

# UniPort Weekly

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## Onu Calls For Collaborative Research For National Dev

...As Cookey Malaria Chair Seeks More Support

**M**inister of Science and Technology, Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu, has called for linkages and research partnerships between universities and industries to ensure that every research carried out in Nigerian universities is applied by the industry for the benefit of society, reports Humphrey Ogu

More on p3



## Side Bar 132<sup>nd</sup> Inaugural Lecture Holds Thursday

Professor Augustine Uwakwe of the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science, delivers the 132<sup>nd</sup> Inaugural Lecture entitled: "Managing the Scourge of Sickle Cell Haemoglobinopathy: Which Way Forward?" on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2016. Time is 3:00 pm

Details next week.

~Editor

## Gov Wike Pledges Support For CMRAP On Malaria Research

By Obinna Nwodin

**T**he Rivers State Government has pledged to support the Centre for Malaria Research and Phytomedicine (CMRAP) in its determined bid to fight the malaria scourge which currently accounts for an estimated sixty percent hospital presentation in Nigeria.

Governor of the State, Barrister Nyesom Wike, made the pledge while declaring open the First International Malaria Colloquium which held at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, last Monday. Governor Wike recalled the

concerted efforts made by the Rivers State Government to control malaria, including distribution of Insecticide-Treated Nets (ITN), regretting that most people refuse to sleep in the net to protect themselves from malaria infection.

Represented by his Deputy, Dr. Ipalibo Harry Banigo, Governor Wike, commended the authorities of the University establishing the Centre and their foresight in collaborating with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to find a lasting solution to the malaria scourge, assuring the University and

More on p6



Meet New  
TETFund  
Desk  
Officer



Story  
on  
p2

Noutcha Unfolds Vision  
To Lift AEB



Story  
on  
p4

Nwaozuru Flags Partial  
Deregulation



Story  
on  
p5

Nte Heads  
MoA Breach  
Panel



Story  
on  
p7

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# Meet Ogbodo, New TETFund Desk Officer

**Determined to diligently access its statutory allocations from the very competitive Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) for capital projects, the University Management advertised for the position of a TETFund Desk Officer to serve that purpose. Editor, WILLIAMS WODI, introduces the new Desk Officer, Doris Ogbodo, who assumed duty last January:**

**D**oris Ogbodo looks fragile from a distance. Get a little closer and you begin to appreciate the personality profile of a thorough-bred professional, who is determined to execute her mandate with panache and by the book. By orientation, Architects are usually meticulous professionals who put their signature on anything they do in the line of duty and personal conduct.

Armed with the Bachelor's and Master of Science degrees from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Doris also holds membership of the Nigerian Branch of the prestigious United Kingdom-based Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. It is obvious that she came to her job fully made and prepared to give of her best to the profession.

The new TETFund Desk Officer, who commenced her professional career as Head of the Physical Planning Division at Delta State University, Abirika in 1999, is a Member of the Nigerian Institute of Architects, which conferred its Outstanding Service Award on her in 2005. Being chosen from over four thousand registered members of the Institute is ample testimony of the professional standing of Doris, who once served as Secretary to the Architects Investigating Panel, a Committee raised by the

Architects Registration Council of Nigeria (ARCON).

She served as the Head of the Rapporteurs at the 2016 Architects Colloquium which held at the Federal Capital Territory in April, 2016. Before she resigned her appointment from Delta State University in December, 2015, Ogbodo had risen to the rank of Chief Architect and Head of the Physical Planning Department of that University, including a stint as Head of the Project Monitoring Unit.

It is rare for a staff that has just assumed duty to be commended in writing by the Vice-Chancellor, but that was exactly the situation when Ogbodo received a "Letter of Commendation" on her impressive performance at the Abuja Colloquium. On her successful interview, Doris Ogbodo was appointed as one of the two new Deputy Directors in the Department of Physical Planning and Development (DPPD), with responsibility for TETFund projects.

Since she assumed office last January, the new Desk Officer has convened a meeting with Contractors handling TETFund projects. At the crucial meeting, Management of the University extracted commitment from the Contractors to keep to agreed timelines and also procure the services of Consultants to ensure that projects were executed to specification.



Ogbodo also developed operational modalities aimed at fine-tuning the way Contractors do their work in the University. The move was designed to ensure that stipulated timelines are no longer missed by Contractors, some of who blame poor performance in project execution on delayed payment for milestones attained, which in turn allows the University-facilitated access to funds allocated to it by the intervention agency.

## STUDENT WORLD



**E**ver since he came in contact with the complex machine known as the Computer, Oyinyeh Monye has remained totally consumed by its complexities and how to manage data in a more effective manner for the benefit of users. He has his eyes on *Query Reduction in Database*; the idea is to minimize query in database and log of code writing in requesting information on a given database. This is a puzzling area of inquiry that could keep the faint-hearted awake, but not the adventurous Monye, who spends sleepless nights to reduce the numerous queries arising from database application by users.

