of Basic Studies. The Office in conjunction with the Academic Planning Unit, according to him advises the Vice-Chancellor on the University annual Calendar and drives resource verification exercises amongst other academic matters.



Prof Joe (arrowed) flanked by his successor, Prof Fawehinmi (left) and staff of the DV-C, Academic's office

"The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) supervises the NUC Accreditation of Academic programmes of the University. During my tenure, accreditation exercises were conducted for Anatomy, Nursing, Geography, Dentistry and Physiology in 2012. The above named five programmes currently have full accreditation. The NUC also conducted comprehensive accreditation exercises for 53 academic programmes that were due for accreditation towards the end of 2014. Of these 53 programmes, 22 had full accreditation, while 31 had interim accreditation," he further disclosed, informing his successor to prepare for another comprehensive accreditation this year to secure full status to the programmes with interim accreditation.

On Professional Programmes Accreditation, the immediate past DV-C, said: "Apart from Academic Programmes Accreditation, the DV-C (Academic) is also involved in Professional Programmes

The Law programme has just had a successful Resource Verification by NUC and needs a professional nod from the Nigerian Council for Legal Education, its professional body before it can start running the LL.B programme that NUC has approved for the University." Professor Joe, who told his successor that conducting the 31st Convocation this June would likely be the first major challenge he would face in the Office, urged him to be watchful of disgruntled persons, either staff or contractors who would want to misappropriate funds meant for the Convocation, stating that money for Convocation ceremony must be approved by the Governing Council which would in turn expect a detailed retirement of the expenditure. He pledged his support to enable Fawehinmi succeed in office. Responding, the new DV-C (Academic), Professor Fawehinmi thanked his predecessor for providing what he described as a detailed Hand Over Note. Fawehinmi, who promised a cordial relationship with staff of the Office, solicited the continued support of Professor Joe in the case of clarification of grey areas.

UniPort Scholar Relives Research Experience In Africa

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Following a collaborative research programme between the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences and the University of The Witwatersrand in South Africa, Dr. Lekpa David of the Department of Human Anatomy, has concluded a research on the *Antiepileptic and anxiolytic effects of aqueous leaf extract of *Infusariopsis mill* on hippocampus of wister rat brain induced with mofegluone seizure* that was partly conducted in the Southern African country.

Reliving his three months laboratory research experience at the University of The Witwatersrand, Dr. David disclosed that

the visit enabled him to undertake a research on *Staining of Brain Tissue like Immunohistochemistry*, using specific antibodies such as *Cell Proliferation Marker, Ki-67, Proliferation Cell Nuclear Antigen (PCNA) and Glial Fibrillary Acidic Protein (GFAP)* aimed at checking adult neurogenesis and reactive astrocytes in seizure-induced brain and *P-75NGF (Neuronal Growth Factor)* with a view to detecting the presence of neurons in the hippocampus of the brain when induced with mofegluone to cause seizure in the wister rat.

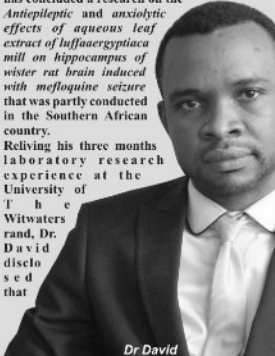
"As a Lecturer, the opportunity has enhanced my study of Neuroscience and capacity to teach the subject in the Department and in addition, the study has proved that the extracts of the plant being researched has antiepileptic tendency," Dr. David told our

Correspondent, adding that the research laboratory visit was facilitated by a generous grant from the International Society of Neurochemistry (ISN) through support from his mentor, Professor Amadi Ihunwo of Wits University, who did his Sabbatical in the

Department of Human Anatomy.

Dr. David further disclosed that the research collaboration also provided him a rare opportunity to present his research work at the Society of Neuroscientists of Africa Conference in Durban, South Africa. "By way of knowledge-sharing with colleagues, I discovered increased interest in Neuroscience at the postgraduate level," he disclosed, expressing hope of more collaborations with universities outside Nigeria aimed at furthering his research interest centred on the human brain.

He also commended another of his mentor, Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, Head of Department, Dr. Joy Oluto and Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Christie Mato, for their continued support and mentorship of younger academics.



Dr David

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6th Valedictory Lecture Adult Education Can Solve Nigeria's Environmental Problems~Eheazu



The Valedictorian, Prof. Eheazu (in academic gown), flanked by V-C, Prof. Lale, S^r V-C, Emeritus Prof. Briggs, Registrar, Mrs. Otto, DV-C (Academic), Prof. Fawehinmi (left), DV-C (Admin), Prof. Ibe and other Professors

Delivering the 6th Valedictory Lecture entitled: *Situational Challenges of Environmental Degradation in Nigeria: Adult Education as a Response* at the Efitimi Banibon Auditorium, last Thursday, Eheazu noted that Nigeria had tried to address the situational challenges of environmental degradation through a number of strategies, regretting that the success rate was not yet reassuring. He suggested that more effective approaches were urgently needed to remedy the situation and save the people from the multifaceted effects of a degraded environment.

Eheazu, who was a one-time Dean of the Faculty of Education and Chairman of the Committee of Deans of Education in Nigerian Universities, pointed out that "The situational barriers require non-formal adult environmental approaches to address the various sectors of society involved—the marginalised community peoples, public institutions, industrial establishments, government, policymakers and so on."

