

UniPort Weekly

Vol. 27, Edition 277 May 16 - May 23, 2016

For Information and Enlightenment

ISSN:1522-2225

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

Again, Mgt Reaches Out To Student Leaders

As authorities of the University continue to make more frantic efforts to return peace to the Campus, Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, has cautioned student leaders against unguarded utterances that could further disrupt the ongoing peace moves aimed at the accelerated resumption of normal academic activities in the University, *reports Obinna Nwodim*

More on p3



Side Bar Int'l Malaria Colloquium Starts Today

The Centre for Malaria Research and Phytomedicine (CMRAP) holds her 1st International Malaria Colloquium today at the Amatu Braide Lecture Hall.

Details next week.
~Editor

Security Is Our Utmost Priority

~Army 2 Brigade Commander

By Williams Wodi

Worried by the incessant security breaches around the University of Port Harcourt, the Commander of 2 Brigade, Port Harcourt Barracks, 82nd Division of the Nigerian Army, Brigadier-General Stevenson Olabanji, has promised to extend security surveillance to the University and its environs to checkmate the ugly trend.

General Olabanji gave the assurance when he received an eight-member delegation from the University led by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale at the Officers Mess of the 2 Brigade last Thursday. Acknowledging that a strong relationship between the Army and the University would improve security in the area, Commander Olabanji spoke of the enormous challenges posed by deadly cult

groups and sundry criminal elements that are on rampage in parts of Rivers State.

He promised that the 2 Brigade would assist the University combat crime, adding that the Garrison Commander would be directed to explore the possibility of establishing a presence in the University as a starting point.

"We are worried about the rising criminality in the neighbourhood of the University and we are very committed to ensuring that hoodlums do not threaten lives and property in the area. In doing so, we have to be sensitive to the fact that it is an environment populated by students, but the Nigerian Army has a responsibility to ensure that law-abiding citizens can go about their businesses without fear of being molested by undesirable elements," the Commander told the delegation.

More on p6



Expert Calls For Political Will On Climate Change



Story on p2

We Are Committed To Mega Shopping Mall Project In UniPort



Story on p4

Mgt Will Partner CASSON On Counselling Unit -Lale



Story on p5

We Are Committed To Successful ASAN-NIAS Confab In UniPort ~Mgt



Story on p6

Expert Calls For Political Will To Tackle Climate Change

By Mercy Adeniji

Worried by the adverse effects of the emission of greenhouse gases, Acting Head of the Department of Geography and Environmental Management in the Faculty of Social Sciences, Dr. Vincent Well, has called for the necessary political will by policymakers to tackle the issue of climate change, which he described as a serious environmental challenge facing the country today.

Describing the phenomenon as a situation in which there is unpredictable change in the weather parameters that define the climate to the extent that it impacts on the ecosystem which is the web of life, Dr. Well called for concerted action to ameliorate the adverse effects of climate change to save the environment.

Exchanging views with a Correspondent of *UniPort Weekly* last Tuesday, Dr. Well regretted that while the issue of climate change has finally been acknowledged to be real in the scientific community, Nigerian leaders were yet to muster enough political will to tackle the devastating effects of the changing weather patterns in the country. He stated that the evidence of climate change was so overwhelming that governments and other concerned stakeholders in other climates have been devising proactive measures to reduce the adverse effects of unpredictable weather conditions.

Dr. Well, who is a Climatologist, explained that "when there is a change in the climate that significantly affects life forms on earth, we can safely conclude that the climate has changed from its predictable patterns and that is what we are facing today. For instance, when we discover that some species of plants and animals that were alien to some particular environments begin to appear in new environments that were not their natural habitat, it means that the conditions that would give rise to the survival of these life forms no longer exist in their previous habitats. That is why we now find new plant and animal species displacing existing those in habitats that were hitherto alien to them. So, it goes to show that the climate prevailing in such locations can no longer support the life

forms that are natural to plants and animals that once existed in that kind of environment, which is a sign of climate change that can dramatically alter the ecosystem as we know it."

The Climatologist recalled the prediction that he would experience a shorter rainy season in 2016. "It follows that we would experience more of dryness this year, because the rains would start late and end early with very serious implications for the length of the farming season upon which we depend for food. In a normal situation, there should be an interplay between rainfall and temperature; this is because when there is adequate rainfall, farmers would naturally plant their crops and once the rains stop, it automatically signals the commencement of the harvest season, which is the predictable cyclical sequence of the weather as was the situation in the past. Today, however, the weather pattern has become so unpredictable that Climatologists are raising urgent alarm about the seriousness of the situation and the need to ameliorate the adverse effects of climate change on the environment," he said.