"Database is made up of tables and relations. My research is focused on reducing the codes, the processes involved and proffering solutions to them by tackling the problem of database

## Monye Seeks Reduction In Database Query

**Oyinyeh Monye's interest in Computer Science was ignited when he accompanied his father to training sessions and actually enrolled to decode the complex cyber world as he grew older. Now a Graduate Student in the Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science, Monye shared his fascination with the digital world with Correspondent, ETHEL TIMI-JOHNSON:**

optimization, physical database design and maintenance tasks," he explained, stressing that Programmers, Backend Users, Systems Security and Database Management Systems would greatly benefit from his research.

To achieve this mountainous feat, Monye decided to use a software known as *My Structured Query Language (MySQL)*, which is a structured query language that aids the reduction of Query in database. The approach focuses on Query Optimization and Physical Database Design, which include replication strategy, index selection, partitioning schema and materialized selection; maintenance tasks, data compression, update merging, buffer management and self-tuning. Disclosing that applications such as *Oracle* and *Sybase* could also be used to achieve the same result, Monye described *MySQL* as a generally accepted programme that is widely used in tackling the problem of Query Reduction in data application.

"The research proposes a simpler format for Programmers to query database and experts in this field would find it very useful as it has the capacity to simplify the retrieval of information from any database," Monye submitted, adding that the research is an advanced stage of his Undergraduate work on *Design and Implementation of a Local Government Administrative System*.

"My experience in the field motivated me to advance this line of research in Query Reduction

in database application. My intention is to ease the difficulty associated with retrieving information from the database and minimizing the level at which such Queries are issued to the database," he stated, pointing out that Information Communication Technology (ICT) cuts across all spheres of human endeavours.

Commending the efforts of Professor Enoch Nwachukwu, Drs. Prince Asagba and Chidebere Ogwu, for their valuable supervisory roles and mentorship, Monye said that Dr. Asagba especially motivates him as a seasoned Database Administrator and Software Engineer. Who knows; this new kid on the bloc could well turn out to become Nigeria's answer to America's Bill Gate and Steve Job. Watch out folks for Monye, as he strides the digital world like a cyber space warrior!

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# Onu Calls For Collaborative Research To Advance National Dev

Cont'd from Page 1

Speaking as Special Guest of Honour at the 1<sup>st</sup> Sylvanus J. S. Cooley Legacy Lecture and Book Presentation at the Ehimini Banjo Auditorium on Tuesday, May 17, 2016, the Minister, who presented the Book, *History and Society in Nigeria*, written by Professor Cooley himself, said: "There should be proper synergy between universities and industries in research that would lift the national economy. The Federal Ministry of Science and Technology has signed an agreement with the University of Abuja to establish the needed linkage between the academia and industry," promising to extend the collaboration to UniPort in due course.

Recounting his experience as a Lecturer in the Departments of Chemical Engineering, Onu said that Professor Cooley showed vision as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chancellor of the University. "He decided that Chemical Engineering should be established, even though he was from the Humanities. No nation can become great without paying close attention to technology. Other countries know this, but Nigeria is yet to realise this critical aspect of life that has lifted other nations. As Minister of Science and Technology, I have observed that one of the major weaknesses we face in this country is that research institutions, industries and universities are working quite independent of one another," the Minister lamented.

Welcoming guests to the event, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, disclosed that "the story of Professor Cooley and malaria studies in the University of Port Harcourt started in October 2013, when he endowed the Sylvanus J. S. Cooley Professorial Chair of Malaria Studies, which was inaugurated during the 2015 World Malaria Day observed in April of that year."

The Vice-Chancellor, who spoke through the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Administration, Professor Anthony Ibe, said: "I am pleased to inform our distinguished guests that this is the very first and only Chair dedicated to Malaria Studies in Nigeria. As a University of Port Harcourt, we are immensely grateful once again to Professor Cooley for this gesture. We will ever remain indebted to him for his immense contributions towards the development of the University."

Delivering the Lecture entitled, *Malaria: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*, a Consultant Physician at the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital, Professor Emmanuel Ezidinachi, noted that "Professor Sylvanus Cooley, as a historian recognised the significant history of Malaria as a disease of the poor. With this yesterday in perspective, he decided to tackle the today and tomorrow



Science and Tech. Minister, Dr. Onu holding microphone, flanked on the left by DVC (Admin) Prof. Ibe and Igwe Aschebe, on the right by Prof. Cooley, King Jaja and Sir Tobi, displaying copies of the book

of this dreadful disease.

