

UniPort Weekly

Vol. 27, Edition 275 - May 2 - May 9, 2016

For Information and Enlightenment

ISSN:1522-2228

A Publication of the Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria

Senate Holds Valedictory Session For Eleven Retiring Professors

Senate of the University of Port Harcourt held its 5th Valedictory Session at the Senate Chambers last Wednesday in honour of eleven Professors, who retired from active service to the University in what was an admixture of emotive and thrilling moments in the lives of the honourees, *reports Otikor Samuel:*

More on p3



Side Bar NHIS SCHEME

UniPort commenced registration of Staff for the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) on Tuesday, April 26, 2016.

Details next week.
~Editor



131st Inaugural

Akaninwor Urges Moderation In Food Consumption

By Humphrey Ogu

For an individual to achieve longevity and good health, the proper food must be eaten at proper times, in adequate proportions of a balanced diet, while moderation in consumption is the key to a healthy living. Professor Joyce Akaninwor of the Department of Biochemistry in the Faculty of Science, made the observation while delivering the 131st

Inaugural Lecture of the University entitled: *Food, Your Friend or Foe* at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, last Thursday.

The Professor of Nutritional Biochemistry, noted that food contains essential nutrients that have capacity to nourish the body for growth, maintenance and longevity, adding that "Inadequate or excess food intake poses grave danger to the body, causing nutritional and associated diseases, most of which can be corrected by

consumption of specified diets or through approved nutritional supplements." She stressed that moderation in food consumption is the key to a healthy and long life.

Akaninwor observed that "The Sociologists, Historians, Anthropologists and Physiologists, all have different perspectives of food—from Biochemists to Nutritionists," said many people eat food for the fun of it—probably the smell, look or flavour appeals to them, *More on p6*



Read UniPort Weekly online @ www.uniport.edu.ng

UniPort Law Faculty Honours Ebeku, Pioneer Dean

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

It was a big family reunion of sorts when a high-powered delegation from the Faculty of Law paid a courtesy visit on its pioneer Dean and new Rivers State Commissioner of Education, Professor Kanoye Ebeku, in his office at the State Secretariat complex, Port Harcourt on Tuesday, March 15, 2016.

Acting Dean, Professor Ibiba Worika, who led teaching and administrative staff of the Faculty on the visit, congratulated Professor Ebeku on his appointment as a Civil Commissioner, expressing hope that he would bring honour and glory to the Faculty through diligent discharge of his onerous assignment in the State.

"We are here to heartily felicitate with our pioneer Dean on his meritorious appointment and to stand in solidarity with you as you settle down to this serious assignment that would demand the best of you. We have no doubt whatsoever that you will discharge this mandate with the trademark drive and energy that you have exhibited as pioneer Dean of the young Faculty of Law in the University of Port Harcourt," Professor Worika told his predecessor in office.

"We have also come to seek your support as we prepare for the Resource Verification visit by the Council of Legal Education, following the success of a similar exercise by the National Universities Commission" Professor Worika said, expressing hope that Professor Ebeku's appointment would rob off positively on the development of the young Faculty that he laboured to build.

Receiving the delegation, Professor Ebeku expressed delight at the eagerly awaited commencement of the Bachelor of Law (LLB) degree programme in October, following approval by the Council of Legal Education after its Resource Verification exercise to the Faculty. "My appointment into the Rivers State Executive Council has not reduced my interest in the development of the Faculty which I pioneered. It is my desire that the right facilities that would elicit final approval by the Council of Legal Education for the Law programme would be put in place by the University Management with assistance from other stakeholders. The Faculty of Law has been long in coming to the University and we all owe ourselves and Rivers people a duty to help it grow and take its place in the comity of Faculties of Law in

Nigeria and beyond," he said.

The Commissioner, who promised to ensure that the Faculty was lifted to enviable heights within the shortest timeframe possible, lauded the staff for the visit, urging them to continue on the path of hard work and total commitment to the accelerated growth of the new Faculty. He also charged them to rededicate themselves to the building of a Faculty that can compare with the very best anywhere in the world, pledging to contribute his own quota to the accelerated development of infrastructural facilities aimed at creating a conducive learning environment for academic excellence.

"I regard this visit as a clear demonstration of abiding love by my erstwhile colleagues and I thank you very much for showing me this level of solidarity, which I will continue to cherish as long as I remain here" the Commissioner told his guests, advising them to also solicit the support of the State Governor, Chief Nyesom Wike, who initiated the building under construction that would host the emergent Faculty.

It would be recalled that the Faculty of Law commenced formal academic activities in the 2012/2013 academic session with the pioneer set of Diploma students, some of who are expected to join the maiden LLB programme in October.



Pioneer Dean, Faculty of Law and Rivers Commissioner of Education, Prof. Ebeku and Acting Dean, Prof. Worika (seated) and other staff of the Faculty

Our Error

On page 6 which is a continuation of our cover page story, we inadvertently mixed up the representation of the Panel members. For recent purpose, Professor John Olatigbe and Mr. Abel Ejiofor are representatives of Congregation, while Professors John Enahwo and Anthonia Okerengwa are Senate representatives. Professor George Will Ogunwari is in the Panel as a Council member. We regret the embarrassment the mix-up would have caused the esteemed members of the Panel.

