

# UniPort Weekly

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## NPSA CONFAB Ibe Tasks Political Scientists On National Development

**A**cting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Anthony Ibe, has challenged Political Scientists on the need to evolve strategies that would help overcome the developmental challenges facing the country in a democratic dispensation, reports *Obinna Nwodin*.

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## Side Bar OSC Public Lecture

The Anglican Archbishop of the Jos Ecclesiastical Province, His Grace, Most Rev (Dr.) Benjamin Kwashi delivered the Maiden Public Lecture of Our Saviour Chapel (OSC) on Friday, July 1, 2016. Details Next Week  
~Editor

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## Lale Resumes Work As V-C, As FG Dissolves UniPort Council

By Otokor Samuel and Humphrey Ogu

**I**t was a triumphant entry into the Senate Building last Friday morning as the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, returned to work at exactly 9:00 am, amidst unrestrained jubilation by the University community.

The Vice-Chancellor's triumphant return followed four agonising weeks of suspension from office by the Governing Council of the University at its 157<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on Monday, June 6, 2016.

Addressing the staff in an extempore speech which lasted less than two minutes at his official car park under the Senate Building, Professor Lale commended staff and other members of the University community for their manifest show of concern during the period of interregnum that almost grounded the University. "Today is not a speech-making day. My greatest joy is to come back to the office and continue the job which I applied for to place the University on sound pedestal to enable it compete among the best universities in the world. That was my vision when I came to become

Vice-Chancellor," Professor Lale said.

He charged the staff to return to their duty posts and join him to move the University forward,

reiterating his commitment to deploy all necessary measures to take the University to higher grounds.

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# UniPort Prepared Me For C'wealth Games Job ~Labi

By Humphrey Ogu

A student in the Department of Gas Engineering, Francis Labi, has attributed his selection and success in the University Internship Programme (eQUIP) of the Commonwealth Games Federation to the quality training he received from the University of Port Harcourt.

Exchanging views with a UniPort Weekly Correspondent last Monday, Labi, who is currently serving as an Administrative Officer in the Commonwealth Games Association Office in Lagos said: "UniPort gave me the exposure which prepared me for the present position that I am holding. I served as Publicity Secretary and General Secretary of the Nigeria Fellowship of Evangelical Students (NIFES) and also occupied similar positions at the sub-zonal level of the Fellowship. My experiences in those important positions helped me immensely in terms of administrative experience in my job description. "As a student, I have always been interested in entrepreneurship and I invested quite a lot of time and money in updating myself in website development and other ICT skills. I must admit

that I also made some money in the process. The entrepreneurial vision of the University gave me an enabling environment to pursue my passion in ICT, despite studying Gas Engineering. When the opportunity came for me to apply for this Internship programme, I was very confident and was the only applicant selected amongst other students, most of whom were in Computer Science," he said.

Labi, who underwent training at the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC) in Johannesburg last April, disclosed that he was currently carrying out four projects, including website development, community development programmes at Ikata Community in Ahoada East LGA, a football competition for under-16 students from eight teams in Lagos, entrepreneurship and skills acquisition programme for students in UniPort, amongst others.

Expressing gratitude to the Commonwealth Games Federation, Regional Manager for Africa, Ellen Barwise and Secretary-General of the Nigerian Olympic Committee (NOC), Tunde Popoola for their support so far, Labi said he was using the attractive UniPort brand to enhance the

profile of the Commonwealth Games Association and bring honour to the University.



Labi

## Self-Funded Project Initiative

### Dean, Ejele, Others Shower Encomiums On LCS HoD

By Otiakor Samuel

Speaker after speaker took turns to shower encomiums on the Acting Head of the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Dr. Baridisi Isaac, whose six months in office had already resulted in the completion of six milestone self-help projects that were commissioned on Friday, June 24, 2016.

The speakers, including new Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor Femi Shaka, a senior academic in the Department, Professor Philomena Ejele, who had just returned from her Sabbatical Leave and secondment as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the Federal University, Omuo, Bayelsa State and other friends of the Department, were unanimous in their verdict that the level of transformation by Dr. Isaac as Acting Head of Department was unprecedented in the annals of the University.

Professor Shaka, who showered praises on Dr. Isaac for conceiving such lofty self-help projects and implementing them without depending on allocations from the University, expressed bewilderment at the speed with which he delivered such quality projects to the Department.

"I am very proud of the achievements of the Acting HoD, especially knowing that we are working with very lean resources. I am surprised by the development, but I am happy that I began my Deanship with the commissioning of projects in the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies. I am going to learn what you are doing here and also hope that other Departments would emulate the good example of LCS," the Dean said.

In her own remarks, Professor Ejele said: "What Dr. Isaac has done in a flash is raising the bar in the Department. He has deployed the public-private partnership model to ensure the completion and delivery of these projects

without belabouring anybody in the Department and he deserves to be commended for this initiative. I want to encourage him to continue along this line and I also wish to thank parents and other stakeholders, especially one of our parents, Mr. Lucky Mbekwen, for keying into the initiative, despite the misconception about a strained relationship between lecturers and their students in this University."