"To enable research and foster better understanding of malaria by most people, he endowed the Malaria Chair, and the ultimate goal is to reduce ignorance, alleviate poverty and successfully combat/eradicate malaria through the collective efforts of the National Malaria Programme and the Stakeholders," Ezidinachi said, adding that "Malaria is a major public health problem in Nigeria where it accounts for more cases and deaths than any other country in the world. It is a risk for 97 per cent of Nigeria's population. The remaining three per cent of the population live in the malaria free highlands."

In his opening remarks, Chairman of the occasion, Igwe Nwaemeka Aschebe, the *Ohi of Onitsha*, recalled that his last visit to the University was two years ago when Professor Cooley marked his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. The royal father said: "Professor Cooley is worthy of celebration as a distinguished academic, administrator and philanthropist, and it is a thing of joy that he was able to put down his thoughts in writing for posterity. I call on very knowledgeable Nigerians to put down their experiences in book form for the benefit of society."

In her presentation, Chair Occupant of the Sylvanus J. S. Cooley Professor of Malaria Studies, Professor Omotayo Ebong, who said she was honoured to serve in that position, disclosed that "the focus of the Chair is to define the molecular epidemiology of plasmodium species present in Port Harcourt and in the Niger Delta region. This study is to make significant contributions to the clinical case

management of malaria in the country. The Chair plans to grow as it broadens its partnership with donors, the government, multilateral agencies, NGOs and affected communities."

Ebong, who was pioneer Director of the Centre for Malaria Research and Phytomedicine (CMRAP), said the Chair would like to develop functional partnerships with friends of Professor Cooley and other stakeholders by offering a unique opportunity to collaborate with the University in the project. "We are, therefore, inviting you to consider making a contribution of US\$10,000 towards the cost of research aimed at eliminating malaria in Nigeria," she added.

Individuals and corporate bodies that were on hand to boost the capacity of the Chair to tackle the malaria scourge included the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Niger Delta Exploration and Production and the University of Port Harcourt, amongst others.

Dignitaries that graced the star-studded event included former Deputy Governor of Rivers State, Sir Gabriel Tobi, *Amanyanabo of Opobo* and Chairman of the Rivers State Chapter of Traditional Rulers, King Dandison Jaja, while Director of CMRAP, Professor Chijioke Nwauche, commended guests and all those who contributed to the success of the First Legacy Lecture in honour of Professor Cooley.

# Woko Gets Kudos For ANAN Chairmanship

By Williams Wodi

Following his recent election as Chairman of the Rivers State Branch of the Association of National Accountants of Nigeria (ANAN), Dr. Boniface Woko has received a Congratulatory Letter from the Vice-Chancellor on his elevation to the exalted position. Describing the election as an eloquent testimony of his outstanding contributions to the Accounting profession, the Vice-Chancellor urged Dr. Woko to continue rendering quality service to the State and Nigeria at large. "I am convinced that you will also make the University very proud in carrying out this important assignment," the commendation letter read in part.

In another Congratulatory Letter that formally announced his appointment as State Chairman of ANAN, National Registrar and Chief Executive Officer of the Association, Dr. Sunday Ekune urged Dr. Woko "to be focused, transparent and adhere strictly to the ethics of the profession, while discharging your duties as Chairman of ANAN in Rivers State."

In his response, a visibly enthused Dr. Woko expressed gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor for recognising his modest achievements in the profession, promising to always engage in activities that would bring honour and



Dr. Woko

glory to the University of Port Harcourt. "I also wish to promise ANAN at the State and National levels of my total resolve to discharge my responsibility to the profession and fatherland," the new State Chairman told a UniPort Weekly Correspondent.

## STOP PRESS

## UDPS Form Out On Sale

The University Demonstration Primary School (UDPS), has announced its sale of form for the 2016/2017 academic session. A signed by the Headmaster Mr. Simcon Ewoache and available to UniPort Weekly, disclosed that the form could be purchased on-line on the payment of N2,000.00 in favour of University of Port Harcourt and N1,000 Teller to be paid into the UDPS Account No: 001528010315 at the U&C Micro-Finance Bank, Choba, UniPort.

The statement further disclosed that interview dates into the following classes are as follows: Kindergarten Classes: Monday, August 8, 2016; Primary Classes: Wednesday, August 10, 2016, while the time is 9:00am, each day. The statement further disclosed that eligible candidates must be between 3 years and 6 months for KG I, and 4 years and 6 months for KG II.

# Microbiology Dept Faired Well On My Watch ~Professor Odokuma

By Mercy Adeniji

**P**rofessor Lucky Odokuma is the immediate past Head of the Department of Microbiology in the Faculty of Science. On assumption of office, he set himself a target which he said was largely achieved with the assistance of his colleagues and various Committees he set up to facilitate the administrative processes during his tenure which ended early this May.

Recalling his experience, Professor Odokuma said: "This is my Second Missionary Journey as Head of Department of Microbiology. Between 2001 and 2003, I was appointed Acting Head of Department by the administration of the then Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nimi Briggs. I was a Senior Lecturer at the time and it was not so easy for me to do the job then. So this appointment by the administration of Professor Joseph Ajenika that spanned between 2014 and 2016, was actually my Second Missionary Journey on the seat.