He explained that "on their specific roles in fostering mitigation of and people's coping with effects of environmental degradation challenges, the non-formal adult environmental education programmes would take the forms of awareness creation seminars, conferences, workshops, short training programmes for skills development to be

championed by those who have gone through formal environmental adult education."

"The preponderance of the adult population which also constitutes the greatest percentage of the economically productive and active citizenry of the nation, and are therefore an undisputable source of anthropogenic environmental degradation, creates the need for a special environmental education for this population segment to address the degradation challenges emanating from various levels of their existence and economic endeavour," he said.

The Valedictory Lecturer described environmental degradation as the deterioration or reduction in quality of the environment through any undesirable change, depletion or alteration of elements of the natural environment such as air, land, water forest and wildlife, identifying anthropogenic or natural causes as the two major sources and causes of environmental degradation.

Eheazu explained further: "Environmental Adult Education, has over the years, developed to become a distinct field of learning which combines the principles and theories of its precursor—Environmental Education with those of adult education to provide practical, educative experiences that inculcate in the adult learners positive attitudes, skills and knowledge that will enable them to harmoniously

interact with and sustainably employ the forces, elements and resources that form parts of their surrounding as they engage in their daily activities for survival and development."

Eheazu, who was Director of the Federal Nomadic Education Centre in UniPort, added: "The distinctiveness of environmental adult education emerged due to the failure of environmental education as a purely scientific and technologically-oriented discipline, to address environmental, cultural and social issues in a holistic and practical manner within the context of individual and collective daily living and activities relating to livelihood aspects."

He pointed out that, "In providing environmental adult education as a discipline, departments of adult and non-formal education also have the additional responsibility to establish, as part of the practical aspects of the discipline, diverse ways whereby adults, in their different occupations could mitigate, as well as positively respond to both natural and anthropogenic environmental degradation challenges," describing the Department of Adult and Non-formal Education in the University of Port Harcourt as a trailblazer in that regard.

Speaking after the Lecture, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, who noted that there was a time for everything in life, praised Professor Eheazu for his solid contributions to the academic growth of the University, especially through mentorship of younger academics. Reminding the audience that the time to exit attracted more public attention than the time of starting any journey in life, Professor Lale urged the Department and Faculty of Education to preserve the worthy legacy of Professor Eheazu, who he described as a great pioneer in the University, which he joined in 1976 as a pioneer staff.

"On behalf of the University of Port Harcourt, I wish to thank Professor Eheazu for a well-delivered lecture and congratulate him for a successful career in the University. Professor Eheazu will be missed in this community, especially at Senate Meetings, where he was a moderating voice on important issues. Whenever he made a presentation, we were all compelled to listen, and we are extremely grateful to him for the quality services he rendered to this University and the academia in general and wish him well in his well-deserved retirement."

SPE To Strengthen Partnership With UniPort, Offers Lale Honorary Membership

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The University of Port Harcourt and the Nigerian Council of the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) have declared their willingness to further strengthen ties aimed at boosting the existing partnership that would culminate in the establishment of a world-class SPE Energy Centre in the University.

Speaking when he led a high-powered delegation of the Nigerian Council of SPE on a courtesy visit to the Vice-Chancellor on Wednesday, March 23, 2016, immediate past Council Chair and Member of the SPE Board of Trustees (BOT), Mr. Emeke Eze, noted that the Energy Centre which would house an oil and gas museum amongst other facilities, would have a local content research, development and training components for the benefit of staff and students of the University.

"Hopefully, the first phase of the project would be completed in July with an up-to-date e-library equipped with globally-accessible SPE database. The complex will boast of cutting-edge petroleum technology to be exhibited by major oil and gas corporations from around the world," he disclosed.

Lauding the continuous voluntary services and contributions by academics from the University to the Nigeria Council of SPE, Mr. Eze described the growing collaborative effort as an informal channel of building the right industry network to facilitate professional development in the industry. "We are happy to note that UniPort is a very strong corporate member of SPE and both staff and students make robust contributions to our gatherings. The UniPort Chapter won the 2016 SPE Nigeria Council Students Annual Technical Conference and Paper Contest in the PhD category, while the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS), has consistently mounted well-publicised exhibitions at NAICE conferences. UniPort staff and students are prominent participants and volunteer leaders at the SPE Nigeria Council events," Mr. Eze disclosed, commending Professors Joseph Ajienka, Mike Onyekonwu, Adewale Dosunmu and Godwin Igwe for their



V-C, Prof. Lale (centre, front row) flanked by Mr. Eze (left), some Principal and Senior Officers of the University and SPE

roles in bringing the Council to prominence at SPE regional and global gatherings through their mentorship and leadership initiatives. He revealed that UniPort scholars have delivered a total of 115, out of the 732 Technical Papers presented at SPE Nigeria Annual International Conference and Exhibition (NAICE) from 2005 to 2015; a feat he said was not matched by other university chapters or industry chapters.