Also speaking, UniPort Branch Chairman of the Academic Staff Union of Universities, Dr. Austen Sada, who expressed commitment to the vision of the Department declared: "I am glad to be associated with what the Department is doing under the able leadership of Dr. Isaac. I have unofficially made a motion that no one should be HoD until Dr. Isaac is fired of the job, because I have not seen the kind of development that is taking place since my arrival here. You only join the winning team and I am happy with the students for buying into the idea. What the Acting HoD has achieved so far is certain to give him more work and visibility."

In the days preceding the commissioning ceremony, visitors to the Department wondered where the Acting HoD got the magic wand that enabled him to achieve so much within such a short timeframe of his assumption of office, especially in the prevailing economic climate.

In his response during the ceremony which held at the Conference Room of the Department, Dr. Isaac, who listed

the provision of intercom facility, purchase of eight refrigerators, 40 plastic chairs, state-of-the-art printers and accessories, renovation of the reception hall and construction of more office spaces as projects executed under his watch, disclosed that he reached out to some parents and students that assisted him to achieve the feat. The Acting Head of Department said that the provision of intercom for all the offices and staff of the Department gulped about N500,000, revealing that the project was done in partnership with a parent, Mr. Mbekwen.

"There was an open space between our two blocks and I consulted the leadership of the Linguistics and Communication Studies Association (LINCUMSSA) to partner us in converting that space into offices. They received approval from their colleagues and raised part of the fund from their check-off dues. That was how we created office spaces for the Departmental Graduate Studies programme, Non-NUC programmes and LINCUMSSA Secretariat," he explained, adding that the eight refrigerators were provided in partnership with the University, while forty plastic chairs were purchased in collaboration with graduate students.

"I want to thank my colleagues and students of the Department for the cooperation I enjoyed from them since my assumption of office. We are like a family where you will not even know the difference between the academic, non-teaching and radio staff. Just before we concluded the First Semester after the unfortunate event that put academic activities on hold, we thought of the need to gather, reflect on the past and large ahead. We need to take off on a joyous mood as a united family and that was exactly what this ceremony was about, and from now on, we expect many good things to come our way," Dr. Isaac promised his colleagues.

Others who spoke at the ceremony included Dr. Godly Oti of the Department of Economics, Mr. Job Burghara of Registry Department, Mr. Mbekwen and President of the Students' Union, Ephraim Inno-Anasemeje.



Dean, Humanities, Prof Shaka unveiling the refrigerators, while Ag. HoD, LCS, Dr. Isaac and others watch in admiration. Inset: Dean using the new intercom facilities and the new Reception hall

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# The Tasks Political Scientists On National development

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Professor Ibe gave the charge while declaring open the 30<sup>th</sup> annual National Conference of the Nigeria Political Science Association (NPSA), with the theme: *Elections, Security Challenges and African Development*, at the Ebunike Sanjo Auditorium on Thursday, June 23, 2016.

Represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, the Acting Vice-Chancellor decried the direction in which the country was heading at a time when other nations were moving forward in a competitive global setting. "With the array of professionals, researchers and sundry stakeholders with common interest participating in this important Conference, it is our hope and desire that the gathering would expand the frontiers of knowledge, especially with efforts aimed at managing security challenges that usually mar elections and undermine development efforts in most parts of Africa," he said, adding that Nigerian Political Scientists were in a good position to help the nation overcome the country's developmental challenges through research and enlightenment programmes.

"As a nation, our journey to improved socio-political and economic advancement would depend so much on committed scholars like you who have moral and professional obligations to proffer functional solutions to some of the problems I have outlined above," he said. Professor Ibe, who congratulated the Department of Political and Administrative Studies and the Faculty of Social Sciences for attracting the Conference to the University, stated that the gathering offered the Political Science community a rare opportunity to share ideas and research findings with colleagues and make appropriate



Dr. C (Academic), Prof Fawehinmi (6' left) flanked by Lead Paper presenter, Prof Ibrahim, some Principal and Senior Officers and other participants

recommendations that would result in free and fair elections that are necessary ingredients for security and national development, including the deepening of democratic practices in Nigeria and the rest of Africa. Presenting a lead paper, Professor Ayo Duamoye, stressed the need for political scientists to evolve ideas that would help achieve national development, pointing out that the challenges of elections and security were a manifestation of lack of ideology by political actors.

In a goodwill message, Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Professor Mahmud Yakubu, represented by a National Commissioner in the Commission, Professor Anthony Simbine, described the theme of the Conference as apt, considering the challenges faced by the Commission with regards to rerun elections since the end of last year. The INEC Chairman pointed out that "elections in the country have provided incentives for conflict, insecurity and ultimately underdevelopment."