"When compared with my first outing, there are a number of differences and experiences in the two periods. I would say that I had quite a number of senior colleagues and junior colleagues that I headed. It was not very easy to delegate duties to my senior colleagues at the time without taking their status into account, so, I found myself doing most of the jobs, because I also felt I required the experience in my career progression to the Professoriate. At the end of my first tenure, we were adjudged the best Department in the Faculty of Science by the then Dean, Professor Bosa Okoli, who was from a different Department," the erstwhile HoD told our Correspondent.

Professor Odokuma explained that the second appointment came to him "as a surprise, since there was a colleague in line to fill the position if the normal procedure was followed in the appointment. I, however, accepted the challenge. Happily, this second coming was not as difficult as my first stint on the job. The Department has grown in terms of staff and

student population, meaning that there is actually more work to be done today by any Head of Department," he said.

Speaking on his achievements, the former HoD revealed that when he assumed duty, he had to bring his experience to bear on the job to achieve the desired



Prof Odokuma

results. "This time, the first thing I did was to establish a number of Committees that were charged with responsibility for the attainment of some specific objectives. I made sure that our Departmental results were among the first to be approved at our Faculty Board Meetings, and I also ensured that graduate students completed and defended their work within the stipulated residency period in the Department. We also ensured that there were monthly Departmental Graduate Seminars to keep our colleagues, especially young academics on their toes," he disclosed.

Professor Odokuma added: "I made sure that Lecturers turned in their results for onward

transmission to the School of Graduate Studies. I can say with a sense of modesty that the Graduate programme in my Department enjoyed some form of transition during my tenure; there was a big change that was commended by the students themselves. For instance, Master's degree specialisation known as *Pathogenic Microbiology and Biotechnology*, which was not approved when it was originally proposed in 2004, was finally approved by the Graduate School Board and recommended to Senate for approval under my watch. I don't like scoring myself, but other people have given my tenure very high marks for which I am very grateful and satisfied," Odokuma said. On the challenges he faced while in office, the former HoD said: "For the Undergraduate programme, the Department was only able to secure an Interim Accreditation status during my tenure due largely to inadequacy of classrooms, staff offices and vital laboratory equipment for a typical Microbiology Department. For us to secure full accreditation status, I appeal to Management of the University to inject more funds into the Department to enable us purchase a number of critical equipment that would enable us compete with our colleagues elsewhere.

"On a personal note, I had a very good working relationship with my colleagues, non-teaching staff and students alike, because I ran an entirely open-door policy that was embraced by everybody. I also enjoyed a fraternal working relationship with my colleagues at all levels, although a few of them complained that I was too over-bearing in my approach. I apologise to such colleagues, but to also quickly add that I had to be fair and firm to ensure that we met our stated objectives in the line of duty," he stated, adding that "the success of the Department while I was in charge was for all staff and students, while any observed failure was strictly blamed on me. My passionate appeal to all staff and students of the Department is that they should give my successor, Dr. Abiye Ibene, all the necessary support and prayers he would need to take the Department to higher grounds. I pray that he surpasses my achievements in office."

## Noutcha, New HoD Unfolds Vision To Lift AEB

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

**N**ewly-appointed Acting Head of the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology in the Faculty of Science, Dr. Aline Noutcha, has disclosed that her tenure would operate on the tested principle of nurturing responsible citizens that would make meaningful contributions to national development.

Speaking during an interview with a UniPort Weekly Correspondent in her office last Wednesday, Dr. Noutcha explained that the principle of responsible citizenship emphasised that staff and students should know their rights, duties and obligations without waiting to be reminded, noting that responsible citizenship was predicated on what was measurable.

Commending the founding fathers of the University and Department of Animal and Environmental Biology for ensuring that academic staff acquired valuable leadership experience through rotation of headship strictly in order of seniority, the new Acting HoD expressed gratitude to the authorities of the University for her appointment to the exalted position, promising not to let them down in the discharge of her duties.

"My predecessors, especially the pioneer Head of Department, Emeritus Professor Samuel Okiwelu, laid a solid foundation for academic excellence and I have a duty to consolidate on the success story so far recorded here," she promised, adding that the Department had always secured full accreditation from the National Universities Commission. "Our graduates are doing very well in many walks of life, largely on account of the solid foundation we gave to them in the Department and we intend to continue in that hallowed tradition of turning out well-grounded graduates that would bring honour and glory to us as worthy ambassadors," Dr. Noutcha told our Correspondent.