Mr. Eze used the opportunity to invite the Vice-Chancellor to take up Honorary Membership of SPE in recognition of the University's solid contributions to research and development in oil and gas issues, expressing hope that the University would continue to be a major player in SPE affairs. Describing SPE as the most robust professional society in the country, the Vice-Chancellor commended the Nigeria Council for its abiding interest in the development of the University, expressing optimism that the excellent institutional relationship between the University and SPE would continue to blossom under his leadership. "As academics, we are lucky to have the finest crop of Petroleum Engineers in the country and

the rest of the African continent, who continue to make valuable contributions to the development of the University, the nation and the SPE. It is our expectation that the proposed SPE Energy Centre would come on stream and add value to our University. It is also my hope that the project would be completed during my tenure, since I was lucky enough to witness the ground-breaking phase of the Centre on my first day in office" he remarked.

Lauding the partnership between the SPE Nigeria Council and the University, Professor Lale reiterated his commitment to the transformation of the University into a world-class institution. He commended the University scholars who are members of SPE Nigeria Council for their continued mentorship of younger petroleum engineers and their solid contributions to the development of the University, citing the recent victory of the University of Port Harcourt Student Chapter of the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) which emerged overall winners at the recent Petroquiz organised by the Nigerian Council of SPE International at the University of Benin.

Principal Officers, Office Staff Fete Igbo Joe On Tenure Completion

By Othor Samuel and Humphrey Ogu

Following the successful completion of his two-term tenure as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Principal Officers of the University have honoured Professor Igbo Joe in line with their newly-established tradition of giving their outgoing members a befitting farewell reception.

Speaking at the brief ceremony on Wednesday, March 23, 2016, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, who described the farewell as a proper way to express gratitude to Principal Officers for their meritorious services to the University, pointed out that news of impending disengagement was usually received with mixed feelings by members. He stated, however, that the ritual has now come to stay ever since it was started with the 6th Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nodind, last November.

Professor Lale, who described the immediate past Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic matters as an experienced Officer, praised Professor Joe for putting in his best effort in the drive to grow the University into a world-class institution, stating that he had served meritoriously for four years and still had a lot to offer the University.

"We are gathered here to honour Professor Igbo Joe for contributing his vast experience to the development of the University as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) for four unblemished years and we cannot thank him enough for his selfless services to the University. We are doing this with mixed feelings because he has done very well, but we all recognise that meeting and parting are facts of life. All of us will one day also serve out our tenure and leave the University to younger officers to carry on our legacy. One of the greatest values we should hold dear is to always remain good friends in and out of office," the Vice-Chancellor said, urging Professor Joe to continue to make valuable contributions to the growth of the University.

Responding, Professor Joe, who expressed gratitude to staff and students for the excellent working relationship he enjoyed with his colleagues while in office, also praised the Principal Officers for sustaining the idea of feting departing colleagues.

"My entire working life has been in UniPort since I



V-C, Prof Lale (4th right) flanked by Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, DV-C (Admin), Prof Anthony Ibe, Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Alizie (right), Mrs. Esther Joe, Prof Joe, Univ. Librarian, Dr. Susan Umezor and Director, Council Affairs, Mr. Roland Wabali

arrived here in 1976. I was among the younger academics that were on ground at the foundation phase of the Faculty of Education. I have never known any other working life outside UniPort. So, I have a major stake in this University and must therefore continue to contribute to its development to the best of my ability. It is my prayer that this administration succeeds and attains greater heights in line with the vision of our founding fathers," he said.

Highpoint of the brief ceremony which held in the Vice-Chancellor's Office, was the presentation of gift to the 5th Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic).

Meanwhile, staff of the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DV-C) Academic, have bid Professor Joe farewell, paying him glowing tributes for a successful tenure. Speaking on behalf of other staff, the Secretary, Mr. Patrick Amadi, who also presented a portrait painting of Professor Joe said: "We deeply appreciate the fatherly love you showered on us these past four years. You were generous and treated us as your children without exception. As you end your tenure, we pray that God will continue to lift you to higher heights in whatever new station He may choose for you."

Responding, a visibly impressed Professor Joe, expressed

appreciation to the staff for the kind sentiments they expressed about his leadership style, adding that everyone will pass through different stages in the University, pointing out that the University will remain.

"When you work with people from diverse backgrounds and orientation, there is bound to be conflicts on the appropriate modalities to be adopted in accomplishing organisational goals, but the ability to manage such conflicts is what makes you a mature person. You are serving the institution and should not preoccupy yourself with matters that do not concern you. I want to admonish all of you to continue to work as members of the same team, who should show loyalty and respect to one another. When you do your job professionally, you will certainly receive the reward. Don't grumble when you are transferred to another Unit or Department and don't be rude to your superiors or subordinates. It is not good to go to work and be feeling sad in the office," he advised the staff, promising to always monitor their career progress.



Staff of the DV-C, Academic's Office presenting a Portrait to their former boss (3rd left)

FHA To Build 1,000 Housing Units in UniPort

By Obinna Nwodin

Efforts aimed at providing campus accommodation for majority of staff of the University of Port Harcourt may soon become a reality as Management and the Federal Housing Authority have commenced exploratory talks to build 1,000 houses for high and low-income earners in the University.

The inaugural meeting which took place at the Vice-Chancellor's Committee Room, last Monday, ended with both parties resolving to set

up a Working Committee charged with the responsibility of smoothing out all the rough edges to ensure speedy implementation of the project, which the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, described as one of the major achievements of his eight-month old administration.

Speaking during the meeting, a visibly expectant Vice-Chancellor stated that "the University is desperate to provide decent low-cost houses for most staff as part of our welfare and security policy and when we hear of

such opportunities made possible by the Federal Housing Authority, we have every reason to get excited," adding that the visit to the University was an indication that the FHA was totally committed to the realisation of the project.