Earlier in his welcome address, National President of NPSA, Professor Shuaibu Ibrahim, said that the Association must challenge vices such as corruption, xenophobia, ethnicity, religious crisis and *sit-tightism*, amongst others, adding that it was important for Political

Scientists to devote time to the service of their fatherland by proffering solutions to the complexity of problems that militate against proper nationhood.

"The Nigerian nation today needs the input of Political Scientists more than ever before, the Boko Haram insurgency, separatist movements in the South East and militancy in the Niger Delta, general socio-economic hardship in the land, inability of many states to pay the salaries of their workers and the anti-corruption war, are some of the major problems facing the country today," he stated.

Other goodwill messages were delivered by the Director-General of the Nigeria Institute of Legislative Studies, Dr. Ladi Hamulai, represented by Dr. Shola Omonole, Director-General of the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, Professor Obita Osita, Pro-Chancellor of the University of Ibadan and Chairman of Pro-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities, Professor Kinshe Okoko, including the Rector of Federal Polytechnic, Oke, Anambra State, Professor Godwin Onu.

The two-day Conference attracted Political Scientists, other eminent scholars and Civil Society groups from all over the country.

## Scrapping Post-UTME Won't Help Standards In Nigerian Varsities ~Ibe

By Humphrey Ogu

The decision by the Federal Government to scrap the Post-Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (PUTME) was not in the best interest of the Nigerian university system. When everything is considered, written aptitude test remains the best means of selecting prospective candidates for admission into universities as a best global practice.

Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Anthony Ibe, made the observation while briefing a delegation of the National Association of Nigerian Students that was in the University to monitor compliance of the latest government directive on the PUTME policy, last Tuesday.

Professor Ibe, who recalled that the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) was introduced to save prospective candidates the cost of writing entrance examinations in different universities as was the case in the mid-1970s, described the PUTME, especially the Computer-Based Test (CBT) as a very credible quality

assurance procedure for screening prospective candidates seeking admission into tertiary institutions in the country.

"For instance, over 27,000 candidates applied to study in the University of Port Harcourt this year alone, and the University can admit only about 7,000 of these applicants. The most credible means of screening them is through some form of written test or examination to determine their suitability as genuine academic materials. Oral evaluation could be affected by certain unforeseen factors that may compromise the process," he pointed out, further disclosing that three senior officials of the University, were dispatched to Abuja last week to seek proper interpretation of government's stand on the issue of PUTME.

They had since returned and briefed Management on their findings, based on which appropriate decisions would be taken on the issue that would reflect the interest of prospective candidates and the quality benchmarks set for admission of applicants to the University.

Describing UniPort as a law-abiding institution, the

Acting Vice-Chancellor told the NANS delegation that the University would abide by the final decision of the Federal Government on the issue. "For instance, when the National Universities Commission directed that universities should admit only 20 per cent of the total number of students on their Full-Time programmes into their Part-Time programmes, the University promptly complied with the directive, not minding the fact that Part-Time programmes were Non-UNC money spinners for the University," Professor Ibe disclosed, urging the NANS delegation to always make the best use of their time and give a good account of themselves as leaders of tomorrow.

"It would have been better if the Federal Government had addressed the cost of conducting examinations such as the PUTME. JAMB could afford to charge just N2, 500.00 per candidate to conduct the examinations and still make profit, rather than charging N4, 500.00.00. The universities would have correspondingly come down to charge N1, 500.00," Professor Ibe explained, adding that judging by the way events were unfolding, admission into Nigerian universities would increasingly become the exclusive preserve of the rich ones in society in the very near future.

Introducing members of 'NANS Committee on No-PUTME' to Management earlier, Chairman of the Committee and former President of the Students' Union of the University of Port Harcourt, Mr. Rhino Oduke, described universities in Rivers State as law-abiding, assuring Management of the cooperation of his Committee to ensure the implementation of government's policy on PUTME. On his part, Secretary to the Committee, Mr. Gideon Obande, commended what he described as the high standard of education in UniPort, recounting how he scored 265 in UTME conducted in 2003, but failed to secure admission into the Department of Petroleum Engineering. "I know that this University has passed through tough times in the recent past, but we are very hopeful that it will soon bounce back with the cooperation of all stakeholders. This meeting is, therefore, not a confrontational one, but part of ongoing consultation processes aimed at consolidating the existing peace in the University."



Dr. V.C. Prof. Ibe (7' left) flanked by Dr. C (Academic), Prof Fawehinmi (left), Rector, Mr. Vlasto Allet, CEO, Mr. Reginald Digozo (right) and the NANS delegation

# Elechi Amadi: Nature's Marble Of Great Sculpture

By Williams Wodi

For it is not right that in the house  
of songs there should be mourning.  
SAPPHO, Greek Poet

Death is an eschatological reality of life that banishes joy and decrees sorrow when it strikes! This last act has crowned the solemn play in slow movements that mimic the measured and episodic stanzas of a great life that has just vanished into the distant horizon. Oh yes! Death has grossly exaggerated its sting by sacrificing the craftsman, exerted a huge price from the literary community and laid an ancestral homestead desolate. We are all orphaned when a man of considerable talent bows out unceremoniously.