On the appropriate steps to address the adverse effects of climate change, Dr. Well disclosed that "since it was largely anthropogenic, humans must find a way to reduce industrial pollutants and other harmful activities that emit carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, among other greenhouse gases such as Methane and Nitro-Oxide that devastate the environment. The injection of these dangerous gases change the chemistry in the atmosphere, which causes other secondary complications that lead to global warming and climate change. The overall impact is devastating on life forms on earth and the future of man in a world he did not create, but takes pleasure in destroying." The Acting Head of Department noted that Nigeria was culprit in the emission of greenhouse gases, especially gas flaring that is responsible for not just the depletion of the fragile ozone layer, but also in the emergence of new disease strains that are resistant to existing drug therapy. "Since our main economy is hydrocarbon-based and exploration of oil emit greenhouse gases that increase the heat warming capacity; it therefore follows that we must take immediate action on the political and scientific fronts to remedy the situation, if only for the sake of our unborn generations,



Dr. Well

who would be compelled to live with consequences of our reckless destruction of the environment. For instance, when these dangerous gases are released into the atmosphere, they act as a blockade to the movement of long wave radiations," Dr. Well revealed.

He called on the political class to muster the necessary will to divert the economy into other alternative sources of energy such as solar and wind energy to power the industrial needs of the country, stressing that such renewable energy sources would help clean up the accumulated despoliation of the environment. "It is an option that the University of Port Harcourt must take very seriously if it hopes to operate in a clean and green environment that is conducive for learning and recreation. Such an unencumbered environment would also result in tangible health benefits that would in turn reduce the huge medical bills we are compelled to incur while living in a polluted environment," Dr. Well submitted.

STUDENT WORLD

In an environment where many researchers prefer to thread a familiar path, Abel Charles has decided to chart unfamiliar territory. He is currently working on the *Immunophenotyping of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Patients with Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Super-infected Patients Undergoing Treatment in Port Harcourt*. Quite a mouthful you would agree, but this researcher is on a serious mission to help HIV patients battling with tuberculosis infection.

"The thrust of my research is basically to determine the immune cells of persons infected with HIV that present in health facilities within Port Harcourt and also to determine the same immune cells in patients that suffer from both HIV and tuberculosis infections," he told our Correspondent in a hastily convened interview.

Disclosing that his study concentrates on the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH) and the Braithwaite Memorial Specialist Hospital (BMSH), Port Harcourt, Charles noted that owing to the economic situation in the country and stigmatisation

Charles Champions Flow Cytometric Technique For Effective HIV Diagnosis

Abel Charles is a Postgraduate Student in the Department of Haematology, Blood Transfusion and Immunology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences. He spoke to Correspondent, ETHEL TIMI-JOHNSON, on his research interest:

associated with both diseases, infected persons tend to flood health facilities in the city centre, where they are guaranteed some measure of anonymity.

"This work looks at affordable, durable, sensitive means of diagnosing, monitoring and treating HIV patients on one hand, and also those infected with HIV and tuberculosis, using a technique known as Flow Cytometric," he disclosed, adding that the research interest was developed by his Supervisor, Professor Blessing Didia and coordinated by Professor Antonia Okengworo.

Submitting that the Flow Cytometric Technique using vacutainer tube and syringe is the most modern and safest method of retrieving blood from infected patients, Charles noted that the research proposes a situation in which the concentration solely on CD4 cells in determining the status of HIV patients or monitoring the progression of patients would be discontinued for the more reliable method being investigated by him.

"The research will also address the CD8 cells (a cluster of differentiation) that would reveal an individual's immune status because of the intertwinist relationship between both cells," he disclosed, adding that the research also proposes a situation in which the Flow Cytometers and reagents could be made readily available in many more health facilities, including those in the rural communities because of the special features of the equipment.

Regretting that health workers do not adhere to the World Health Organisation (WHO) standard for treating patients with resistant tuberculosis strains, Charles pointed out that the implication could be more resistant forms and eventual death of patient infected

by HIV and tuberculosis, recommending proper documentation for such co-infected patients.

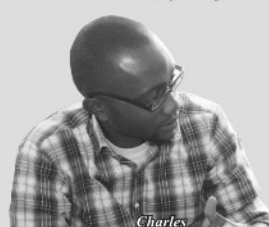
"Government should also make more drugs and reagents available, incentive extend working hours for health workers on such important schedules, including weekends, provide more machines (Flow Cytometers and Gensort) to aid diagnosis and treatment of both HIV and tuberculosis infection," he stated.

Advocating that the level of CD4 cells at which treatment is being instituted should also be reviewed to make it possible for people to be placed on treatment once diagnosed, Charles tasked government on the need to effectively supervise Community Health Extension Workers, whose primary responsibility it is to enlighten the populace on such ailments and the risks associated with the conditions, diagnosis, preventive methods and appropriate places to seek help.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Prof Ndowa E. S. Lale	- Publisher
Prof Ene Ekeke	- Editorial Chair
Dr. Austin Sado	- Editorial Adviser
Williamsa Wodi	- Editor
Obinna Nwodin	- Associate Editor
Correspondents	Secretariat
Mercy Adeniji	Glady Anedi (Nrs)
Chikor Samuel	Phelosaahy
Harigbala Nwagwu	Headman Aki
Ethel Timi-Johnson	Michelle Ekyor
	Grashis
	Chika King-James (Nrs)

Call: 08033093371



Charles

Again, Mgt Reaches Out To Student Leaders, Advises Against Provocative Utterances

Cont'd from Page 1

The Vice-Chancellor gave the advice during the latest consultative meeting between Management of the University and representatives of the students at the Vice-Chancellor's Committee Room, last Tuesday. The interaction was the latest in the series of meetings at various levels and fora, aimed at addressing all the contentious issues that resulted in the violent protest that took place on Monday, April 11, 2016, which resulted in the death of Mr. Peter Olorunmu and widespread destruction of public and private property.