"I am very happy to note that we are meeting our core mandate of teaching, research and community service as a Department. We would work towards taking our research findings from the shelves to the industry for the benefit of society. We study vertebrates such as birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals and fishes and the higher and lower invertebrates in all spheres. We also study Ecology, Genetics, Pest Management and Entertainment, amongst others. As a Vector Control expert, I want to ensure that at the end of my tenure, the host communities are empowered with the requisite knowledge to prevent the spread of vector-borne diseases such as malaria, filariasis, yellow fever," she stated.

"This is possible by teaching them how to identify and destroy breeding sites to safeguard the health of the people. This proposal is in addition to enhancing the interface between the Community and Department with the stated aim of creating awareness among young persons, who are interested in developing careers in Animal and Environmental Biology, particularly in Entomology," Dr. Noutcha said, hoping to achieve the feat with the collaboration of colleagues, students and participating host communities. She further stressed the need for the communities to benefit from the research work of academic staff and field experience of students from the Department.

Soliciting the support of Biology Laboratory and Insectary, the Acting Head of Department said the Laboratory was fundamental to community development. "Researchers have moved from morphological and cellular to molecular inquiry. The availability of a Molecular Laboratory would boost research activities in the Department and we also need Insectary, because we have to conduct research on the tripod of computer, the laboratory and field work. We need to generate data for inclusion in the World Wide Web to enable us produce graduates that can compete with the very best anywhere in the world," she noted.

"As the first expatriate to head the Department, I want to work towards internationalising the Department by establishing linkages with universities within and outside Nigeria. We do not want to limit the students, because the more contact they have with international institutions, the more quality research they would produce," Dr. Noutcha said, stressing the need to strengthen the Entomology Unit of the Department to boost Graduate and Undergraduate programmes in the subject area.



Dr. Noutcha

# Enjoyed Cordial Relationship With Everybody As HoD ~Dr. Emenike

By Mercy Adeniji

Immediate past Acting Head of the Department of Geography and Environmental Management in the Faculty of Social Sciences, Dr. Gladys Emenike, has expressed satisfaction over the peaceful and wonderful tenure she had while superintending over the affairs of the Department in the last two years. Speaking on her tenure which came to an end early this May, Dr. Emenike said: "My tenure was memorable and I had a cordial working relationship with all staff and students of the Department and Faculty. I was also very lucky to have worked with very supportive and hardworking academic and administrative staff to attain our collective objectives in the Department. I also had a successful and peaceful tenure which would not have been possible without the advice and support of my colleagues. I owe them the depth of my gratitude for the cooperation they extended to me while I was in charge."

The former Acting Head stated that her colleagues were excellent and ever ready to work with her even if it meant taking on more responsibilities and working extra hours to achieve the mandate of the Department on her watch. "I appreciate every one of them, especially the Professors and my other colleagues, who were always ready to assist and guide me with their valuable advice and a helping hand at critical moments," she disclosed in an interview with our Correspondent.

On research, Dr. Emenike disclosed that despite the paucity of funds, the Department still encouraged

academic staff to embark on high impact research in the various specialisations in Geography and Environmental Management, adding that deserving staff were also promoted as at when due as added motivation for enhanced productivity. The immediate past Acting HoD, who was a one-time Associate Dean of the Student Affairs Department, revealed that during her tenure, there was an increase in postgraduate admission and graduation. "The Department admitted 50 students at the Postgraduate Diploma level, 45 Master of Science and 50 PhD Candidates. This is the highest so far in the history of the Department, for which I am very pleased," she noted, adding that during her tenure, Undergraduate students also performed very well which resulted in the award of scholarships to some of them by various organisations.

On the challenges she faced in office, the former Acting HoD, said: "The Department has been facing some challenges that require immediate attention in view of the forthcoming accreditation exercise by the National Universities Commission. "As a team, we paid Management a visit to brief it on the forthcoming accreditation exercise; we requested for more equipment and facilities for the GIS Laboratory, Weather Station and Physical Geography Laboratory and it is our hope that before the accreditation team arrives in the University, most of the things we requested would be put in place to enable us secure full accreditation status in the Department," Dr. Emenike disclosed.

She expressed gratitude to Management, her

colleagues and other stakeholders, who worked very hard to make her tenure a memorable one. "As I steps aside to continue my job description as a Lecturer, I wish and pray for the success of my successor, Dr. Vincent Well, who I believe has the capacity to take the Department to greater heights. Dr. Well would always have my support and anything I can do to support him, I will readily do to ensure that the Department is taken to uncharted territory in the new dispensation," the immediate past Acting HoD told our Correspondent.



Dr. Emenike

# Partial Deregulation Will Not Solve Nigeria's Fuel Crisis ~Nwaozuzu

By Humphrey Ogu

Despite the justification of the new petroleum policy by the Federal Government and its backers, a Petroleum Economist in the University of Port Harcourt, Dr. Chijioke Nwaozuzu, has said that what policymakers refer to as deregulation of the downstream sector was a mere price increase that lacks the capacity to address the real issues.