SIWES Ends Orientation For Students

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The Students Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) Unit in the University has ended the 2016 Orientation and Industrial Relations Day exercise for students from relevant faculties that participated in the programme.

Speaking at the event which held at the Convocation Arena, University Park on Wednesday, April 6, 2016, representative of the Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic matters, Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, told the students that industrial training opportunities were designed to bridge the yawning gap between classroom theory and industry practice.

He urged the students to be good ambassadors of the University at their various places of deployment. "You could be retained in your places of attachment and also open doors for other prospective student participants from the University through diligent application of your time and skills on the job. But that would entirely depend on how you conduct yourselves and how you discharge your responsibilities in the line of duty. If you report late to work, dodge responsibilities, engage in truancy or quarrel on duty, then you would have shut the door against those coming behind you," Professor Fawehinmi told the students.

Acting Director of the SIWES Unit, Dr. Adedapo Aiyelaja, who disclosed that the scheme was designed to provide opportunities for students to acquire practical industrial experience in their respective disciplines during the course of their studies by spending, at least, six months in relevant industries, described industrial training as a core University course for relevant departments, which constituted an important requirement for the award of the Bachelor's degree to all the participating students who successfully complete the internship.



A cross-section of the students, SIWES Unit Director, Dr. Adedapo Aiyelaja (right), and other staff members

"During this period, students are expected to be exposed to work methods in their specific disciplines and garner experience in handling equipment and machinery which may not be available in the University. In fact, it is a continuation of the students' academic work in practical terms. It is not a holiday period as some participants erroneously believe," Dr. Aiyelaja warned, adding that the orientation programme was aimed at acquainting the students with the operational guidelines of the scheme and the rules of engagement.

In his remarks, the Port Harcourt Area Manager of the Industrial Training Fund (ITF), Mr. Emmanuel Isiwu, noted that "SIWES was designed to reinforce the spirit of entrepreneurship and expose students to real work situations outside their familiar classroom environments. It is not an extended vacation for students, but a time for them to interface with the exact work situation they would encounter after their graduation. It is a time to acquire valuable skills and learn details of components of their course of study,"

Mr. Isiwu said, advising the students to abide by the rules and regulations guiding the establishments where they may be accepted to undertake their industrial training.

ITF Head of Finance and Accounting, Mr. Pomark Kaato, SIWES Officers, Mr. Ohi Chinnoso and Mrs. Joy Ezike, were also present at the impressive event.

EDITORIAL BOARD

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Prof Ndowa E. S. Late | - Publisher | |
| Prof Enye Ekeke | - Editorial Chair | |
| Dr. Austen Sado | - Editorial Adviser | |
| Williams Wodi | - Editor | |
| Obinna Nwodim | - Associate Editor | |
| Correspondents | Secretariat | Photography |
| Mercy Adeniji | Glady Anadi (Mrs) | Headman Aliu |
| Olikor Samuel | Graphics | Mitchell Ekyor |
| Humphrey Ogu | Chika King-James (Mrs) | |
| Ethel Timi-Johnson | | |

Call: 08033093371

Senate Holds Valedictory Session For Eleven Retiring Professors

Cont'd from Page 1

The Valedictorians were: Professors Anthony Arinze, Joseph Okoh, Benjamin Ekeazu, Reginald Ukwijue, Coby Barikor, Stephen Iles, Comfort Okorie and Edward Ayalogu. Three other honourees who did not make it to the session were Professors Bosa Okoh, Benjamin Okike and Okeke Udeala.

In his tributes to the retired Professors, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, described them as worthy role models, who committed themselves to the growth of the University right from its foundation stage, expressing gratitude to God for those of them who were alive to witness the process of formal disengagement in the University.

"In an age when genuine role models are in very short supply, the eleven academic greats we are celebrating today have evidently left verifiable footprints in the University of Port Harcourt, in particular and the academia in general. The labour of their entire academic exploits is piled up in their various Departments, Faculties, the University and society at large," the Vice-Chancellor said, adding that the retired academics consisted of ten men and a woman of distinction, who possessed high level of integrity which cannot be denominated in any hard currency.

"There is a common thread that runs through their individual stories and experiences in the service of the University of Port Harcourt. These celebrated academic greats were great pioneers and like other worthy pioneers, they endured the deprivations and hardships that assail those who attempt to start something new. They enjoyed very little privileges in those years; yet they put in so much of their energy, time and intellect to the building of a new University," Professor Lale pointed out, praising the pioneer Vice-Chancellor, Professor Donald Ekong of blessed memory for bringing on board, high impact intellectual, some of whom he also engaged in intellectual mentorship and capacity building at the time.

Earlier, Deans of Faculty of the respective honourees present at the occasion, headed oncomers on them for their selfless services to the University. Dean, Faculty of Education, Professor Lawrence Igwe, who read the citation on Professor Joseph Okoh of the Department of Educational Foundations, disclosed that the Professor of

Philosophy of Education joined the services of the University in June 1980 and retired in 2013, after serving the University for 33 years. "He preoccupied himself with the work of the University as Head of Department, Coordinator, Director, Dean, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Senate Business Committee Chairman, including a plethora of teaching and administration-related assignments. He also served as external examiner to over 40 Nigerian universities at the Undergraduate, M.A/M.Ed and Ph.D levels," the citation read.