"It takes serious-minded people with a sense of commitment to make this kind of promise and we are looking forward to the prompt commencement of this important project that is expected to reduce the dire accommodation problems we face in this University," the Vice-Chancellor told his guests, expressing confidence in the ability of the FHA to execute the project according to specification.

Earlier in his address, the Executive Director in charge of Business Development in the Federal Housing Authority, Mr. Aniedi Akpabio, had said that the Authority had a mandate to build houses for Nigerians and retrieve the cost through mortgages and other mutually agreeable recovery instruments through its offices in the six geopolitical zones in the country. He commended the Management of the University for accepting to partner the Authority in the provision of affordable accommodation for staff.

The Leader of the delegation, who stated that the Authority had several Units manned by skilled professionals, was full of confidence over the ability of FHA to actualise the project. "I can assure the University that we have the capable to speedily implement the project within a given timeline. To us in the FHA, this is a welcome initiative that can be achieved with full support from the University," Mr. Akpabio assured the Vice-Chancellor.

At the end of the meeting, it was agreed that relevant officials from both institutions would work out the details of the project, after which a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) would be drawn up to guide its implementation and modalities for cost recovery.



V-C, Prof Lale (3rd left) flanked by DV-C (Admin), Prof Ibe, Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Alizie (left) Mr. Akpabio, other members of the delegation, SAV-C, Mr. Kingsley Wogwu (1st left standing) and some staff of the Housing C'ttee

417th Senate Senate Approves Results, Requests From Faculties

By Obinna Nwodin

Senate of the University of Port Harcourt has approved various categories of result at its 417th Meeting held at the Senate Chambers, last Wednesday. The results were approved after presentations were made by the various Deans of Faculty and Provost of the College of Health Sciences. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor NdowaLale, who presided over the Meeting, announced the assumption of duty of Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi as new Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic). He also announced the 5th Valedictory Senate Session in honour of Ten retired members of Senate on Wednesday, April 27, 2016, as well as the 7th Valedictory Lecture to be delivered by Professor Anthony Arize on April 5, 2016. He reminded members that the 31st Convocation Ceremony of the University would take place between the 6th and 11th June, 2016, stressing the need to put everything in place by ensuring that all outstanding results were made ready for the event. He described as untenable; a situation in which the names of some graduates would be omitted in the Convocation Brochure, pointing out that such a development had created fractious relations between parents and their children in the past.

He announced that an Extra-ordinary Senate Meeting would be convened in the 3rd week of April exclusively to approve results. Professor Lale, who announced the release of

Professor Ebi Awotua-Efebo of the Faculty of Education from his kidnappers, regretted the death of two academic staff from the Department of Political and Administrative Studies in the Faculty of Social Sciences. They are Professors George Oboforibo and C. U. Mac-Ogonor, both in International Relations.

Senate formally approved that, henceforth, degrees from the Department of Nursing should fall in line with those classified in the University. By this development, students of the Department of Nursing, who fail their courses at first attempt, would henceforth, be required to carry them over as is applicable in other Faculties.

Senate also took the Report of the Committee on

Retrieved Results in Marketing and Accounting Departments as presented by the Dean, Faculty of Management Sciences, Professor Emeka Okereke. It also took the proposed Entrepreneurial Diploma and Certificate Programmes in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as presented by the Acting Director of the College of Continuing Education, Dr. Kilikpo Aaron. Members made inputs and directed that the paper be represented to the apex academic policy-making body of the University at its next meeting.

Results were approved based on recommendations from the Faculties of Humanities, Social Sciences, Science, School of Science Laboratory Technology (SSLT), Faculty of Education, Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Management Sciences, as well as the College of Health Sciences. Senate also approved applications to write examinations as first attempt as presented by Deans of Faculties of Humanities, Social Sciences, Science, as well as appointment of two External Examiners as requested by the Dean of the Faculty of Science.

Other approvals made by Senate were a request for reinstatement to academic programmes, application for temporary withdrawal from studies, as well as ratification of executive approved results. Professor Efebo also expressed appreciation to members of Senate, the entire staff and students of the University for the love and concern exhibited by the University community while he was held by his captors.



Senate in session

Mgt Reads Riot Act To Consultants, Contractors On Projects Completion

By Mercy Adeniji



Prof Lale, V-C

delivery of the various TETFund projects within the contractual agreement for each project.

Addressing the Contractors at the Senate Chambers, last Tuesday, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor NdowaLale, declared: "This meeting is called to address the vexing issue of sub-standard jobs being executed by some Contractors, who appear to place profit over the safety of staff and students," regretting that some Consultants openly collude with a few dubious-motivated Contractors to deliberately short-change the University, rather than aspiring to put their signature on their projects as recommendation for further patronage by the University.

The Vice-Chancellor notified the Contractors and Consultants that recent changes in personnel at the Department of Physical Planning and Development were targeted at better site monitoring and early projects completion and delivery. As you may be aware, the Department has been split in three, namely: Projects Unit headed by Mr. Michael Uhom, the TETFund Projects Desk headed by Doris Ogbodu, while a new Estate Unit is headed by Mr. Jack Osimiri.