Friedrich von Schiller was right on the mark: when nature conquers, art must then give way. What manner of an abrupt epilogue that rudely awakens us to a new horizon of dark clouds? The melancholy of a famed town crier? What earthquake and eclipse of the sun, moon and star combined? This sad dirge unnerves a nation and thumps at the heart for answers that are in the bowels of inscrutable gods.

Who invented formalin and for what purpose? The uncensored picture of a great literary warrior clad in formalin and lying motionless most graphically speaks far more than a thousand book volumes encased in the greatest libraries of the world. Cruel death! Celebrate your invidious triumphalism in the desecrated homestead. Life is fiction and fiction is a simulacrum of life in a specific context.

Act One: On a grisly evening in the rustic and sleepy village of Mbodo in Alun, an old man had just returned from a laborious day's input on his farm. He drops his farm implements and demands hot water to clean up the debris and drudgery of the day. The water should have been ready before the old man's arrival from the farm. Yes, it was his right. There was a fly in theointment that evening though. One of the many wives—the youngest—whose turn it was to serve the ubiquitous hot water was a heavily expectant mother, who was not in the mood to discharge her matrimonial obligation to a tired husband. There was suspense.

Trust a typical Ikwere man to assert his patriarchal authority in his homestead. He advances menacingly towards the recalcitrant wife, who believes that pregnancy would confer a special privilege and shield her from domestic duty that evening. The swift intervention of the senior wife saves the day as the angry old man let it be known that pregnancy was not enough reason for his youngest wife to abdicate her matrimonial responsibility. Shortly after, the local midwife was summoned to deliver the baby that was apparently in a hurry to intervene in the dispute over hot water.

Judging by the speed with which she answered the call, it was quite obvious that the good midwife had eagerly awaited this moment. Her duty was performed with unusual excitement, precision and panache. Moments later, the senior wife calls out: *Nadakuwa* (Master), your young wife has just been delivered of a baby boy. The excited old man rushes out of his abode; his seething anger totally dissipated by the great news. On arrival, he casts a penetrating look at the new arrival and shakes his head. The overjoyed husband names the latest addition to his dynasty *Elechi*, (looking up to God). Seven previous off-springs had been mysteriously snatched by *abiku*—the child tormentor and buried behind the house. The household has to look up to God to protect this one.

As he defies gravity and masters his environment, it becomes obvious that this child is an enigma wrapped up in a jigsaw puzzle. After receiving the best

education money could buy from the best institutions, the child prodigy who was later to be officially known as Elechi Amadi consecrated his himself to the relentless pursuit of art and a life of distinguished service. In his novels, plays and poems, this enigmatic writer guides our hemisphere with his subtle masterstrokes from the creative muse. Elechi Amadi combines many attributes that are finest in man; his pen was striking, penetrating, relentless and grand to the core of creativity. His mannerisms were gentle, kind, personable, accommodating, compliant and generous to a fault.

Amadi's characters are both communal players and



Elechi Amadi: Master craftsman

isolated from single moments as they reveal themselves in action. If art, as Edgar Allan Poe declares, is the reproduction of what the senses perceive in nature through the veil of the soul, Elechi Amadi was the window to that soul in search of meaning in an unfathomable universe of competing contradictions. His art helps to liberate us from the daily oppression of conscious thought, while his exemplary life challenges us to become better humans in a militaristic age that worships base values. His modest abode is ample evidence that the man uncharacteristically refused to engage in the primitive accumulation from the public till that ruled his space in and out of public service.

With the trilogy: *Cosmoline* (1966), *The Great Ponds* (1969) and *The Slave* (1978), Elechi Amadi established himself and emancipated the African novel from the suffocating themes of culture clash and identity crisis that preoccupied the Chinua Achebe school, while subtly reflecting the authentic realities of pristine village life. His plays lift the spirit of audiences through characters that walk on the stage and disrupt our thinking, while the inhabitants of his novels evoke authentic life from the vicarage. Ihoma, the rustic village beauty painted in antihill colour, Madame, Ekwemena, Emekaka, Isiburu, Alekiri, Ahurwale, Wodu Wakiri (the *Wag*), the Dibia at Ekwemini, and many others, are vivid characters that the reader physically encounters after dropping off Elechi Amadi's books. They are part of the numerous sullied-faced mourners trooping into his modest country home in Mbodo to share a piece of him today.

A largely inscrutable artist of great polish, decorum and simple taste, Amadi relentlessly sculpts the soul, the foibles and fate of man on his creative canvas and represents art as a higher form of experience. In

*Estrangement* (1986) Amadi combines tradition and modernity as he serves as our reliable escort into the contradictions that rule human affairs in a war situation. His consummate craftsmanship is steeped in dialogue, foreshadowing, innuendoes, flashback, suspense and *deus ex machina*, etc. Who else would arrange a meeting between God and the United Nations?