Professor Lale said: "What we are looking for is peace; if we are trying to make progress, we do not keep propagating lies on the social media and other platforms to achieve pecuniary interests that are at variance with the overall good of the students and University. Any peace obtained on the basis of illegality and deception will not stand in the long run. We want to secure peace that will be sustained on the basis of fairness and firmness. I have always been open and transparent in all my dealings and I have reiterated that I have absolutely

nothing to hide. I want the students to trust me the same way I take them into confidence as my own children, who deserve the best learning environment. As matters stand, our students are the end-liners from this largely contrived crisis that has set us back. Your colleagues in other Universities are into their Second Semester, while some of them are coming here to instigate you to continue the agitation; mind you, they are not going to wait for you to catch up with them and there is also a stipulated period within which you can be recognised as bona fide students of this University by order of Senate."

The Vice-Chancellor commended the students for finally choosing the path of dialogue as opposed to unremitting media campaigns and violent protest, which he regretted had not advanced their stated cause, pointing out that peaceful engagement was the only way to resolve every conflict in the final analysis.

In his speech, Acting of the Dean of Student Affairs Department, Dr. Otu Ekpeyong, said that the meeting was convened to consolidate various peace moves that had been in progress in the aftermath of the students' protest, expressing delight that the students have finally

come to the realisation that there was a need to embrace dialogue that was devoid of external influences to move the University forward.

Earlier in his presentation, President of the suspended Students' Union Executive, Mr. Ephraim Anaeeme, told Management that following the April 11 protest, students have resolved to sue for peace and return normally to the University. Said he, "As students, we are bearing the brunt of the crisis and to ensure that peace returns to our University, we thought we should speak for ourselves and settle the differences with members of Management as our parents," adding that the delegation comprised representatives of all the stakeholders that made up the Students' Union. He said that after long and comprehensive deliberations, the students were able to reach an eleven-point demand, which if addressed would bring back peace to the system.

At the end of the meeting that lasted for over three hours, it was resolved that Management would take the issue of unbanning the Students' Union back to Senate for consideration. There would also be provision for payment of charges in two instalments by students that may be unable to pay up their charges at once. On the demand for the abolition of 'peculiar charges', the representatives agreed to take the consequences of conceding to the demand back to the general students' Congress to decide. On the demand that students should not be surcharged for the extensive damage to property, Management insisted that they would be held liable to pay as was the standard practice all over the world. On the issue of indefinite reopening of the registration portal, Management insisted that the demand has been nullified by its concession on phased payment of charges by affected students. On the demand for the immortalisation of late Peter Olorunmu, it was resolved that the students were at liberty to immortalise their fallen colleague at the Union's Secretariat in the University Park, while the issue of 'project defence fee' would be taken back to the various Faculties for re-negotiation to the satisfaction of the parties.



VEC Prof Lale (centre), Principal and other Senior Officers of the University listening to one of the Students' representative during the meeting

Skills Acquisition Centre To Tackle Unemployment In Narsity's Host Communities

By Humphrey Ogu

New Acting Director of the Centre for Sandwich and Skills Acquisition Programmes, Dr. Glory Amadi, has disclosed plans to mount vocational training programmes for youths to check unemployment and rising crime wave in the University's host communities during his tenure.

Amadi, who made the disclosure in a chat with a Correspondent of *UniPort Weekly* at the IPPR News Room on Tuesday, May 10, 2016, said that the Centre would consolidate the existing entrepreneurial activities of the University, adding: "Under my watch, the Centre will make significant contribution to the reduction of unemployment in the Niger Delta by training youths in requisite skills that would afford them a means of livelihood, with the stated aim of curbing restiveness and crime that are now the in-thing around us."

Conceding that there is paucity of funds in the University, Amadi, who is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, stated that the parlous situation would not deter his Centre from devising functional programmes to tackle unemployment amongst youths. "We cannot deny the fact that like every other agency, there is bound to be daunting challenges on the way and considering the enormity of the task ahead of us, the Centre will require adequate funding to achieve its core mandate. The funds we require to kick-start the skills acquisition programme may not necessarily come from the University, but we are determined to

start with what we already have on ground to achieve our objectives in this respect.

Dr. Amadi, who noted that there was a need to complement government's effort in creating employment opportunities for the youths, said: "I intend to massively explore and exploit opportunities within and outside the University by identifying and collaborating with government agencies, corporate bodies, public-spirited individuals and groups, intellectual and technical personnel to achieve my mandate," explaining that experts in different professions and vocations would be

contacted to serve as Resource Persons, while relevant facilities will be employed for the proposed training programmes. He recalled that in response to the high unemployment rate in the area, the University took a bold step in 2012, by establishing a Centre that trained youths from its host communities in various skills aimed at tackling unemployment and rising crime rate in the area.

"The Centre is expected to design short courses, as well as training programmes that would enable this category of people acquire basic skills that would engage them meaningfully and make them attain economic self-reliance, thereby reducing unemployment and its consequences in society," the Acting Director further disclosed, adding that the proposed training programmes would also be extended to staff of the University that may wish to improve their skills or acquire new ones that may be useful on retirement.