Exchanging views with a *UniPort Weekly* Correspondent on Monday, May 16, 2016, Nwaozuzu, who is Deputy Director of Emerald Energy Institute, noted that deregulation on its own merit was not really a bad idea, "because it involves introduction of competition which tends to drive prices down from the medium to

long term. Any attempt to deregulate must, however, take all the peculiar characteristics of the products and the industry into account to arrive at an informed decision that would be beneficial to all Nigerians," he explained.

Nwaozuzu, who noted that certain factors have to be taken into consideration before frontally addressing the contentious issue of subsidy removal, said: "First of all, we must know that Nigerians are locked up in the petrol/diesel comparative market because there is no other viable option. Any disruption in supply will ground both economic activities and vehicular movement to almost a halt, leading to huge losses of man-hour that would result from consumers queuing for fuel in petrol stations.

"Secondly, the prices of petrol, diesel and even kerosene, when they are filtered to produce Aviation Turbine Kerosene, affect the prices of all transported goods and services. It, therefore, follows that any increase in their prices will directly affect the prices of all goods and services, as well as the transport cost of consumables," he pointed out.

Nwaozuzu stated that the demand for petroleum products was price inelastic, explaining that "if you increase the price of petrol or diesel, you will not produce a corresponding decrease in the quantity demanded or consumed. Similarly, a reduction in the pump price of petroleum will not produce a corresponding increase in the quantity demanded. The Federal Government appears to be capitalising on this third factor, and inexplicably leaving out the first and second factors that are also very important to the

general welfare needs of the common man.

"If we had built new refineries in addition to the existing capacity and refining our crude oil locally, we will not be talking about subsidy today. The current policy only addresses the effects of low capacity utilisation of existing refineries on the one hand, and non-construction of new refineries in the last 30 years, on the other hand," Dr. Nwaozuzu submitted, adding that the newest refinery in Nigeria, which is the Port Harcourt Refinery was established over 30 years ago without proper Turn Around Maintenance (TAM) as is the case in other climes.

"The root causes of our supply disruption, as well as solution, lies in adding another 850 barrels per day capacity that will take care of our self-sufficiency in refined products and still leave some products for export. Failure to address this root cause will continue to leave us with periodic supply disruptions with the attendant high fuel prices and long queues at filling stations. The logical extension is that such periodic disruptions will inevitably lead to a corresponding rise in the prices of goods and services, thereby, creating strains and burdens for ordinary citizens in spite of the purported removal of petroleum subsidy," he explained.

The Petroleum Economist noted that the combination of high cost of petrol and high foreign exchange rate between the naira and dollar can only result in high poverty index and its attendant social upheaval, which may begin sooner than expected, as 90 percent or more of the goods consumed in Nigeria are imported from other countries.



Dr. Nwaozuzu



# Gov Wike Pledges Support For CMRAP

Cont'd from Page 1

its partners of the State Government's total commitment to the health needs of the citizenry.

He disclosed that the Government has over the years made concerted efforts aimed at controlling and eradicating the menace of malaria through establishment of malaria control programmes, promising to sustain such efforts with input from the University and other stakeholders in the fight. "It is important to note that malaria is endemic in our society and the casualty rate on our people is high. I am glad that we are using this important platform to discuss what we can do to eradicate this scourge that has negative effects on our people," the Governor said, regretting that malaria placed a huge burden of economic and social burden on the citizenry.

The Governor, who described the malaria Colloquium as timely, promised the gathering that "Government shall continue to support and partner the University in its quest to secure good health for the citizens of the State," while congratulating the Centre for the successful hosting of the event. He expressed hope that participants would come up with viable proposals that would result in the accelerated eradication of malaria by the year 2020.

Also speaking, Chairman of the occasion and Rivers State Commissioner of Health, Dr. Theophilus Odagme, said that there was an urgent need to go beyond public institutions and involve the private sector in the fight against malaria, describing the battle against malaria as a collective one that should involve all stakeholders. Dr. Odagme promised that support from the State Government would be a continuous one,

stressing the need to collaborate with other Ministries, Departments, Agencies and Research Institutions to put malaria to flight from the country.

"We will continue to relate with you in all your activities here in the Centre and we need to collaborate with other Ministries and Agencies such as the Ministries of Education, Environment and Women Affairs to create synergy that would enable us win this important battle. These are key partners we must carry along to achieve our goals in the battle against malaria," the Commissioner said.

In his remarks, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, said that the "Centre was set up as a Malaria Research

stakeholders at the First International Colloquium on malaria in the University.

Earlier in his welcome speech, Director of the Centre and Dean of the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Professor Chijioke Nwauche, said that "the need to build human capacity in the diagnosis and effective management of malaria cannot be overemphasised given the new national focus on malaria elimination," assuring the gathering that the Colloquium would provide researchers and other stakeholders newer and more effective insights into current malaria research efforts in Nigeria and beyond.