Professor of Adult and Non-Formal Education, Ekeazu, who was a pioneer staff of the Faculty of Education, joined the University in August 1976. "In the area of administration, Professor Ekeazu has played many significant roles. He has been a Head of Department, Director of the Institute of Education, Dean, Faculty of Education, Chairman, Committee of Deans of the University Governing Council, South-South Zonal Director of the Federal Nomadic Education Centre, He

life, transferred his services to the University in December 1988. He served in different capacities, including as Director of the College of Continuing Education (CCE), where he broke a record of saving money for the University which resulted in the building of structures at the Permanent Site of the College at Nkpola, Oroworuko, Port Harcourt. He also contributed a total of 77 publications to the advancement of knowledge.

Professor of Language Education, Stephen Iles, who joined the services of the University in November 1982, would be remembered amongst other things for introducing the boarding system to the University Demonstration Secondary School (UDSS) and production of modules and kits for language learning in West African countries.

Professor Comfort Okorie of the Department of Educational Management and Administration was appointed in 1988. She contributed over 50 articles and chapters published in reputable journals and books, both locally and internationally. Her main areas of research spanned across organisational leadership, educational policy formulation and implementation, vocational educational and gender studies.

Obioroz Ayalogu, a Professor of Biochemistry, "moved to the University of Port Harcourt as Lecturer

Grade I. He rose through the ranks and was appointed Professor of Biochemistry in 2001. He was Acting Head of the Department of Biochemistry from 1986 to 1988 and 1996 to 1999, Acting University Librarian from 2003 to 2005 and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) from 2005 to 2010."

The session which had three Emeriti Professors in attendance: Nini Briggs, Emmanuel Anosike and Samuel Okiweli in attendance, also witnessed invited speakers from former Vice-Chancellor of Delta State University, Abraka, Professor John Enahwo and one-time Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic matters, Professor Bernard Efiuwere.

Highlight of the event included special renditions by the Department of Music led by the Head of the Department, Professor Onyiah Nwankpa, which culminated in a final farewell to the retirees.



Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ndowa Lale (5th right), some Principal Officers and the Valedictorians

also been a member of various academic and professional organisations, as well as a leader of many social and cultural organisations outside the University system," the citation read.

Professor of Education (Measurement and Evaluation), Reginald Ukwijue, was employed by the University after showing impressive performance at the Faculty of Education during his National Youth Service Corps in 1981. He served two terms as Dean, two terms as Acting Head of Department, Coordinator, Post-Nigerian Certificate in Education, Member of Senate, Board Member of UDPS and UDSS, Chairman, Degree Results Verification Committee and Member, U.C. Accreditation Committee, amongst other positions.

Another Professor of Adult and Non-Formal Education, Cobi Barikor, who famously defied all obstacles that would have denied him ascension to greater heights in

UniPort Mgt Pays Condolence Visit On Late Ofurum's Family

By Obinna Nwodin

A part of moves aimed at allaying the tension generated by the unfortunate death of Mr. Peter Ofurum, the authorities of the University of Port Harcourt have deeply commiserated with his grieving family. Ofurum, who was a Final Year Student of the Department of Accounting in the Faculty of Management Sciences, died as a result of injuries he sustained in the cause of the violent protest by students of the University on Monday, April 11, 2016.



Late Mr. Ofurum

Conveying the message of the Vice-Chancellor to the family, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, who led the delegation to the family's Lagos residence, last Wednesday, expressed deep sympathy over the unfortunate incident, stating that the University was pained as much as the family over the sudden death of Mr. Ofurum, describing his sudden demise as a sad loss.

"We share with you in this moment of deep grief, because it is a big loss, not only to your family, but to the entire University community. On behalf of the Governing Council, Senate, Staff and Students of the University, we commiserate with the family and assure you that we shall do everything within our powers to share with you in your moment of pain," he stated. Professor Fawehinmi also informed the family that the Governing Council of the University had set up a Panel to investigate the remote and immediate causes of the incident, which would also look at the circumstances surrounding the death of their son.

In their separate speeches, Dean of the Faculty of Management Sciences, Professor Emeka Okereke, President of the University of Port Harcourt Alumni Association, Engineer Samson Nyerere, and immediate past Chairperson of the UniPort Branch of the Academic Staff Union of Universities, (ASUU), Professor Anthonia Okerengwo, who described the death of Mr. Ofurum as a monumental loss to the University, prayed God to give the family the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss.

Responding on behalf of the family, Mr. Chidi Uzor, who expressed how deeply pained the family was over the death of their son, appealed to the authorities of the University to do everything possible to fish out Peter's killer and bring them to justice to bring some form of closure to the case. "As a family,



Prof Fawehinmi, DVC (Acad)

our investment in Peter is gone and we are at a loss as to where to go from here in the circumstance we find ourselves. We sent him to go and study, become the light of his family and make contribution to society. All the dream Peter had when he enrolled as a student of the University of Port Harcourt, has now been extinguished by a trigger-happy Police Officer, who is yet to be identified and brought to justice as we expect," the family Spokesman said.

Pro-Chancellor Inspects Property Damaged During Students' Protest

By Humphrey Ogu

Following the violent protest staged by students of the University on April 11, 2016, the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Engineer Gosi Asamao, has undertaken a guided tour of the three Parks to get a first-hand account of the extent of damage to public and private property in the University.