"The Centre hopes to mobilise resources to achieve the objectives for which it was established," Dr. Amadi told our Correspondent, disclosing that the Centre would also run Certificate, Sandwich and Preliminary programmes in the Institute of Education for interested clients.

STOP PRESS

Senate Yet To Set Resumption Date

Despite the information flying around, the Senate of the University of Port Harcourt is yet to decide on a suitable resumption date. Students of the University of Port Harcourt have, therefore, been advised to stay off the Campus until Senate meets to formally approve a date for the resumption of normal academic activities.

The revised academic calendar for the 2015/2016 Academic Session will be uploaded on the University's website and announced on the mass media when it is duly approved by the Senate of the University. Students, parents and other stakeholders have, therefore, been advised to discontinue an earlier news item on a radio station, stating that the University would resume on Monday, 23rd April, 2016.



Dr. Amadi

I Had A Wonderful Experience As Biochemistry HoD

By Mercy Adeniji

Immediate past Head of the Department of Biochemistry in the Faculty of Science, Professor Matthew Wegwu, has revealed that he had a wonderful and memorable experience working with staff and students of the Department in the past two years.

Professor Wegwu, who reviewed his performance in office said: "I worked with a group of students, who were so wonderful and totally cooperative with me that I wouldn't have wished for a better working environment, especially in the past two years. I am particularly grateful to the University of Port Harcourt Chapter of the National Association of Biochemistry Students (NABS) for the overwhelming show of love and cooperation it showed me while I was privileged to serve as Head of Department."

"Throughout my tenure as Head of Department, the Executive of NABS was great and I remain grateful to God and the entire student body for the very cordial working relationship that we had while I was in office. All through my tenure, the students were also well-behaved and always believed in the culture of dialogue in which they were trained in the Department. I believe that the violent protest that engulfed the University on April 11, 2016, would have been averted if the generality of students had behaved like students of the Department of Biochemistry and I mean what I am saying."

Speaking on research, the former Head of Department recalled that despite the paucity of funds, he stridently encouraged research and development under his watch, hoping that the trend would continue under his successor in office. "The Department was able to acquire some current basic analytical tools that are mandatory requirements for Undergraduate trainings. I wish we had enough funds to do more in this respect. I am, however, pleased to announce that we recorded so many promotions in the different cadres, which attested to the hard work by staff under my watch."

"On the side of students, we were also able to produce five First Class Graduates and over 90 Second Class (Upper) Degree holders for the 2014/2015 academic session. These achievements were some of our brightest moments in the Department under my leadership and my prayer is that we should improve on these impressive figures under my successor," he told our Correspondent.

Professor Wegwu, who doubles as the Director of Special Projects in the Vice-Chancellor's Office, disclosed that he faced many challenges in office; especially inadequate office and laboratory spaces, including the absence of cutting-edge equipment to conduct quality research that is the hallmark of Biochemistry students and their lecturers all over the world.

"I am not satisfied with the state of our laboratory and to remedy the situation, I had to visit Calabar 18 months ago from where I brought Amino Acid and Analyzer that was supposed to have lifted the state of our laboratory. I do deeply regret, however, that since then, we have not been able to put this important piece of equipment into use because we are yet to install it as I had originally envisaged. As I leave office, this critical equipment is still painfully lying waste in the Department. The irony here is that the equipment is so important to our research that we cannot afford to allow it rot away in its current state. I believe that if this Amino Acid and Analyzer is made functional, UniPort would become a major tourist attraction. If we are able to raise the funds for the experts to come down here to install this equipment, our staff and students would be glad because it would enhance our research."

"Again, apart from installing it, we also need to imbibe the standards for proper calibration, since these standards are currently not available in Nigeria. I would be the happiest person if this piece of equipment is finally put to use to bring us up to speed with other Biochemistry Departments in other parts of the world," the former HoD told our Correspondent.

Describing lack of office space and facilities for the Departmental Laboratory as some of the major challenges he faced while in office, Professor Wegwu disclosed that the Department received only interim accreditation status from the National Universities Commission in the last exercise largely on account of inadequate space. "We have so many Lecturers without offices; while other critical facilities were not available, including the inadequate size of our laboratory, considering the fact that we also service the College of Health Sciences, the Faculties of Science and Agriculture, respectively," he further explained. On his relationship with staff and students, Professor Wegwu described himself as a believer in team-work and collective decision-making process. "I believe that anyone



Prof. Wegwu

close to me is a king or a queen, no matter how little such a person may be; I believe there is something he or she can teach me in the performance of my duty. I have come to learn that if you are working with people, you don't have to suspect them; just give them a freeland and correct them when they make mistakes, and let your correction be redemptive, not destructive," he advised.

"I wish to passionately appeal to staff and students to give my successor, Dr. Charity Ogunka-Nnoka, the same support and cooperation they gave me in the performance of my duty schedule in the last two years. I also promise to always be on hand to give her all the support that she may require to ensure that her tenure turns out better than mine. In the final analysis, it is our hope that my successor would take the Department of Biochemistry to greater heights. I am ready and willing to help Dr. Ogunka-Nnoka succeed in her tough assignment and I wish her good luck as she settles down to work," Professor Wegwu promised.