An expert from the London School of Hygiene and

Tropical Medicine, Dr. Colin

Sutherland, delivered a

thought-provoking Keynote

Address at the well-attended

Colloquium with the theme:

*Applying Molecular*

*Techniques to Interventions in*

*Malaria Elimination in*

*Nigeria.* Highlights of the

event were the presentation

of the *Journal of Malaria*

*Research and Phytomedicine*

by Chairman of the Advisory

Board of the Centre and 5<sup>th</sup>

Vice-Chancellor of the

University, Emeritus

Professor Nimi Briggs, as

well as goodwill messages

from representatives of the Acting Managing Director of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Dr. George, Coordinator of the National Malaria Elimination Programme, Mr. Obot Timothy and Chief Medical Director of the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), Dr. Charles Tobin-West. Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Christie Mato and Dean of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences of the University of Ibadan, Professor Chinedu Babalola, also delivered goodwill messages at the event, while Professor Catherine Falade of the University of Ibadan reviewed the *Journal*.



From L-R: Director CMRAP, Prof Nwauche, 5th Vice Chancellor Emeritus Prof Briggs, Chairman of the occasion, Dr. Odagme, DV-C (Admin), Prof. Lale, Former Dean, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Prof Oleka Udeala, Journal Reviewer, Prof Folade, Pioneer Director CMRAP, Prof. Ibong and others

Laboratory in 2001 with a mandate to identify and clinically evaluate potential anti-malarial components from the Nigerian Phytomedicine compendium, in addition to building capacity in malaria research and training, drug trials and screening."

Represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, Professor Lale disclosed that "since its inception, the Centre has been able to draw attention to the burden of malaria with targeted activities highlighting the current state of research in malaria, locally and around the world," expressing delight over the participation of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and other

## UniPort ANUPA Pledges Quality Service Delivery Through Continuous Training

By Obinna Nwodin

In a bid to build the capacity of administrative staff for enhanced service delivery, the University of Port Harcourt Branch of the Association of Nigerian University Professional Administrators (ANUPA), has resolved to live up to its mandate through a flurry of targeted activities that would benefit its members.

This was the outcome of a Meeting of the Executive Committee of ANUPA, which was convened by the Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, on Wednesday, May 10, 2016 to deliberate on issues bordering on operational structure of the Association. The Meeting further deliberated on the vision and mandate of ANUPA in the University, its current status and the way forward in the scheme of things, resolving to accelerate programmes aimed at keeping staff abreast of current trends in administration.

Addressing the ANUPA Branch Executive, Mrs. Otto stated that "as the training arm of the Committee of Registrars of Nigerian Universities (CORN), the Association is expected to play a very important role in enhancing productivity and service delivery through regular training programmes that would sharpen the skills of staff to give of their very best to system, stressing the importance of repositioning the UniPort Branch of ANUPA to achieve the original mandate for which it was established.

She charged members of the Executive to utilise their individual and collective pool of experience to build a strong and viable administrative arm to serve the University better. Regretting that some of the best hands were preparing to retire from the system, the Registrar stressed the need to improve the quality of staff output, adding that as administrators, ANUPA members were in a unique position to play a major role



Mrs. Otto, Registrar



Mr. Wabali, UniPort ANUPA Chair

in the overall development of the University. Responding, Chairman of the Association, Mr. Roland Wabali, assured the Registrar of the resolve of the Executive to reposition the Association to discharge its mandate in a more effective manner. "We promise to go back to the drawing board and you can expect a more vibrant ANUPA in the University under my watch. We will give quality leadership that would result in more training programmes that would prepare our members

for enhanced service delivery all stakeholders in the affairs of the University," Mr. Wabali assured the Registrar. He promised that there would, henceforth, be frequent meetings and training sessions for members—especially younger administrators in dire need of new skills and mentorship to discharge their duties in a more effective manner.

## GUIDE POST

## APPOINTMENT

**Dr. Olaniyi Olopade**, Department of Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, appointed *Acting Head of Department*. The appointment, which is for two years, takes effect from May 28, 2016 to May 27, 2018.

**Professor Wellington Wotogbe-Weneka**, Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, appointed *Head of Department*. The appointment is for two years, effective May 21, 2016 to May 20, 2018.

**Dr. Chikwendu Ubani**, Department of Petroleum Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, appointed *Assistant Director, Centre for Petroleum Research and Training*. The appointment which takes immediate effect is for two years and will terminate on May 12, 2018.

## SABBATICAL LEAVE

**Professor Ovikomaba Obunge**, Department of Medical Microbiology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, granted *Sabbatical Leave* to the College of Medical Sciences, Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt, effective May 13, 2016 to May 12, 2017.

## SABBATICAL LEAVE

**Mrs. Esther Joe**, Faculty of Law, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment as Lecturer I*, effective March 19, 2016 to March 18, 2017.