Engineer Asamao and some Governing Council members were conducted round the worst affected areas by Principal Officers of the University led by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale. Some Council members who accompanied the Chairman's entourage included Professors Ogunniyi, George, John Kimani and Regina Ogali.

It would be recalled that the Governing Council had earlier set up a Seven-Member Panel that is already investigating the violent protest, which resulted in the unfortunate death of a Fourth Year Student of the Department of Accounting and President of the Faculty of Management Science Students' Association, Peter Oforum. The Panel, headed by a Council member, Barrister Okochukwu Ajunwa, held its inaugural Meeting last Monday to thoroughly



Dr. G. Asamao, Prof. Anthony Ibe showing the Pro-Chancellor, Engr. Asamao, some items destroyed at the HC-KC after massive looting of computers

investigate the circumstance that led to unfortunate loss of life and massive destruction of property, looting of laptops, air conditioners, furniture and vandalism of vehicles in residential areas. The Panel has since called for memoranda from interested members of the University community and other stakeholders, while a Public Hearing has been

scheduled to start on Monday, May 2, 2016.

The Chairman of Council, who was visibly unhappy with the extent of destruction of public and private property, promised that Council would study the Panel's report and take appropriate steps to forestall a recurrence of the protest in future. The Pro-Chancellor had earlier held a closed-door meeting with the Vice-Chancellor on his arrival in the University.

Registrar Receives Accolades On Faculty-Wide Tour

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, has received accolades on her recently-ended faculty-wide tour of the University aimed at aligning staff to her vision of what was expected of them in the line of duty. The unprecedented tour provided a platform for the Registrar to meet with administrative and technical staff in the various Faculties, who praised her for coming down to meet them, rather than dealing with them by proxy. The three-day tour, which elicited praises from Academic and Non-Teaching staff ended on Wednesday, April 6, 2016.

In separate meetings with Deans of the Faculties of Agriculture, Engineering and Education, Mrs. Otto,

stressed the need for team spirit to move the University forward, promising that the Registry Department under her watch would strive to create an enabling environment that would enhance staff productivity and efficiency. "I am soliciting your support and cooperation to build a vibrant Faculty administration system that would transform the University into a world-class institution," she pleaded with the staff.

In their separate responses, Deans of the Faculties of Agriculture, Professor Ebere Erondu; Engineering, Professor Maureen Etebu, who was represented by the Associate Dean, Dr. Ugochukwu Kamalu and their counterpart in the Faculty of Education, Professor Lawrence Igwe, commended the Registrar for what they described as a novel initiative that has given staff

in the Faculties a sense of belonging. Pledging their commitment to upholding the high standards for which the University was well-known, the trio stressed a need for more facilities to be put in place for their faculties to achieve enhanced staff performance on the job.

Addressing the administrative and technical staff of the three Faculties, the Registrar stressed the need for each staff to work towards achieving the vision of the University, which aims to be ranked amongst the best universities in Africa, renowned for its teaching, research, creativity and innovation. "The University also seeks to contribute to national development, self-reliance and unity through the advancement and propagation of knowledge and to use such knowledge for service to the community and humanity," she said, emphasizing the need for team work to achieve the University's long-term goals and objectives.

Reiterating the need for staff to abide by the rules and regulations of the terms of their employment, including effective discharge of their duties, Mrs. Otto warned of stern disciplinary measures that awaited any staff that may engage in practices that may contravene the laws of the University. The Registrar promised to champion the legitimate welfare needs of all categories of staff during her tenure. "You must not divulge official secrets, mutilate, expunge or conceal official documents. You must exercise self-discipline and restraint at all times and deal politely at all times with the numerous stakeholders in the affairs of the University," she admonished them, urging all Non-teaching staff to abide by the Code of Conduct binding them as administrative and technical staff of the University at all times.



A cross-section of Staff in the Faculty of Agriculture. Inset: Registrar addressing the Staff

UniPort Excels At NURESDEF Fair

By Obinna Nwodin

The University of Port Harcourt has continued to make impressive marks in its research and development activities, just as the Institution clinched the 3rd prize in the Best University in Arts and Humanities category at the just-concluded 6th Nigerian Universities Research and Development Fair held at Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State. The Solar Mowing Machine exhibited by Mr. Richard Ibeneke of the Department of Mechanical Engineering carried away the 2nd prize in the Individual Research in the Science and Technology category.

The event which was organized by the National Universities Commission (NUC) from March 7-11, 2016, as part of its drive to promote quality research, had the theme: Research and Innovation: A Panacea for National Transformation. The 11-man University contingent to the Fair was led by Chairman of the University of Port

Harcourt Research Conference and Fair, Professor Gregory Awiri. Over 20 research projects were exhibited at the Fair which was attended by over 70 federal, state and private universities.

Projects exhibited by the University of Port Harcourt, amongst other included Innovative Local Aquarium, Identification and Documentation of Ornamental and Food Fish Stock of the Niger Delta and Fish Art Technology and Development. Akankali Model for Biodiversity, Fisheries Conservation and Management in the Niger Delta, Car Jack,

Potato Slicing Machine, as well as a Bean Decorating Machine, amongst other innovations. Other projects showcased at the fair by the UniPort team, included Infant Radiant Warmer and Neonatal Phototherapy Unit.