We Are Committed To Mega Shopping Mall Project in UniPort

By Obinna Nwodin

As part of a move to give the University community a memorable shopping experience right here on Campus through a Public Private Partnership (PPP), the authorities of the Institution have restated their total commitment to the proposed construction of a Mega Shopping Mall by the supermarket chain giant, the Everyday Group.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ike, gave the assurance when he received a high-powered delegation from the shopping conglomerate and its financiers in his office, last Monday.

Professor Ike, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndaba Lale, expressed confidence in the successful execution of the multi-purpose project, saying: "We are totally committed to the realisation of

this project and we believe that the project is viable and will serve the shopping needs of the University community and other stakeholders when it is eventually completed and put to use. With the accumulated years of serving the needs of the shopping public in the wider society, it is our belief that the Everyday Group will speedily complete this important project and put it to use for the benefit of everybody." Professor Ike said, promising that the University would do whatever was required of it to accelerate the project timeline.

"The University is a whole town in its own right and with the nature of activities going on in and around it, there would be a huge patronage of businesses that would be located within the new complex once it is completed. We, therefore, hope and pray that work would commence on this very important project without further delay.

Timely completion of this strategic project will save us the time and energy invested by shoppers, who are currently compelled to brave the traffic to go into the city of Port Harcourt to purchase their daily needs," the Deputy Vice-Chancellor told his guests.

Also speaking, Head Credit of Stanbic-IBTC Bank, Mr. Benjamin Osho, who expressed satisfaction with what he saw on ground, said that the project had a promise of viability on completion. He promised that his bank would fully partner the Everyday Group to actualise the critical project.

Earlier in his remarks, Chief Executive Officer of Everyday Group, Dr. Charles Dimwabi, disclosed that his conglomerate was in the University with its financiers as part of efforts aimed at getting the project off the drawing board, adding that a project such as a mega shopping mall required proper clarifications that would enable the partners show total commitment to the project.

"This project is an opportunity that the Everyday Group would wish to harness to the fullest. At Everyday Group, we engage in serious businesses and partnerships that would be mutually beneficial. My presence here today is a clear indication of any Group's total commitment to this project that is very dear to our hearts and we are determined to make it a reality within the shortest possible timeframe," he promised the University community.

Speaking to *UniPort Weekly* after the meeting, Dr. Dimwabi said that the project which would be completed in twelve months, would take off as soon as the financiers were satisfied and ready to mobilise funds for the groundbreaking exercise. The business mogul further promised that when fully operational, the Mega Shopping Mall would give patrons a memorable shopping experience that would be comparable to the very best anywhere in the world.



Sitting from left: Archib. Enkoma, Chris. Nwagwu, Mrs. Dorcas Osho, Dr. Dimwabi, DVC (Admin), Prof. Ike, Mr. Osho, DVC (Acad), Prof. Hakeem Fawehinmi, Head (NABU) South-South, Mr. Ike, Mr. Michael Ana and others after the meeting.

My Tenure Witnessed Academic Excellence In AEB Dept ~Prof Nduka

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Immediate past Head of the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology (AEB), Professor Florence Nduka, has described her tenure as very rewarding with an outstanding record of academic excellence that is there for everybody to see.

Briefing a Correspondent of UniPort Weekly on her tenure, last Tuesday, Professor Nduka, disclosed that the Department graduated a total of 86 Bachelor's Degree Graduates in the 2015/2016 academic session with five of them emerging in the First Class category. The erstwhile HoD further said that six academics in the Department won scholarships and fellowships under her watch to broaden their worldview. "Mrs. Amaka Akpodiete won the Schlumberger Post-Doctoral Scholarship, while Miss Philomena Kika also won a Commonwealth Scholarship, both tenable in reputable institutions in the United Kingdom. Additionally, Drs. Ijeoma Akpu and Sydney Nzeakor, won the Intra-ACP Mobility Scheme to Ghana and Uganda, respectively," she disclosed. Professor Nduka, noted that her tenure vigorously encouraged staff motivation and mentorship which resulted in enhanced productivity, adding that another staff of the Department, Dr. Bolaji Babatunde, was appointed an Expert to the International Atomic Energy Agency and was also named as a *Google Scholar Scientist* from UniPort, while Dr. Aline Noutcha, won the Best Participant's Award in the Insect Neuroscience Course in Tanzania.

"I was able to identify the strengths of my staff and also create an enabling environment for them to express their abilities in and outside the University. We supported each other to ensure that mandates were properly executed in accordance with specified timelines. We ran an open and accessible administration that reawakened the urge for success amongst students and staff," Professor Nduka said, adding that she also initiated and sustained a well-partitioned Departmental Seminar Series that has been running for the sixth time with 12 papers already presented by staff in diverse specialisations.