When *God Came* (2007), a trail-blazing science fiction was Amadi's last stamp on African Literature and mirror's his abiding curiosity about the supernatural and his deep philosophical concern for man's future on planet earth. Here, Amadi is on familiar territory as a physicist, mathematician and surveyor. His peers in the pen fraternity can only stand aloof and steer in envy at the intrepid muse of a novelist, playwright, essayist, teacher, moralist, wrestler, philosopher, organizer, ex-Christian-turned traditionalist, soldier and statesman and many more things sculptured into one man by generous nature!

Still, Elechi Amadi's real life graphically contradicts the feeble anti-heroes in his works. His characters are usually powerless before the enveloping power of inscrutable fate that deals them a mortal blow at every turn. Yes, Amadi's heroic pessimism may hold his creative canvas in a unity of vision and purpose, but his recreation of the Garden of Eden casts him in the mode of Negeimide idealists in a realistic world of want and worry. His deterministic creative vision is roundly repudiated by his own unremitting struggle to transcend the limitations placed on his way by man and fate. Behind the thick veil of his writings is the message that life is an unremitting battle to circumvent the will of the gods that toy with man as grasshopper to playthings.

Is man a 'pitiful fungus' as Amadi declares? Is life a huge joke? How does one reconcile Elechi Amadi the realist and the author, who repeatedly depicts man as a mere plaything in the hands of vengeful gods? How do we explain the fatalistic resignation of his pitiable characters, who succumb to defeat in spite of their best effort to transcend their limitations? In his strident defence, Amadi simply holds up a mirror to nature and society and shows us our monumental human foibles.

Elechi the son of Amadi arrived to the ripe age of 82 and was still standing tall and strong as a six-inch concrete nail. Like the biblical Caleb, Amadi fought to spread the values he prescribed for himself. He was a mystery among mysteries and yet, simple as our next door neighbour. How could such a massively endowed man so suddenly cease to be? Why did he not prepare us for his sudden flight? Well, everything, as French dramatist, Pierre-Augustine de Beaumarchais declares, ends in song. One more song has ended. Great German composer, Beethoven got it right: "Only the artist, or the free scholar, carries happiness within him." Elechi Amadi defined classical Greek dramatist, Sophocles in *Oedipus Rex*, by taking his happiness to his grave.

Let me end with the grand master of the muse, William Shakespeare:

How sweet music is  
when time is broke and no proportion kept!  
So it is with the music of men's  
lives

Let the funeral drums echo the sad news to the distant horizons! Let the endless procession begin. Let the pall bearers proceed in measured steps and the dirge unfold in even stanzas! Let the canon shots boom to announce a great passage! Go on to the Elysian Fields and the Garden of Delight. Elechi Amadi, we will meet you on the road to Sumakund!! *Chet...chet...chet. O-m-e-e-e-e!!*

# UDSS 1996 Set Stages Homecoming To Alma Mater

By Otokor Samuel

Twenty years after writing the West African Senior School Certificate Examination with an unprecedented record of success that beat other Secondary Schools in Rivers State in that year, Old Students of the University Demonstration Secondary School (UDSS) under the auspices of Class '96, converged in their *Alma Mater* on Friday, June 24, 2016, to give back to the School that prepared them to become what they are today.

In a well-planned 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary outing, the Class 1996 rolled out programmes for an exciting Homecoming event to their *Alma Mater*, including lending a helping hand to the less-privileged ones in society. The Old Students provided 10 sets of Mercury Brand Computers and several volumes of textbooks in subject areas such as English Language, Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, Basic Science and Technology. They also visited an Orphanage where they donated gift items to the inmates.

Interactions with Management and prefects,

talkshop on how the younger generations can aspire to greatness and a novelty football match with outgoing SS3 Students, formed major highlights of the Homecoming event which also recreated their experiences as students of UDSS.

In a side line interview with our Correspondent, President of the UDSS 1996 Set, Mr. Emmanuel Diénye-Isaac, who expressed satisfaction with the realisation of the vision of celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Class 1996, said the textbooks and sets of computer, were their little way of giving back to the School that moulded their lives to become useful members of society.

On their time as students of the School, he added: "Basically, we received sound education, even though we had infrastructural challenges in the School at the time. In 1996, this School had one of the best, if not the best result in Rivers State in the external examination conducted by the West African Examination Council and almost all of us secured admission that same year. The School set us up to become what we are today and we will always remember the foundational knowledge we received here."

Receiving the Old Students, a visibly enthused Vice-Principal in charge of Administration, Mr. Fidelis Weleria, who conveyed the gratitude of the Principal of the School, Mr. Ogechi Anechi, congratulated the 1996 Class for returning to their *Alma Mater* to show appreciation of the training they received in the School after twenty years. The Vice-President appealed to other sets to emulate the good example of the 1996 Set, which voluntarily returned to show gratitude for the quality education they received from the School and also inspire the students.