"One of the challenges we are facing at the moment is that either due to poor documentation or deliberate withholding of vital documents, the officers we recently recruited are still not able to have access to the necessary documents that can facilitate their functions. It is in the best interest of Contractors to submit copies of their contractual agreements with us, because without such documents, the Department of Physical Planning and Development cannot follow up on what they are doing, which would in turn undermine what they are doing."

Professor Lale, who commended Messrs TE&C Limited for timely projects completion, tasked other Contractors to emulate the company. "We want you to finish your projects and receive payment as at when due, just as we want the University to grow its full installed capacity. The University cannot develop infrastructure without cooperation from our Contractors and Consultants," he told them. The Vice-

Chancellor promised the Contractors and Consultants that the University was working very hard to off-set all outstanding debts to enable them survive in these difficult times.

Making her presentation, Deputy Director in charge of TETFund projects, Doris Ogbodu said: "We have just come on board and going through the documents we inherited, we found out that there are so many vital documents that we need to work with that are not there. Based on this strange situation, I discovered that Contractors and Consultants have stayed on their project sites much longer than they should. We want to have a better relation with you so that you can help us to forge ahead. To move forward, we need you to submit all the necessary contract papers while we continue to pursue the official channel for retrieving such documents in the University. We really want to find out what the problems are with a view to regularising such agreements. Let us know the valid period of each contract."

In their various contributions, some of the Consultants took turns to explain the operational difficulties they faced, with some Contractors who preferred to cut corners, rather than do the right thing. They also stated that some Contractors complain of sudden changes in project design by the end-users, disappearance from project sites and funding delays.

A major highlight of the consultative forum was the adoption of a 15-point agenda that specified the new ground rules for the award, completion and timely projects delivery by Consultants and Contractors. Some of them included invocation of the liquidated damages clause, presentation of revised programme of work in bar charts, evidence of registered Site Engineers, Practice Licence and registration with the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria, including valid architectural drawings.

Other conditions included strict adherence to specified contract timeframe, presentation of quarterly progress reports on various projects and valuation certificates.

V-C Inaugurates WAUG LOC

Cont'd from p1

Expressing satisfaction that the University of Port Harcourt has the capacity to surpass previous hosts. In his remarks, President of WAUG, Professor Akpabio, who gave a brief institutional profile of the Games, disclosed that WAUG aims at bringing universities in West Africa together with objectives of sharing ideas and promoting peace through sports.

Games Association (NUGA) competitions for the fifth consecutive time.

Aungweye, who praised the President of WAUG for granting the hosting rights to the University, also commended Fidelity Bank Plc. for identifying with the *Team UniPort*, which according to him, contributed to offset the financial needs of the athletes and officials. He disclosed that training of athletes of *Team UniPort* for the forthcoming competition commenced last Saturday.

Speaking after the inauguration of the sub-Committees, Chairman, LOC, Professor Ibe, who solicited the cooperation of all members and partners, promised not to fail the University in the task of planning and executing an impressive 14th edition of the WAUG. He added that the Technical and Accreditation sub-Committee would be constituted by



President of WAUG, Prof Akpabio (arrowed), V-C, Prof Ibe (right), other officials of WAUG, technical partners and some members of the LOC

"UniPort has surprised me in sporting activities in and outside the country; UniPort will not allow any other university to win any medal until it carts away all the medals it wants. The University has also shown commitment in making its facilities sports hosts. NUGA in 2004. The various exploits of UniPort in the games so far and the maintenance culture were some of the criteria that won you the hosting rights for the 14th WAUG games." The WAUG President said, baring the potential benefits of hosting the games to the University and Rivers State to include economic and social gains. In his contributions, Director of the Sports Institute, Professor Ken Aungweye, who also recalled that *Team UniPort* had won WAUG for three times now, first at Burkina Faso, second at Ghana and then at the University of Ibadan, in addition to winning the Nigerian Universities

the Main Organising Committee of WAUG.

The sub-Committees are: Finance and Fund-Raising headed by the Vice-Chancellor, with the LOC Chairman, Bursar, TET Fund Desk Officer, Officials Bankers, Consultant and Dr. Frank Okoye as members, while Mrs. Marlene Ibinla is Chairman of the Ceremonial and Protocol sub-Committee. Members of her Committee are Professors Bright Nwaeze, Ache Akakura, Dr. Friday Nwafor, Sylvester Udeorah, Olayinka Ihuwae and Vice-President of the Students' Union. Dean of the Student Affairs Department, Dr. Olu Ekeanying, is Chairman of the Accommodation sub-Committee, while Dr. Frank Okoye, James Ayumu, Messrs Idoji, James Akpabian, Mr. Tom Dreyer, Mr. Kunele Solafola and Mr. Warior Gharane are also members of the sub-Committee. Dr. Johnson Okpaku is Chairman of the Facilities and Venues

sub-Committee which has the Directors of the Physical Planning and Development Unit and Works and Services Department, Dr. Jidecia Ayumu, Mr. Causus Olat and former Director of Rivers State Sports Council, Sir Daaba Harry as members. Deputy Registrar in charge of Information, Williams Wudi, is Chairman of the Media, Publicity and Documentation sub-Committee. Other members of the Committee are Mr. Mike Abonye, Mr. Samu Kwon, Dr. Anster Sado, Oskun Samuel, Daniel Senehinworia and Olatokunle Igwe. Chief Security Officer, Lt. Col. Reginald Oisome (ret) is Chairman of the Security sub-Committee, with Mr. John Oghonnya, Gerald Okeke, Adams Ishikunwa, Victor Ifiku and representatives of the Nigeria Police and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps as members.