Recalling that the highlight of her tenure was taking delivery of a state-of-the-art Departmental building donated to the University by a distinguished pioneer alumnus and former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, Professor Nduka expressed satisfaction that staff and students of the Department now have a conducive environment for quality learning and research. "It is on record that three Postgraduate students and two Doctoral Candidates from the Department have

submitted their thesis to compete for the National Universities Commission (NUC) Best Postgraduate Thesis for Nigerian Universities. For instance, Miss

Kika clinched a rare opportunity to be trained in Mozambique and Morocco on *Identification of Benthic Organisms, Using Modern Radiological Methods*," she stated, pointing out that the valuable experience she garnered from the two attachments has further enriched the Department.

Reiterating that her two-year tenure witnessed the fulfillment of the core mandate in teaching, learning and research, Professor Nduka noted that training programmes were mounted for final year and postgraduate students, including academic staff of the Department on presentation skills and professional ethics,

respectively.

"We also hosted training programmes for students from Niger Delta University, Bayelsa State and the University of Benin, Edo State," the immediate past Head of Department disclosed, soliciting a dedicated water supply facility and installation of laboratory equipment at the new Departmental complex to facilitate teaching and research.



Prof Nduka

Mgt Will Partner CASSON To Strengthen UniPort Counselling Unit ~Lale

By Obinna Nwodin

Authorities of the University have expressed their willingness to partner the Rivers State Chapter of the Counselling Association of Nigeria to improve service delivery to clients.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndawa Lale, who made the promise when he received the Executive Committee members of the Association in his office last Tuesday, assured them of Management's readiness to collaborate with CASSON to provide functional counselling services to those that may be in need of such intervention in a stressed environment.

Professor Lale, who described Counselling as very important in the success of any organisation, noted that the violent students' demonstration of April 11, 2016, needed some level of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Test to be conducted on both staff and students that were caught up in the ugly incident that brought negative attention to the University.

"The impact and effect of what happened on that grisly morning needed some level of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Tests to be conducted on us so that we can be sure of our levels of sanity and total well-being. I wish to encourage the CASSON to ensure that we have an environment in which the level of stress is reduced to the barest minimum to enable us retain our sanity. Coming shortly after the traumatic event that took all of us by surprise in terms of the magnitude of the violence that we experienced on this Campus, I can say that your visit is timely as you possess the requisite expertise to counsel us on post-crisis-coping mechanisms," the Vice-Chancellor told the delegation.

He advised the Association to present a proposal to Management on how to establish a vibrant Counselling Unit in the University to address the various emotional problems that staff and students encounter on daily basis as a direct result of the numerous stressors in their operational environment.



V-Ch Prof Lale (middle), flanked to his right by V-Ch (Admin) Prof Anthony Ibe and to his left by Chairperson, CASSON, Dr. Ugwu, other Principal Officers of the University and EXCO members of CASSON

Earlier in her address, Chairperson of the Association, Dr. Chimezie Ugwu, told the Vice-Chancellor that the Association was in his office to join other well-meaning individuals in congratulating him on his well-deserved appointment as 8th Vice-Chancellor of the University, as well as acquaint him with the activities of the Association. She said: "CASSON is a non-profit professional and educational body dedicated to the growth and enhancement of the Counselling profession in Nigeria. The aim is to render professional services to individuals and institutions that may have problems of indecision, confusion about existential situations and career choices that result in daily stressors in our environment. CASSON is also committed to the establishment of wellness and positive change in society," expressing a desire to partner authorities of the University to create a stress-free academic environment that would lead to psychological, mental and physical equilibrium amongst staff and students, including the general populace. Dr. Ugwu prayed God to equip the Vice-Chancellor and his Management team "with the wisdom and courage to set higher goals and accomplish your vision of building a

world-class University that we will all be proud of." She commended Professor Lale on the new direction the University was taking, encouraging him to be steadfast and do the right thing at all times, irrespective of the pressures he may face in the line of duty.

"We observed with keen interest, the remarkable commencement of lectures in the first week of resumption of academic activities in January this year. This is against the usual lackadaisical attitude of lecturers and students, who usually take more than three weeks to commence lectures after resumption normal academic activities," she noted, adding: "It is a sign of positive attitudinal change by students and lecturers, showcasing the new direction of a determined and visionary leader par excellence."

The Chairperson, who expressed confidence in the Vice-Chancellor's enduring zeal to continue to improve the quality of academics and staff welfare in the University, hoped that, "All these efforts will help to favourably place our graduates in an advantaged position in today's competitive job market and maximise their entrepreneurial skills for sustainable development."

Security Is Our Utmost Priority

Cont'd from Page 1

"We also need actionable information that would enable us take on cultists and other criminal elements that threaten law and orderly conduct in Rivers State, especially in the University vicinity. I am at the same time appealing to the conscience of our people to retrace their steps, even as they battle for relevance. In the final analysis, politicians will govern the people; if they kill all of them, who are they going to govern? Politics is about rendering quality service to the people, who will in turn appreciate politicians for their good deeds. Cultism and unbridled criminality have given a bad name to a once peaceful Rivers State

and that has regrettably resulted in some businesses relocating to other parts of the country," General Olanbiji observed, calling for concerted action to reverse the ugly trend. Earlier, the Vice-Chancellor had briefed the Commander on the heightened security threats faced by the University community, soliciting the assistance of the Nigerian Army in combating the threat. "When the civil agencies charged with the onerous responsibility of protecting lives and property become overstretched, we are compelled to fall back on the Military for support. I wish to express our gratitude for the support we received from your men in the past, but we are desirous of forging a more lasting partnership with you for us

to have an enabling environment to carry out our core mandate to society," Professor Ale told the Brigade Commander.