UniPort contingent at the Fair

Again, Mgt Meets NANS Zone B On Post-Protest Direction

By Humphrey Ogu

Management of the University has found calm and understanding from students and other stakeholders to ensure that the issues that resulted in the recent violent protest by students, which culminated in the loss of one life and massive destruction of property on Campus is resolved amicably to enable Senate reopen the University for normal academic activities.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, made the appeal while addressing representatives of "Zone B" of the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) at the Governing Council Chambers last Tuesday, maintaining that the atmosphere of uncertainty that has resulted in the continued closure of the University would be detrimental to the future of students and other stakeholders in the long run.

Responding to a communiqué containing a chatter of demands by NANS Zone B, Professor Lale told them that the matter was currently beyond the Vice-Chancellor and Management, explaining that it was already before the Governing Council. He told them that Council recently inaugurated a Panel that had

commenced sitting on the protest and other related issues, expressing confidence in Council's capacity to handle and resolve the crisis to the satisfaction of all parties.

"The Panel set up by the Governing Council of the University is already working and there is nothing anybody can do now until the Panel concludes its assignment and submits its report. I wish to appeal to the students to await the Panel's final report on the crisis. It is our hope that we are all working in the interest of the peace and the development of the University," he informed the student group, urging NANS Zone B not to do anything that would aggravate the fragile peace that currently exists on Campus.

Also weighing in, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Obi, pointed out that "the Governing Council plays a supervisory role over Management of the University. We can only implement its directives and not assume its statutory role as policy making body. It is not true that Management is in a position to go a step ahead of the Council as being speculated by some of you. Students could also make submissions to the Panel as it is not going to sit in secret and its findings would also be made public."

One of the leaders of NANS Zone B and a member of the delegation, Victor Diepre, said that the student group was in the University to interface with Management on how to speedily resolve the crisis arising from the April 11, 2016 protest by UniPort students, explaining that the Senate of NANS mandated the Zone B arm of the body to handle the crisis with a view to reaching an amicable resolution with Management on the contentious issues that led to the protest. "As a graduate of this University, I will sit down and watch people prolong a problem that we can all sit down and solve or seek to destroy our beloved institution. If we work together, we can handle everything without giving room for outside interference," he said.

On his part, leader of the delegation and Co-ordinator of NANS Zone B, Pedro Obi, said that while his association got wind of the impending protest, the Secretary-General of the Association in the Zone made concerted effort to reach Management of the University, regretting that the situation had to degenerate to the current level.

"If the University Management had responded to our calls, the crisis would have been averted. As Co-ordinator of NANS in this Zone, I have a duty to ensure that there is peace in this Zone. The Senate of NANS has mandated the Zone to resolve the crisis amicably," he said.

Reading the Communiqué of the group, Obi called for the immediate resignation of the Deputy Registrar (Information and Public Relations), Williams Wodi, Dean of Student Affairs, Dr. Ono Ekeoying and Chief Security Officer, Lt. Col Reginald Iguzo (rtd), as well as the abolition of the "no payment, no examination" policy of the University.

Other issues raised in the Communiqué included: lifting of the suspension order on the Student Union, immortalisation of late Peter Ofurum, reduction of accommodation charge, abolition of 'peculiar charges', non-victimisation of students over destruction of University property and inclusion of students on the Panel investigating the protest.



V-C, Prof Lale (centre), Management and Senior Officers of the University (left) and Officials of NANS, Zone B (right)

UniPort Pledges Commitment to RUFORUM

By Obinna Nwodin

The establishment of the Regional Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), has been described as a veritable platform for enhancing the requisite manpower needs that would bring about the accelerated development of the West African sub-region.

Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Ndowa Lale, made the assertion when he received the Executive Secretary of RUFORUM, who paid him a courtesy visit at the Vice-Chancellor's Committee Room, last Thursday.

Professor Lale said that "the establishment of the body is a great strategy that would enable Africa to develop her abundant human and natural endowments. The move would reduce the brain drain syndrome plaguing the continent at the moment." The Vice-Chancellor commended the Executive Secretary for the giant strides so far recorded by RUFORUM, particularly in positioning the body for optimum results through training of qualified academics in Agriculture.

He assured the body that authorities of the University would work with other RUFORUM member institutions to initiate mutually beneficial capacity enhancement programmes, stressing that: "The University will give full support to the organisation's activities and we can assure you that we do not enter into partnerships or do things we do not mean." In his speech, a visibly elated Executive Secretary of RUFORUM, Professor Adipala Ekwamu, said that the Organisation which is based in Uganda was engaged in building capacity in various specializations in Agriculture, commending the authorities of the University for taking the bold step to be part of the organization. He disclosed that the University of Port



V-C, Prof Lale (center) flanked by Executive Secretary of RUFORUM, Prof Ekwamu (left), Principal Officers and some Staff of the Faculty of Agriculture

Harcourt was the first Nigerian University to seek affiliation to the organisation.

Professor Ekwamu stated that the body was working with the University to develop the Faculty of Agriculture, adding that about eight staff from the Faculty had already been trained under the RUFORUM arrangement. He also commended authorities of the University for their persistence in driving the partnership, expressing hope for greater collaborations between the University and other RUFORUM member institutions.

The Executive Secretary advised the authorities to take advantage of the outreach programmes of the body to send more staff for training in other RUFORUM member countries, while appealing that the UniPort should also support the training of, at least, five doctoral candidates from other African universities. Professor Adipala added that such a move would help to internationalise the programme.