Mrs. Chibwe Ene handing over the items to Vice-Principal (Admin), Mr. Weleria. Inset: the books and computers donated to the school

In reaction to recent happenings in the University, the three Unions on the platform of the Joint Action Committee (JAC) convened a strategy session at the Amatu Braide Lecture Hall on Monday, June 27, 2016 to brief their members on the state of the University and some other welfare packages accruable to their members.

On the state of the University, JAC expressed grave concern over the lingering crisis that has resulted in an atmosphere of institutional uncertainty with domino effect on academic and administrative activities in the University, urging all stakeholders to cooperate with the various bodies mediating on the contentious issues to return peace to the University. The Unions also pledged to play their part in facilitating a peaceful settlement of the crisis that has been rocking the University since April 11, 2016.

Addressing the joint Congress, Branch Chairman of the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), Mr. Bikome Syder, who spoke on behalf of his colleagues, disclosed that the leaders of JAC, acting on the mandate of their various Congresses, expressed concern at the state of the University, following all the happenings since the violent students' protest of April 11, 2016.

"The essence of the joint Congress is to discuss two central issues; one is to update members on the state of the University and brief them on our consultations with Management on the need to implement the subsisting agreement between the four Unions on Campus and Management with respect to remunerations accruing from proceeds outside the NUC-

## JAC Ends Strategy Session On State Of UniPort

By Mercy Adeniji

sponsored programmes.

"We were addressing those welfare packages when Management suddenly issued a circular that purported to cut some allowances that were guaranteed in the 2009 agreement. We also noticed an increase in our Contributory Pension which sparked off a lot of reactions from our members. As responsible leaders, we decided to convene a joint meeting of the various Unions to pull our strength together to address the issues in a peaceful atmosphere. In previous meetings, we had informed members of where we stood with Management on those outstanding issues," Mr.

Syder disclosed.

The SSANU Chairman revealed that following JAC's message to all members of Congress, Management of the University invited the platform to a meeting on Tuesday, 28, 2016 to kick-start discussions on the issues raised. The various leaders of JAC pledged their commitment to the joint Congress members to take their message back to Management with a passionate appeal for the speedy implementation of all the outstanding allowances to ensure industrial harmony.



A cross-section of participants at the meeting. Inset: EXCO members of the Unions

Cont'd from Page 1

Welcoming the Vice-Chancellor back to his office, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, described the return of Professor Lale back to office as an auspicious and joyous occasion. He further pledged continued support to the Vice-Chancellor. "Our great Vice-Chancellor is back and he has said he is ready to hit the ground running. We should all join him to realise the vision for which he was appointed to the high office," he added.

Meanwhile, the Federal Government has dissolved the Governing Council of the University with immediate effect. A statement signed by the Honourable Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu and published in some national dailies on Friday, July 1, 2016, conveyed the dissolution to the public.

"The President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Visitor to the Federal Universities, has approved the dissolution of the Governing Council of the University of Port Harcourt and the Governing Council of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife," the statement read in part, directing the Chairmen and members of the two

## Lale Resumes Work As V-C, As FG Dissolves UniPort Council

Governing Councils to immediately hand over any property belonging to the

Universities in their possession to the Registrars of the respective institutions.



V-C, Prof Lale (arrowed) addressing staff

## Outgoing CMRAP Director, Nwauche Lists Achievements

By Obinna Nwodin

**O**utgoing Director of the Centre for Malaria Research and Phytomedicine (CMRAP), Professor Chijioke Nwauche, has listed the contributions of the Centre in the fight against the malaria scourge in the area. Professor Nwauche made the disclosure in an interview with *UniPort Weekly* on Friday, June 24, 2016, stating that he made a firm commitment on assumption of office to create a vibrant Centre that would achieve the purpose for which it was set up. He expressed satisfaction that the Centre has continued to engage relevant partners and researchers in concerted efforts aimed at fighting against malaria.

"The Centre under my watch has been able to evolve strategies on how to derive medicinal

values from local herbs, as well as engaging in partnerships with alternative medicine practitioners to actualise our core mandate of battling the malaria burden that is ravaging our people," Professor Nwauche disclosed.

The Professor of Haematology stated that he developed 12 working points which guided him as Centre Director. He said that the just-concluded 1<sup>st</sup> International Malaria Colloquium was part of his strategies to sensitize the populace and stakeholders on the battle plan to defeat malaria. The Director said another objective was to achieve a flagship status for malaria research in the University of Port Harcourt.

"To achieve this objective, we decided to bring together all stakeholders, including international delegates to brainstorm on strategies to tackle the malaria scourge. I am hoping that the Malaria Colloquium would become a regular feature of the activities of the Centre," he told *UniPort Weekly*, adding that the Centre also published the maiden edition of the *Journal of Malaria and Phytomedicine*, which he described as the only journal on malaria that is currently in circulation in the country.