Regretting that things have changed quite dramatically from what was obtainable in Nigerian universities in the good old days, the Vice-Chancellor disclosed that some unruly students now own dangerous weapons with which they threaten and inflict harm on their colleagues, staff and other unsuspecting members of the society. "For instance, kidnapping has become very high around us; Professors and Non-Teaching Staff are prime targets of freely marauding gangs of kidnapers that unleash fear and terror on the University community. We need security around us to be able to continue doing our work and I hope that you would increase the visibility of your men in our location," the Vice-Chancellor pleaded with the Brigade Commander.

The Vice-Chancellor was accompanied on the visit by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Aliezi, University Librarian, Dr. Susan Umezor, Chief Security Officer, Lt. Col. Reginald Isiguro and Special Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Kingsley Wogwu.



V.C. Prof. Ale (arrowed), and Senior Officers of the University and 21 Brigade

We Are Committed To Successful ASAN-NIAS Confab In UniPort ~Mgt

By Mercy Adeniji and Williams Wodi

In preparation for the forthcoming Joint Annual Meeting of the Animal Science Association of Nigeria (ASAN) and the Nigerian Institute of Animal Science (NIAS), Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, Professor Ndowa Ale, has reiterated Management's commitment towards the successful hosting of the Conference to be held in the University this September.

Professor Ale, who gave the assurance when he received a delegation of the Association on a courtesy visit on Thursday, May 12, 2016, commended the Institute and Association for their show of solidarity for his administration, expressing gratitude to his professional colleagues for their commitment to the development of Animal Husbandry in particular and Agriculture in general.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, disclosed that "Rivers State is known for its hospitality and it cannot be otherwise, and we are very delighted that you chose to bring this important Conference to our University. We are happy that the man in charge as Vice-Chancellor is one of your own and he understands how to address your pressing needs within the limits of available resources."

Promising that Management would continue to support the study of Animal Science in the University, Professor Ibe called on ASAN and NIAS to support the Faculty of Agriculture develop to its full potential. He stated that Management would do all it can to give the Association all the support it would need to hold a successful Conference in the University.

Leading other members of the Association, the Institute and Local Organising Committee on the courtesy visit, President of the Nigerian Institute of Animal Science, Professor Israel Adu, revealed that the essence of the visit was two-pronged: To congratulate the Vice-Chancellor on his meritorious appointment to the exalted position and wish him well in office. He is the first Agricultural Scientist to become Vice-Chancellor of a top Second Generation university in this country and

we are extremely delighted at this development that has brought visibility to our profession. In the past, such an exalted position was usually occupied by academics from other disciplines.

"Secondly, we wish to acquaint the Vice-Chancellor with our forthcoming Annual Conference that will hold in this University this September. We have very few people in Agriculture that are Vice-Chancellors, so my colleagues and I decided to come down here to congratulate one of our own, who has been elevated to the position of Vice-Chancellor. No less than three Vice-Chancellors are expected grace the September Conference.

"The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt is part of us and we appreciate the University for the confidence reposed in our profession through this important appointment. We also commend our members in this University for convincing the Administration to accept the hosting rights of the Conference here. I wish to commend the quality of leadership displayed by our members in this University and I am very convinced that we will have a successful outing here," the National President said.

Professor Adu recalled that when he came on board, he decided to visit all Departments of Agriculture in the country to ascertain how they were faring in terms of

training and convince himself that they are meeting the mandate of the profession. "I am impressed by what I have seen on ground so far; our students are doing very well and making us proud," he said, appealing to Management to support the coming Conference in the area of transportation and accommodation, especially for members of the Association visiting Port Harcourt for the first time. He further commended the University for completing the new Faculty of Agriculture building and for impacting on the lives of the students.

Principal and Senior Officers of the University that accompanied the Deputy Vice-Chancellor to receive the joint delegation were the Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, Acting Director of Academic Planning Unit, Dr. Peter Kpolovie and SAVC, Mr. Kingsley Wogwu.

Other members of the ASAN and NIAS team were Acting Registrar of NIAS, Dr. Olabisi Akintofe, former President of ASAN, Mrs. Mope Omotoso, National Secretary ASAN, Dr. Tolulope Osoyansu, former Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Research and Development in UniPort, Professor Bene Willie Abhey, Professor Alex Mordi, Drs. Letora Akintola, Monica Ironkwe, Bisi Erel, Folasade Ajayi, Vivian Okoh, Messers Fitzgibbon Ekpo, Friday Osoyansu and Iyaku Nte.



Dr. C. (Admin), Prof. Ibe (arrowed), flanked to the right by Registrar, Mrs. Otto and Prof. Adu to the left and other members of the delegation

GUIDE POST

PART-TIME APPOINTMENT

Mr. Godwin Jacob, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted a one-year Part-Time Appointment as Principal Technologist in the Department of Pharmaceutical Technology, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, effective January 4, 2016 to January 3, 2017.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Professor Sylvanus Udoiem, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, granted one year Leave of Absence, effective October 2, 2016 to October 1, 2017, 2016.