The Executive Secretary also congratulated the University over its selection as an African Centre of Excellence in Oilfield Chemicals Research, encouraging the authorities to use the platform to train postgraduate students from other African countries in that important area of specialization.

In his speech, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Professor Etere Erondu, revealed that the University has been fully engaged with RUFORUM in the past six years, stating that the collaboration has helped immensely in training a number of academic staff from the Faculty in diverse agricultural specialisations. "We are very pleased to be associated with RUFORUM and we can assure you that we have the requisite capacity to train more postgraduate students from other parts of the West African sub-region that may require our expertise. It is also our hope that more of our staff would benefit from training programmes under the auspices of RUFORUM," he said.

Akaninwor Urges Moderation In Food Consumption

Cont'd from Page 1

provided they are filled up once they have eaten, explaining that "the Biochemists and Nutritionists look at food and their various functions in the body."

The Inaugural Lecturer, whose research interest and contributions to knowledge cover several aspects of the discipline, including nutrients in nature, malnutrition, pollution and food safety, identified two categories of food consumers; namely, Gastronomic Eaters and Scientific Eaters. He pointed out that "a Gastronomic eater does not bother about what he or she eats. The fate of what is eaten and the ultimate consequences in the overall functioning of the body does not matter to them.

"From the nutritional point of view, food can be further defined as any edible substance that provides the necessary nutrients required for proper functioning of the body and how the food eaten relates to the health of the body, known as the nutritional status of the person, community or groups that ate the food in question; this actually defines how much each of the groups is facing in relation to the type of food they eat," she added.

"While we wait for government, all universities should establish nutrition centres that will work in collaboration with their teaching hospitals, because a greater percentage of diseases that take people to the hospitals are nutritionally related. Adequate food intake in the right proportions will increase immunity and reduce the risk of being

prone to diseases, and of course, help in diagnosis, recovery and even prognosis," she said.

Akaninwor called for caution in the marketing and consumption of foods grown in polluted environments, recommending that "Food laboratories should be sited in all oil-producing areas of the country, because it has become necessary that both aquatic and terrestrial lives from such areas should not be consumed as food, until adequate treatment of waters and lands are carried out to restore the safety of flora and fauna, as well as human beings within and around such polluted areas."

Speaking after the Lecture, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, who described it as a very serious issue that touches on lives, commended the Inaugural Lecturer for focusing on a topic that is beneficial to all sections of society.

He observed that consuming a balanced diet represented a very serious challenge to most Nigerians, adding: "If you try to have a balanced diet, you are likely to add more of the component you like; so, we should strive to take a balanced diet at all times to obtain the right minerals and safeguard our health status. Food consumption habit requires a deliberate effort that is anchored on self-denial. For instance, if a child is fed without sugar at a very tender age, such a child would likely not enjoy sugar in adult life."



Inaugural Lecturer (5th), flanked by V-C Prof Lale, Registrar, Mrs. Otto and other Professors before the Lecture

C'wealth Covenant Church Int'l Condemns Students' Protest, Honours Lale

By Humphrey Ogu

Bishops from the Commonwealth Covenant Church Int'l, Elemo, led by their Archbishop-Elect, Rt. Rev Moses Kattey, paid a courtesy visit on the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, last Monday, during which they announced plans to honour him with an award last Saturday for what they described as his meritorious services to the church, the academia and society at large.

Speaking on behalf of their Lordships, Archbishop-Elect Kattey, who is a pioneer alumnus of the University said: "We are happy to be here to pray with you and encourage you to be of good cheer for the Lord is on the throne. I met him as one of the pioneer students in 1981 and we were the guinea pigs in the new University that has blossomed into what we see today. We have come to show solidarity with our brother, Professor Ndowa Lale. About two years ago, we heard that he was successful at an interview to become the Vice-Chancellor of the Rivers State University of Science and Technology (RSUST), but he was denied that opportunity on account of politics. It, therefore, came to us as no surprise when we learnt of his appointment as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt in the middle of last year. It was the will of God that he got elevated to this exalted position that so many others also aspired to occupy."

Kattey, who noted that the visit was planned before the unfortunate students' protest that took place in the University, pointed out that "challenges such as the recent students' protest that we witnessed help to strengthen any leader. The recent crisis in the University would not only boost Professor Lale's capacity to tackle future challenges, but will also help to prepare him for greater responsibilities and service to God, man and society. Those who do not face challenges are not able to surmount man-made or natural obstacles on their way. We will continue to pray for our brother, because the power of prayer is the only problem that Professor Lale's adversaries will have to contend with as they perfect their plans to pull him down."

The Man of God announced plans to honour the Vice-Chancellor at an event to further encourage him to continue on the path of truth, transparency and fairness to all matter of persons and interest groups, urging Professor Lale to remain steadfast in all his dealings to be able to



V-C Prof Lale flanked by Rt. Rev Kattey, V-C (Acad), Prof Fawehinmi, Bishop-Elect Ademba (left), DSC (Amin), Prof the Bishops Ogunigbo and Mbaka (right)

look anybody in face and tell the truth.