Acting Director of the Health Services Department, Dr. Chiewe Ezirim, is Chairman of the Medical sub-Committee. The Committee has Drs. Francis Uduwugu, Chikwemuka Ag, Kerechi Okonta, Coordinator of the Youth-Friendly Centre, Chief Nursing Officer at the Health Services Department and Chris Davies of the Nigeria Red Cross as members.

Director, Centre for Logistics and Transport Studies (CELTRAS), Professor Olu Akpoghombe heads the Transport sub-Committee which has Drs. Gladys Enezele, John Ugbor, Godly Otto, Mr. Henshaw Wali, Mbe Daniel and a representative of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) as members.

Team UniPort Preparation sub-Committee is under the chairmanship of Professor Matthew Wegwu with Messrs Godpower Gwofere, Kwamena Okrutana, George Obiano, Dr. Dinebari Hadey, Captain of *Team UniPort* and a representative of the Bursar as members.

Professor Reginald Ogali is Chairman of the Environmental Sanitation sub-Committee. Other members of the Committee are: Professor Ernest Achalu, Acting Director of CERAS, Mr. Toby Jones, Dr. Prince Mmon, Chima Nwaka, Ute Daniel and President of the Student Union, Mr. Ephraim Anaeze-Ikpana.

Dr. Aban Amadi is Chairman of WAUG Forum sub-Committee with Dr. Victor Ogunleye, Joachim Odigie, Dare Olorunfemi, Adedamola Oyelese, Goldi Ekenedo, Gabriel Olanipo and Stanley Alabi as members.

Other sports administrators, technical partners and enthusiasts that witnessed the inauguration were the Technical Director of WAUG, Dr. Nick Igboke, Marketing and Promotion Consultant, Mr. Okunoye Thomas, Vice-President, South-South of the Sports Writers' Association of Nigeria (SWAN), Ifeoluwa Sibon, as well as Mrs. Ann Nwagwu and Giniakshi Anya of Fidelity Bank Plc.

Will Fuel Scarcity Ever End In Nigeria?

By Humphrey Ogu

Will the scarcity of petroleum products ever end in Nigeria? This is one question that has been agitating the minds of most Nigerians, especially those in the middle income class, who are compelled to buy the product at prices ranging from N150.00 to N200.00 per litre without upward review of their salaries. Probably, in an attempt to answer the above question, the Minister of State for Petroleum, Dr. B. Kachikwu, was initially quoted as declaring that the scarcity would linger until the merry month of May.

Although this has been denied by the General Manager, Public Affairs, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Mr. Garba Mohammed, Kachikwu has continued to receive scathing criticisms from Nigerians, including APF Chieftain, Senator Ahmed Tinubu, who called for his outright resignation for claiming that he was no magician on a job schedule that required technocratic skills which the Minister has in abundance.

In response to the raging criticisms of what Nigerians see as inaction on his part, Kachikwu has since apologised and restated his resolve to ensure that the scarcity does not linger beyond April 9, 2016. Has the Minister finally acquired magical powers to turn the situation around in just nine days? More questions than answers. In some quarters, this new deadline is seen as an afterthought because it was conceived after a barrage of criticisms trailed the I-am-not-a-magician statement.

Nigerians are certainly not interested in the accusations of ineptitude against the Minister; what the people want is availability of premium motor spirit to enable them run their lives. People are more interested in having sufficient petrol to fuel their power generating sets, charge their mobile phones and power their air conditioners in this season of heat wave, and also put their other appliances to use without minding the wind of words from the NNPC Tower of corruption. They are not concerned about political promises. In spite of the rhetoric in the political sphere, the people are waiting for smart answer to the question: Will fuel scarcity ever end in Nigeria?

Here in the University of Port Harcourt, Occupant of the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) Chair in Processing Engineering, Professor Godwin Igwe, has proffered a practicable answer to the above question. To him, all Nigeria needs to end the scarcity is to turn to modular refineries. Simple as that!

*You can only solve fuel scarcity by producing enough

petroleum products, and I am convinced you will buy from illegal refineries if you were stranded on the road." he observed, adding: "We can legalize the illegal refineries by offering training on process control, flow rates, pressure, residence time, specifications, and construction materials, etc. We have to change our mind-set of doing things by ourselves for ourselves, and supported by the government through funding and investment opportunities in a conducive business environment."

"To solve the problem of fuel scarcity, the government should fund and subsidize its development and operation like all developed countries in the world do. Maybe, somebody should educate the government about the economic loss of supply and demand. We need to supply more petroleum products and that is where the modular refineries come in. Developed economies of the world are not stupid when they produce more of everything whether or not they are needed." Igwe said.

The European Union spends about \$9 billion euros per year on farm subsidies on the "Common Agricultural Policy" (CAP). They produce so much milk that some end up in dirt pits because dairy producers cannot find buyers there. The same thing is happening in the United States, Australia, and other developed countries. They export some to the Middle East or other third world countries, but one of the negative impacts of this policy is stalling development in poorer countries by preventing them from exporting food to the EU. So, the government should fund the modular refineries to produce more petroleum products to meet local demand.