## HIGHER DEGREE

**Dr. Chika Onu**, Department of Theatre and Film Studies, Faculty of Humanities, awarded Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Degree in Theatre and Film Studies (Film Studies/Media Arts), effective July 30, 2014.

## CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT

**Dr. Modupeoluwa Soroye**, Department of Preventive Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, College of Health Sciences, granted *Confirmation of Appointment*, effective October 8, 2014.

**Mr. Humphrey Ndubuisi Benneth**, Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, granted *Confirmation of Appointment*, effective March 14, 2015.

## TERMINATION OF APPOINTMENT

**Miss Patience Wali**, Junior Staff Office, had her appointment Terminated. Effective May 11, 2016.

## POSTINGS

The following staff have been posted as indicated below with effect from the date stated below:

S/N	Name	Designation	Present Dept/ Unit	New Dept/Unit	Effective Date of Posting
1.	Piriho Andrew UPH/2011/4674	Head Driver	General Studies	Vice-Chancellor's Office	19/05/2016
2.	Aghobu Stanley UPH/2014/4166	Head Driver	IPPR	General Studies	19/05/2016
3.	Ozurumba Bright UPH/2011/4231	Head Driver	Establishment	Quality Assurance & Quality Control	19/05/2016

## Nte Heads Panel On MoA Breach

By Mercy Adeniji

**D**irector of the Centre for Research Management and Development (CEREMAD), Professor Alice Nte, has been appointed Chairman of the Panel to investigate an alleged breach of Memorandum of Agreement between Global Maritime West Africa/Society of Underwater Technology and the Institute of Petroleum Studies, on the establishment of the Offshore Technology Institute in the University of Port Harcourt. The appointment which takes immediate effect is until the completion of the assignment of the Panel.

Other members of the Panel include: Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Christie Mato, Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Professor Regina Ogali, Executive Director



Nte

of the University of Port Harcourt Foundation, Professor Henry Alapiki, Acting Director of Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit, Dr. Ikechukwu Agbagwa, Deputy Registrar (Legal Unit), Mr. Eric Abonemi, Director of Internal Audit Unit, Mr. Edwin Harcourt and a representative of the Bursar, while Miss Grace Monday would serve as Secretary to the Committee.

According to the letters of appointment, the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Panel include to determine the implementation status of the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the collaborating parties; to identify the alleged breaches in the implementation of the MoA; to determine the immediate and remote causes of the alleged breaches, as well as to make appropriate recommendations that would help Management to make informed decisions on the issue. The Panel is expected to submit its report to the Vice-Chancellor within four weeks from the date of its first sitting.

Following the constitution of the Panel, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, expressed gratitude to members of the Panel for accepting to serve the University on such an important assignment.

STOP PRESS

## SUBMISSION OF STAFF BVN

**A**uthorities of the University have requested staff to submit their Bank Verification Numbers (BVN) by completing the Online BVN Collection Form on or before Tuesday, May 24, 2016. A statement signed on behalf of the Registrar by the Director in charge of Personnel Affairs, Dr. Dakoru Charles-Granville, directed all staff to access the form through the URL address at: [www.bvn.uniportdatacenter.net](http://www.bvn.uniportdatacenter.net), adding that any staff whose BVN was not made available within the stipulated deadline will not be paid salary for the month of May, 2017.

### COMMISSIONING OF NLNG ENGINEERING LAB

**T**he NLNG Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals (CGRP) building was commissioned on Friday April 1, 2016 by Rivers State Governor, Chief Ezeunwo Nyesom Wike, who was represented by his Deputy, Dr. Ipalibo Harry Banigo. The epoch-making event attracted Captains of Industry and Public Officials. Below are highlights of the events as captured by our Cameraman, **Headman Alu:**



Managing Director NLNG, Babs Omotowa welcoming Deputy Governor, Dr. Harry-Banigo to the event



V-C, Prof Ndawa Lale welcoming Dr. Harry-Banigo with Mr. Omotowa watches with admiration



From R-L: Dr. Harry-Banigo, Mr. Omotowa, V-C, Prof Ndawa Lale and a guest rise for Anthems



DVC (Admin) Prof Anthony Ibe, 5\* V-C, Emeritus Prof Nimi Briggs, and Dr. Kado Eresia-Eke



A cross-section of guests (foreground, former V-C, Prof Joseph Ajenka)



Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Prof Maureen Etchu speaking at the event



R-L: Eda Commissioner, Prof Kaniye Ekeku, V-C, Prof Lale (standing), Dr. Harry-Banigo and Mr. Omotowa



Guests inspecting laboratory refining equipment



The Deputy Governor cutting the tape to commission the project



One of the facilities commissioned



An official of the Centre explaining a point to the dignitaries



Dr. Harry-Banigo receiving a plaque on behalf of Governor Wike



Group photograph with dignitaries after the event