Responding, the Vice-Chancellor, who noted that he was particularly elated by the visit, commended the church for sustaining its drive to win more souls for the Kingdom of God. Urging their Lordships to continue praying for the University of Port Harcourt, Professor Lale told his guests that "the only crime I committed was implementing a Senate decision that compelled students to register their courses before writing examinations. I did nothing more than that. All the fantastic stories you may have heard about Lale 'increasing fees' and being responsible for the unfortunate demise of one of our students are barefaced lies aimed at shifting attention from the real issues at stake. As Vice-Chancellor, I am under obligation to implement directives from both the Governing Council and Senate of the University. My personal opinion does not count once these statutory bodies take their stand on issues concerning staff, students or the general direction of the University."

"With all the falsehoods and campaign of calumny against my person going on in the social media, it is gratifying to know that the Church has not been affected by the propaganda. The home front is very important and I am happy to have you around at this time. I feel protected and honoured to identify with my own people, especially at this time" Lale stated, adding that students run on propaganda, while the University Management will continue to run on truth to show the difference.

"A leader is supposed to have dreams and see vision of where he wants his followers to be and work stridently towards actualising such dreams. The last administration

in the University painstakingly negotiated with students and other stakeholders on the payment policy that suddenly became a contentious issue in my tenure. The Federal Government does not give us money to run municipal services that gulp a large chunk of our internally generated revenue and it is difficult to run the University without funds. It is inexplicable that some students would demand free education from the University or seek to be subsidised with money paid by other students who complied with Senate directive to pay up the agreed charges, register their courses and be ready for examinations—something that is common practice anywhere in the world," he explained.

On a personal note, the Vice-Chancellor recalled that, "The Archbishop-Elect and I had known each other for decades. He has been a role model to me for many years and I am very pleased to know that he is still very passionate about spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ; a personal crusade he took up a long time ago. My prayer is that God would continue to give him strength, good health and wisdom to continue labouring in the vineyard of the Lord," adding that protests by students had regrettably become a common occurrence in Nigerian universities these days, especially in the face of the dwindling economic fortunes of the country.

Kattey was accompanied on the visit by Bishops Godfrey Mbaka and Ebenezer Ogunigbo from various branches of the Church in Nigeria and Bishop-Elect William Ademba from CCCI, Nairobi, Kenya.

GUIDEPOST

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT

Dr. Stephen Anurudu, Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted *Confirmation of Appointment*, effective June 9, 2013 to retirement age.

Dr. Mbadior Jeremiah, Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted *Confirmation of Appointment*, effective September 12, 2014 to retirement age.

Mr. Barine Diance, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Faculty of Humanities, granted *Confirmation of Appointment*, effective December 10, 2009 to retirement age.

Mr. Kasarachi Innocent, Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted *Confirmation of Appointment*, effective April 29, 2013 to retirement age.

Mrs. Chinwe Nzenwa, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Faculty of Humanities, granted *Confirmation of Appointment*, effective January 16, 2015 to retirement age.

Mr. Gasper Mark, Department of Theatre and Film Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted *Confirmation of Appointment*, effective February 1, 2015 to retirement age.

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Dr. Ignatius Iwegbue, Department of Civil and Environmental, Faculty of Engineering, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective January 11, 2016 to January 10, 2017.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Mrs. Matilda Nnodim, Registry Department, proceeded on *Sabbatical Leave* to Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Rumuolumeni, Port Harcourt, effective April 1, 2016.

STUDY LEAVE

Mr. Chikodi Onu, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, granted a three-year *Study Leave with Pay* to enable him pursue a Doctoral degree programme in Environmental Engineering at the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State, effective February 27, 2016 to February 26, 2019.

Mr. Peter Ajuogu, Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, granted a four-year *Study Leave with Pay* to enable him pursue a Doctoral degree programme in Reproductive Physiology and Endocrinology at the University of New England (UNE), England, effective March 30, 2016 to March 29, 2020.

CHANGE OF NAME

MR. NWIDAG PATRICK NWINEKA, Former Mr. Adah Patrick of the College of Health Sciences now wishes to be known, called and addressed as Mr. Nwidag Patrick Nwineka. All documents bearing his former name remain valid.

MRS. MARY IGBIKI-OWUBO, Former Miss Mary Sunday of Student Affairs Department now wishes to be known, called and addressed as Mrs. Mary Igbiki-Owubo. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

STOP PRESS

AEB Dept'l Seminar

The Department of Animal and Environmental Biology (AEB) in the Faculty of Science, announces the sixth Departmental Seminar series holding on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 at the Departmental Board Room. Time is 10:00am. Speakers are Dr. Chienwum Eze, whose topic is: *Epidemiological Studies of Parasitic Infections among Fulani Pastoralists in Rivers State*, while Mrs. Agatha Ojimekwe will speak on *Disease Surveillance: An Effective Approach for Collection and Control of Emerging Zoonoses*. Staff of the Department, other interested researchers and the general public are invited to attend the latest seminar in the series.

UPTH CMD Assures Public Of Quality Healthcare, As Unions End Strike

By Humphrey Ogu

Following the amicable resolution of its recent dispute with under the platform of the Joint Health Sector Union (JOHESU), Management of the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), has assured the general public of its total commitment to efficient, affordable and quality healthcare service delivery in the hospital.