The Director also disclosed that he was able to initiate the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH) Malaria Project aimed at tackling the perennial mosquito infestation in the Hospital, adding that a research team has already been set up and a proposal written to the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) seeking support for the project. "The project requires huge funding because the problem is associated with structural deficiency that necessitates huge external and institutional funding to pull through the effort," he further disclosed.

On the efforts by the Centre to develop a vaccine for the elimination of malaria, Professor Nwauche, who is currently Dean of the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, said that it was possible, but was dependent on adequate funding and aggressive research. "Presently, we have a

malaria laboratory that is small and so limits our capacity to carry out advanced research on the plasmodium parasite. That is why we are partnering the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in malaria studies to fill the gaps in our research. The Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) has also indicated interest in inaugurating the *S.J.S. Cookey Professorial Chair on Malaria Studies*," the Director said.

"With these functional partnerships, we would be in a strong position to set up a laboratory where we can carry out molecular study in malaria. The Centre has commenced discussions with the Nigeria Institute for Medical Research to run certificate programmes in malaria research. There is also a need to train skilled personnel in diagnosis and other procedures to give additional impetus to our malaria research effort," Professor Nwauche told our Correspondent.

The Director said that the Centre has already proposed a Malaria House which he said would be a one-stop facility that would accommodate the various components of the Centre, disclosing that a big corporate organization had already indicated interest to fund the project. As part of its efforts to create value in communities, Professor Nwauche said that the Centre was also engaging the Rivers State Government on malaria research in the rural areas.

"We are evolving partnerships in concert with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the Rivers State Primary Health Care Board and Rivers State Malaria Elimination Programme on the possibility of carrying out community-based study on malaria," adding that when fully implemented, the initiative would go a long way in addressing the malaria burden in the area.

Professor Nwauche expressed satisfaction that CMRAP has successfully taken the research on malaria to the larger society, leading to formation of the Rivers State Network on Malaria involving all stakeholders such as medical doctors, nurses, laboratory scientists, alternative medicine practitioners and environmentalists, adding that the group has been able to provide an effective platform on malaria control measures.



Prof Nwauche

## GUIDE POST

## PROMOTION

**Mr. Amiele Ofodu**, Department of Hospitality Management and Tourism, Faculty of Management Sciences, promoted *Assistant Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2015

## CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT

**Dr. Eneke Nkoro**, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted *Confirmation of Appointment*, effective March 18, 2015.

**Dr. Chioma George-Anokwuru**, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted *Confirmation of Appointment*, effective March 19, 2015.

**Dr. Simeon Nwembe**, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted *Confirmation of Appointment*, effective March 19, 2015.

**Dr. Doris Chukwu**, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted *Confirmation of Appointment*, effective March 26, 2015.

**Mr. Abiodun Oladejo**, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted *Confirmation of Appointment*, effective March 15, 2015.

**Mr. Vincent Owede**, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted *Confirmation of Appointment*, effective March 19, 2015.

**Mr. Itoro Bosco**, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted *Confirmation of Appointment*, effective March 19, 2015.

**Mr. Emmanuel Achinulo**, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted *Confirmation of Appointment*, effective March 25, 2015.

**Mr. Richard Adah**, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted *Confirmation of Appointment*, effective April 2, 2015.

**Mr. Wepke Onyeayana**, Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted *Confirmation of Appointment*, effective April 2, 2015.

**Mrs. Victoria Awu**, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted *Confirmation of Appointment*, effective April 4, 2015.

## HIGHER DEGREE

**Dr. Cecilia Nwadiato Amadi**, Department of Experimental Pharmacology and Toxicology, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has completed her *Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)* degree from the University of Manchester, United Kingdom.

## CONVERSION

**Mr. Henry Wobo**, Department of Accounting, Faculty of Management Sciences, converted from *Senior Accountant to Lecturer II*, effective June 10, 2016.

## CHANGE OF NAME

**MRS. OBUMNEKE MOSES UWIKOR**, Former Miss Obumneke Dimgha of the Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management, Faculty of Agriculture, now wishes to be known, called and addressed as **Mrs. Obumneke Moses Uwikor**. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

## SSANU ELECO Releases Candidates' List For July 12 Poll

By Otiakor Samuel

Following a rigorous screening exercise of eligible candidates for various vacant positions in the University of Port Harcourt Branch of the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), over 30 candidates have been cleared to contest election billed for Tuesday, July 12, 2016. Making the disclosure to *UniPort Weekly* last Thursday, Chairman of the SSANU Electoral Committee, Mr. Kelsey Makele, said the screening exercise was carried out in line with the guidelines for the election. Mr. Makele further disclosed that the gladiators would jostle for ten vacant positions declared by his Committee, advising all contestants to conduct themselves with absolute decorum in a manner befitting staff in a university environment.