REVIEW OF STATUS

Mr. Chinkanma Chimenem, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, elevated from Graduate Assistant Lecturer to Assistant Lecturer, effective September 30, 2015.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Dr. C.F. Igwe, Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted a one year Sabbatical Leave, to the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Nkpolu, Oroworukwo, Port Harcourt, effective April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017.

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT

Dr. Herbert Stanley, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, granted Confirmation of Appointment, effective November 8, 2007 to retirement age.

Mr. Ekene Ogbodo, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, granted Confirmation of Appointment, effective October 31, 2013 to retirement age.

Mr. Chizindu Esobinenwu, Department of Electrical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, granted Confirmation of Appointment, effective December 10, 2014 to retirement age.

Mr. John Idonije, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, granted Confirmation of Appointment, effective July 18, 2008 to retirement age.

Dr. Kenneth Yorkum, Department of Human Anatomy, College of Health Sciences, granted Confirmation of Appointment, effective October 3, 2014 to retirement age.

NAEE Calls For Economic Diversification, Condemns Subsidy

By Humphrey Ogu

Despite the renewed call for the retention of petroleum subsidy by some stakeholders aimed at fostering their pecuniary interest, the Nigerian Association for Energy Economics (NAEE) has submitted that the current low oil prices should be viewed as a golden opportunity for policymakers to diversify the Nigerian economy and do away with what the body described as the "gorilla" called subsidy. That was the position of NAEE in a Press Release signed by its President, Professor Wumi Iledare and made available to *UniPort Weekly*, following its recent meeting at the Federal Capital Territory. The Association called on the Federal Government and other stakeholders to consider diversification of the nation's economy, stating that "low oil prices offers Nigeria an opportunity to cut wastage in spending, set aside fiscal irresponsibility, reduce overdependence on oil and get rid of the bloated governance spending expenses."

The statement came on the heels of the 9th NAEE/International Association for Energy Economics International Conference with the theme: *Emerging Economies: The Role of Natural Gas and Renewal Energy*, held at the Sheraton Hotels and Towers, Abuja, from April 24 to 26, 2016.

"It should be borne in mind that petroleum resources are exhaustible. A barrel of oil equivalent produced now is no longer available for future generations. It is therefore imperative for



Prof Iledare

government to establish a foundation account or fund for development of non-exhaustible projects, including human capacity and infrastructural development," Iledare, who is also the *Chirote and Emmanuel Egbogah Distinguished Professor of Petroleum Economics and Director, Emerald Energy Institute in the University of Port Harcourt*, said in the statement.

"With the requisite political will, Nigeria needs to take advantage of the low global oil price regime, to allow the pump-price of petrol in the Nigerian petroleum products market determine the prevailing market clearing price, or adopt petroleum products export parity pricing mechanism to set price. This may facilitate bidding farewell to petroleum subsidies permanently in Nigeria, while offering a unique opportunity to deregulate the downstream oil and natural gas market," the statement further added.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
WEATHER OBSERVATORY
WEATHER FORECAST FOR PORT HARCOURT AND SURROUNDING AREAS
FOR SUNDAY MAY, 08 – SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2016.

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 15, MAY, 2016	33.0 25.0	68	SW	9.6	6:18 6:39	Isolated thunder storms predicted accompanied with a mostly cloudy day.
MONDAY, 16, MAY, 2016	31.0 25.0	81	SW	17.4	6:18 6:39	A few thunder storms expected in the day
TUESDAY 17, MAY, 2016	31.0 25.0	78	SW	7.8	6:18 6:39	A few thunder storms expected with a partly cloudy outlook.
WEDNESDAY 18, MAY, 2016	34.0 24.0	61	S	6.2	6:18 6:39	Thunder storms expected early with the rest of the day being cloudy. High chance of rainfall.
THURSDAY 19, MAY, 2016	34.0 24.0	59	SW	4.4	6:18 6:39	Thunder storms expected early. More clouds than sun predicted
FRIDAY 20, MAY, 2016	35.0 25.0	59	SSW	3.9	6:18 6:39	Widely scattered thunder storms. More clouds than sun expected
SATURDAY 21, MAY, 2016	34.0 25.0	64	S	7.1	6:18 6:39	A few thunder storms expected accompanied with a partly sunny outlook.

DR. V.F. WELI
AG. FOD
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY & ENV. MGT.

DR. PRINCE C. MMOM
AG. DIRECTOR,
(CDRMSDS).

2016 SIWES Orientation and Industrial Relations Day

The Student Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) Unit, organized the 2016 Orientation and Industrial Relations Day exercise for students from relevant faculties in the University on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at the Convocation Arena, University Park. Our Cameraman, **Mitchell Ekiyor-Ebi**, captured highpoints of the event as shown below:



Acting Director of SIWES Unit, Dr. Adedapo Aiyelaja, addressing the students



Port Harcourt Area Manager of the Industrial Training Fund (ITF), Mr. Emmanuel Isibou, giving his speech



SIWES Coordinators at the event



Participants at an exhibition stand



Various items produced by the students exhibited at the event



A cross-section of students at the Orientation



Students of the Departments of Theater and Film Studies and Music performing at the Orientation