The cheering development was announced at a Media Briefing addressed by the Chief Medical Director of the hospital, Professor Aaron Ojile, and made available to *UniPort Weekly*. The text of the statement read in part: "Based on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by JOHESU and Management of UPTH on Saturday, April 9, 2016, and the subsequent suspension of the strike by JOHESU on Wednesday, April 13, 2016, the hospital is taking all necessary steps to restore normalcy to its services to the benefit of the general public," adding "that in line with the terms of the MoU signed with the Unions, Management was taking appropriate action to fulfil its obligations and was confident that JOHESU would reciprocate the gesture through rededication of its members to quality healthcare delivery to the public."

"Management regrets the negative effect of the dispute on members of the public with regards to service delivery during the period of the dispute. While thanking concerned citizens for their patience and understanding while efforts progressed to resolve the dispute, we wish to reassure our clients, patients and the general public that we have come out of this dispute stronger than before as all major stakeholders in the hospital on

the platform of JOHESU: including Association of Resident Doctors (ARD), and Medical and Dental Consultants Association of Nigeria (MDCS), have resolved to co-operate with Management

to ensure efficient and better service delivery," the CMD assured the public.

Professor Ojile expressed appreciation to the Port Harcourt Zonal Office of the Federal Ministry of Labour and the JOHESU National Executive for their mediatory role, commending the local chapter of JOHESU for the maturity it displayed towards the peaceful resolution of the dispute to the satisfaction of all parties.

He used the opportunity to appeal well-meaning individuals and corporate bodies, non-governmental organisations, religious bodies and other interventionist agencies of government to make UPTH a beneficiary of their Corporate Social Responsibility programmes, especially in the critical areas of infrastructure, electricity, water, medical equipment and consumables aimed at supporting the effort of government in the provision of quality healthcare delivery to the populace.



Prof. Ojile, CMD, UPTH

Toby, New CEBAS Helmsman, Unveils Operational Vision

By Mercy Adeniji

In his determined effort to ensure that the University environment is kept clean at all times, new Acting Director of the Campus Environmental Beautification and Sanitation (CEBAS) Unit, Mr. Jones Toby, has promised to harness all human and material endowments of the Unit, including ushering in a conducive environment that would enable the Casual Staff discharge their responsibilities with due diligence and a shared sense of ownership.

Speaking with *UniPort Weekly* on his operational vision in his office at Delta Park on Tuesday, April 19, 2016, Mr. Toby disclosed that as the name implied, the CEBAS Unit has a statutory mandate to work towards a clean and green environment that would welcome all visitors to the University. "It means that we have to plant more ornamental trees and create lawns aimed at beautifying the Campus. The Unit has made a lot of progress as it strives to ensure that the environment is not only kept clean, but also made beautiful for the eyes to behold," he told our Correspondent in his first interview on the challenging job.

"I wish to do my utmost best to sustain the effort of

my predecessors on this difficult, but very important job schedule. I particularly wish to applaud the effort of my immediate predecessor in office, Mr. Okezie Ochuba, who successfully served out his



Mr. Toby

tenure. I wish to continue from where he stopped by keeping the environment clean and green to the best of my ability and available resources. We will also try to embark on aggressive beautification of the University Park, Delta Park and Chaba Park. From what I have seen so far, the task ahead of me is a very daunting one, but I cannot afford to disappoint the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adowa Lale, who trusted my capacity to accomplish the task," the new Acting Director said.

Disclosing plans to take the Unit to greater heights, Mr. Toby said: "I will also try my best to change the orientation of the Casual Workers I inherited on ground. They should be able to justify the pay they receive by leading them to work even harder to attain greater results on the job. The University should be able to derive value from the money it pays this category of workers, and I am pleased to note that they are fully cooperating with me so far and it is my hope that they will continue to put in their very best to achieve the vision of the University Management in setting up the Unit."

Mr. Toby revealed that due to the forthcoming West African University Games (WAG) competition to be hosted by the University in November, plans had already been concluded to work closely with the sub-Committee on Sanitation to clean up the environment before, during and after the games.

"We really need Management's support and we are optimistic that we would get what we would require to accomplish our job schedule. We need support, not only from Management, but from all staff, students and business operators on Campus to enable us achieve our goals. Sanitation is a capital-intensive venture that requires support from all stakeholders to achieve. So, we appeal to every stakeholder to support the CEBAS Unit by ensuring that they dispose their refuse appropriately and help monitor other who may refuse to do so. They should also support us by dropping their refuse only at the designated collection points in the disposable bags we made available to them, especially staff in the residential areas. Environmental stewardship is every body's business if we are to achieve a truly clean and green environment that we all desire in this University," the Acting Director appealed.

Mgt Meeting With UPHPF

Following the April 11, 2016 violent protest by students which resulted in the loss of a student and consequently resulted in closure of the University for one month by Senate, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale convened a meeting of the University of Port Harcourt Parents' Forum on Monday, April 18, 2016 at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium. Our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU** captured highlights of the meeting:



Participants registering at the Foyer of the Auditorium



Members of the High Table rise for UniPort Anthem and prayer



V-C, Prof Lale flanked by DV-C (Admin), Prof Anthony Ibe (left) addressing the Forum



Ag. Chairman, UPHPF, Dr. Anthony Chuku making remarks



Nye Nwe Ali, Choba, Eze Raymond Okocha making a contribution



DV-C (Admin), Prof Ibe also speaking



DV-C (Acad), Prof Hakeem Fawehinmi (right) in a chat with V-C



Some of the parents and guardians making contributions



A clergyman lending his voice to the discussion



A cross-section of participants