Candidates for the Chairmanship positions are: Messrs Bikume Syder, Lebani Nwida, Ovunda Marcus and Nicolas Asaah, while Messrs Bernard Chukwu, Gogo Cooke and Modestus Obinatu are vying for the Vice-Chairmanship position. Candidates cleared for the Office of Secretary are: Mrs. Otami Akubom, Messrs Michael Arinze, Andrew Sukens and Barisi Igbo, while Mrs. Ibiwari George, Mrs. Dieprie Ekine and Mr. John Nwajobi, were cleared for the position of Treasurer. Mr. Franklin Isaiah and Stanley Emeroonye are candidates for the position of Financial Secretary.

Contestants for the position of Public Relations Officer are: Peter Odziem, Gilbert Ayuwu, Jonathan Ibecri and Nigeria Nutee, while the position of Assistant Secretary would be contested by Mr. Anderson Ogbonda, Mrs. Elizabeth Amadi and Mrs. Baridakara Spiff, respectively.

Miss Gladys Ndikom, Mr. Francis Nwigoee, Mr. Charles Nwizug, Mr.

Christopher Mokwenye and Mr. Monday Nwideduh, will be jostling for the position of Trustee, while Messrs Peter Ezi and Benson Nador, were cleared for the post of Ex-Officio. The position of Women Leader is open to Mrs. Charity Agorom, Charity Enyi, Elizabeth Akani, Gift Nel and Roseline Onyebuchi.

The election will hold after a congressional meeting of the Association at 10:00am at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park.



## STOP PRESS

## UNIPOST POSTPONES ADMISSION SCREENING EXERCISE

The 2016/2017 Admission Screening Exercise of the University of Port Harcourt has been postponed till further notice. A statement dated June 27, 2016, signed by the Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto and made available to *UniPort Weekly*, advised all prospective candidates to regularly check the University's Website for further information on the Admission Screening Exercise.

## ICTC OPENS IT CAMP FOR PUPILS

The Information and Communication Technology Centre (ICTC), has commenced training of selected pupils who have completed their Junior Secondary School Examinations. A statement dated June 22, 2016, signed by the Head of Training of ICTC, Mrs. Elizabeth Okey-Wali and made available to *UniPort Weekly*, said that the Camp will feature Information Technology Skills, Mathematics, English and Computer-Based Test Training. She added that the Camp which commenced on Monday, June 27, 2016, will last for two months beginning from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm daily.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
WEATHER OBSERVATORYWEATHER FORECAST FOR PORT HARCOURT AND SURROUNDING AREAS  
FOR SUNDAY JULY 03 - SATURDAY, JULY 09, 2016.

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (mm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 03 JULY, 2016	29.0 24.0	76	WSW	19.9	6:24 6:48	Heavy rains expected with a mostly cloudy outlook.
MONDAY, 04 JULY, 2016	27.0 24.0	89	WSW	8.8	6:28 6:48	Strong thunder storms expected with a mostly cloudy outlook.
TUESDAY 05 JULY, 2016	31.0 24.0	72	SW	4.1	6:25 6:48	A few thunder storms expected with most of the day being cloudy.
WEDNESDAY 06 JULY, 2016	32.0 23.0	78	SSW	16.7	6:25 6:48	Thunder storms anticipated accompanied with a mostly cloudy day.
THURSDAY 07 JULY, 2016	31.0 23.0	82	SSW	3.2	6:25 6:48	Heavy rains expected with a mostly cloudy outlook.
FRIDAY 08 JULY, 2016	31.0 23.0	76	SSW	-	6:25 6:49	Cloudy day expected.
SATURDAY 09 JULY, 2016	31.0 23.0	78	S	4.7	6:25 6:49	Thunder storms expected with a mostly cloudy outlook.

DR. V.E. WELI

AG. HOD

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY &amp; ENV. MGT.

DR. PRINCE C. MMOM

AG. DIRECTOR,  
(CDRMDS)



## IPPTO Intellectual Property Summit

**T**he Intellectual Property Technology Transfer Office (IPPTO) in partnership with Velma Consulting held a two-day International Intellectual Property Summit at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium between Thursday, May 19 and Friday, May 20, 2016. The event with the theme: Intellectual Property Rights as the Backbone of Wealth Creation was captured by our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU**:



Participants registering for the Summit



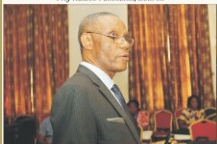
DV-C (Admin), Prof Anthony Ibe (middle) conferring with Ag. Director IPPTO, Dr. Tobin Briggs, while DV-C (Academic), Prof Hakeem Fawehinmi, looks on



DV-C (Admin), Prof Ibe declaring the Workshop open



Acting Director, IPPTO, Dr. Briggs welcoming participants to the event



7<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor, Prof Joseph Ajienka, making a presentation



Director of Technology Acquisition and Research Co-ordination NOTAP, Lucky Nwosu, delivering a paper



One of the Resource Persons making a presentation



One of the participants making a contribution



A cross-section of participants at the event



Mrs. Mercy Ajienka, Wife of the 7<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor (left) and Dr. Chineze Uche at the event



Prof Ibe (arrowed) in group photograph with participants



7<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor, Prof Ajienka (arrowed) in group photograph with participants