"Instead of posturing and procrastinating like we are doing in the case of Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB), Nigeria should put its money where its mouth is, and walk the talk. Take for example, President Barack Obama of U.S.A. who has just announced a new research initiative for cancer by proposing \$1 billion dollars to be supervised by the Vice-President Biden, who lost his son to the scourge. That is walking the talk, and Nigeria should learn how the real world funds modular refineries. We do have to continue funding the fuel subsidy lobbyists," Igwe advised.

Igwe, who was pioneer Director of the Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals (U-CGRP), said: "Modular refineries will be consequential to Nigeria, and I am proposing like I have done on many occasions, that it will end fuel scarcity in Nigeria, because modular refineries will supplement existing supply. It is already being used and sold as products from illegal refineries."

With a modular refinery, equipment parts and maintenance issues can easily be identified and addressed, well ahead of



Prof Igwe

arrival of contractors for turn around maintenance. NNPC cannot shut down a big refinery system, but a modular refinery can, providing and incorporating results obtained with TAM, thereby saving enormous costs for the country. With a modular refinery test, cost savings in expensive catalyst suitability for a specific crude is desired.

"Modular refineries are not colossal wastes in any country that operates them because a modular refinery can be cost effectively designed and built and efficiently operated if carefully designed to meet the requirements of the particular situation in which it is installed and operated. Even people with ordinary skills are using modular refineries in the Middle East wars, not to mention our skilled illegal refiners in the creeks of the Niger Delta," he explained.

On the proposed unbundling of NNPC, Igwe described it as a value-adding proposition because it would provide job opportunities for unemployed Nigerian youths.

GUIDE POST

APPOINTMENT

Dr. Erisebet Dida, Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Management, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of Department*. The two-year appointment which took immediate effect terminates on March 13, 2018.

Dr. Oadoghene Aferoh, Department of Pharmacognosy and Phototherapy, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, appointed *Coordinator of the Department*. The one-year appointment which took immediate effect terminates on March 13, 2017.

Dr. Judith Obiora, Department of Hospitality Management and Tourism, Faculty of Management Sciences, appointed *Coordinator of the Department*. The one-year appointment which took immediate effect terminates on March 13, 2017.

STUDY LEAVE

Mr. Henry Dick, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, granted a *one-year Extension of Study Leave with Pay* to enable him conclude his studies at the Keele University, Staffordshire, United Kingdom, effective January 2, 2016 to January 1, 2017.

Miss Ododabari Jike-Wai, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, granted a *three-year Study Leave with Pay* to enable her pursue a Doctorate Degree programme in Human Nutrition in the Department of Home Science, Nutrition and Dietetics, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, effective March 2, 2016 to February 28, 2019.

CONVERSION

Dr. David Ibadabo, Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, granted *Conversion from Adjunct Senior Lecturer to Contract Appointment*, effective on assumption of duty.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Dr. Kenneth Ordin, Department of Human Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, granted a *one-year Sabbatical Leave* to the Department of Human Anatomy, Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Nkpolo-Oroworukwo, Port Harcourt, effective January 11, 2016 to January 10, 2017.

HIGHER DEGREE

Dr. N.C. Ngobiri, Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry Faculty of Science, completed his Doctor of Philosophy degree programme in Materials Chemistry.

Students' Union Elects New Executive Body

By Mercy Adeniji

Following a successful election held on Wednesday, March 23, 2016, a fourth year student of the Department of Electrical/Electronics Engineering in the Faculty of Engineering, Ephraim Inno-Anaemeje, has emerged as President of the Students' Union. His success at the polls means that Mr. Inno will run the affairs of the Union for the next one year.

Exchanging views on the election with a Correspondent of *UniPort Weekly* on Tuesday, March 29, 2016, Acting Dean of the Student Affairs Department, Dr. Otutu Ekepenyong, described the exercise as free and fair, urging those who lost to embrace the winners to move the Union forward. "I kept encouraging the students to run for office as part of their learning process in the art of civic governance. To achieve mass participation, I adopted the centralized voting system, such that every student could see what the other person was doing. I wanted the students to feel very free to cast their vote for candidates of their choice in what looked like an open hall system."

"We took one day at a time to ensure that everything was put in its proper place by way of planning and I am pleased to note that it paid off at the end of the day. We started by inaugurating an impartial Electoral Committee that comprised two persons from each Faculty and they gave a good account of themselves," the Acting Dean disclosed with satisfaction.

Dr. Ekepenyong recalled that the Committee made sure that the forms were given out free of charge to give every contestant equal opportunity of vying for positions of his or her choice, while collection of forms was decentralized to make them readily available to all aspirants. At the end of the day, we recorded keen competition for each position. For instance, six candidates vied for President, four for Vice-President, three for Secretary-General, five for Treasurer, three for Director of Information, one person was returned unopposed for the position of Assistant Secretary-General, three vied for Financial Secretary, one for Chief Judge, three for Deputy Chief Judge, seven for the position of Judges, four for Director of Welfare, five for Director of Transport, four for Director of Socials, two for Senate President, three for the post of Deputy Senate President, three for Provost, while another candidate was returned unopposed for the position of Director of Sports," he explained to our Correspondent.

The Acting Dean further disclosed that the second stage of the exercise was to subject the contestants to a test to find out if they were eligible for the positions they desired to occupy in the Union. "Some of the criteria adopted included their academic standing, background checks on their eligibility, fee payment and security status. After that, we sent out letters to the Faculties. At the end of the meticulous screening exercises, some of

contestants inevitably fell by the wayside. The standing order was that each contestant must have a clean record and those who did not meet the stringent conditions were automatically disqualified," he said, regretting that such candidates understandably cried foul and spread unfounded rumours aimed at discrediting the process," he further explained.

Dr. Ekepenyong said that from the comments on the student platform and social media, it was obvious that the election was the freest and fairest exercise ever conducted in the University. "At the end of it all, the winners were announced right there at the polling unit and they left to celebrate their hard earned victories. My advice is that the system should encourage the students as much as possible to imbibe the virtues of transparency and fair play at all times when it has to do with election," the Acting Dean said, advising those who won to endeavour to carry everybody along.

Collaborating the view of the Acting Dean, the Electoral Committee Chairman, Mr. Confidence Inna, said the election was free and fair, describing it as very credible.



Inno-Anaemeje, new S'Union President

STOP PRESS

UPDATE ON CASUAL LEAVE

Staff of the University have been reminded that they are entitled to seven days Casual Leave in a year, in addition to the statutory Annual Leave for those who are eligible. A statement entitled: *Information on Casual Leave* which was signed on behalf of the Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto by the Director of Personnel Affairs, Dr. Dakorua Charles-Granville, dated March 22, 2016 and addressed to all Staff, said: "This is to inform all staff that you are entitled to seven (7) days Casual Leave in a year. Note that where the Casual Leave runs through the weekend, such weekend days are inclusive." The statement enjoined staff to take notice of the new directive and comply accordingly.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT

WEATHER OBSERVATORY

FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 03 – SATURDAY APRIL 09, 2016.

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SET (amt) (hrs)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY 03 APRIL 2016	35.0 24.0	64	SSW	-	6:30 6:48	More sun clouds expected.
MONDAY 04 APRIL 2016	34.0 26.0	61	SSW	3.4	6:30 6:40	Wide scattered thunder expected, Misting clouds anticipated.
TUESDAY 05 APRIL 2016	34.0 25.0	61	WSW	2.6	6:29 6:40	Thunderstorms expected late in the day. More clouds than sun expected.
WEDNESDAY 06 APRIL 2016	34.0 26.0	52	SW	-	6:29 6:40	Partly sunny day predicted with minimal chance of rain.
THURSDAY 07 APRIL 2016	34.0 25.0	52	SW	-	6:28 6:40	More sunshine than clouds expected.
FRIDAY 08 APRIL 2016	34.0 26.0	54	SW	-	6:28 6:40	More clouds than sun expected.
SATURDAY 09 APRIL 2016	34.0 27.0	54	SSW	8.7	6:28 6:39	A few thunderstorms expected. More clouds than sun with relatively high chance of rain.

Dr. Gladys Emenike
Acting HoD

Dr. Prince Mmom
AG. Director, (CDRMS)

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NYSC ORIENTATION

Consequent upon the release of the revised Table for the 2016 Batch 'A' Orientation exercise by the National Youth Service Corps, adjustments have been made in the Orientation Course for prospective Corps Members. A statement dated March 21, 2016 and issued by Director of the Student Affairs Department, Mrs. Bridget Nimiru, said that the Orientation exercise for Stream 1 will now commence on Wednesday, April 27, 2016, while the Swearing-in Ceremony will hold on Friday, April 29, 2016.

The statement further added that the Camp will close on Friday, May 13, 2016, adding that for Stream II, the Orientation exercise will begin on Saturday, May 21, 2016; Swearing-in Ceremony is fixed for Monday, May 23, 2016. It added that the Camp will close on Monday, June 6, 2016, advising all prospective Corps members to take note of the new dates.

Mgt Visit To Rivers State Governor

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, led the Management Team of the University of Port Harcourt on a Courtesy Visit to Rivers State Governor, His Excellency, Chief Ezeibunwo Nyesom Wike, CON on Tuesday, March, 2016. Our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU** was on hand to capture highlights of the visit as displayed below:



His Excellency, Governor Nyesom Wike, flanked to his left by Deputy Governor Dr. Banigo rise for the National Anthem



V-C, Prof Lale, addressing the Governor



Deputy Governor, Dr. Ipalibo Harry Banigo in a handshake with V-C, Prof Lale



Prof Israel Owate (middle) Special Adviser to the Governor and other officials of River State Government



Former Dean School of Graduate studies and Commissioner of Environment, Prof Reseline Konya (middle) and other Commissioners



Former Dean, Faculty of Law and Commissioner of Education, Prof Kaniye Ebeku (left) and other Government officials



V-C, Prof Lale, DV-C (Administration) Prof Anthony Ibe and Deputy Registrar (Information), Mr Williams Wodi, in a chat



Bursar, Mr Vitalis Aluzi; Registrar, Mrs Dorcas Otto and immediate past DV-C (Academic), Prof Igbo Joe



From L-R: Immediate past Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim, Deputy V-C (Academic), Prof Hakeem Fawehinmi and University Librarian, Dr Susan Umazor



Governor Wike making a presentation to V-C, Prof Lale



V-C handing over copies of UniPort Weekly to Governor Wike



Governor Wike in a handshake with DV-C (Admin), Prof Ibe



A group Photograph of officials of the University with Governor Wike and other officials of the River State Government