

# UniPort Weekly

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For information and enlightenment

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## Ogedegbe, Ex-NNPC GED, Proffers Solutions To Nigeria's Petroleum Sector Problems



A one-time Group Executive Director in the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Engineer Alex Ogedegbe, has berated the policy somersaults that have crippled the Corporation, recommending ways of structuring it to meet the petroleum needs of Nigerians and making it more profitable along global best practice, reports *Humphrey Ogu.*

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## Side Bar Town Hall Meeting Holds Today

An Extraordinary Town Hall Meeting of the University will hold today at the Ebifimil Banigbo Auditorium. The Meeting which commences at 12.00noon will centre on the "State of the University," and will be chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa E.S. Lale. All staff are invited to attend and on time too. Details Next Week.

~Editor

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## UniPort Condolences Family Of Late Literary Icon, Elechi Amadi

By Obinna Nwodin

Authorities of the University of Port Harcourt have commiserated with the family of late Literary Icon and elder statesman, Dr. Elechi Amadi, who passed on after a brief illness. Leading a delegation of Principal and other Senior Officers of the University, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, said that the news of the death of Dr. Amadi came to the University as a rude shock. He eulogized the elder statesman for his great literary

exploits, administrative prowess, humility and mentorship of the younger generation in his lifetime, adding that he would be sorely missed.

"Dr. Amadi was a great man indeed whose rare qualities immensely endeared him to all and sundry. He was well known everywhere and the beautiful thing about Elechi Amadi was that a man of such great accomplishments lived a simple life and did not put on airs as is the practice in this part of the world. We feel his demise deeply in our hearts, but we are comforted by the

fact that Elechi Amadi died at the right time, even when we know that there is no such thing as the right time for us to die," the Vice-Chancellor told the grieving family members.

Professor Lale said: "As a University, we are proud of the exemplary lifestyle that retired Captain Elechi Amadi lived, because he died after fulfilling his destiny on earth and it is quite obvious to those who turn up here to mourn him that the great man died a very happy man. All of us who

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# Why Did God Delay Man's Creation?

Asks Williams Wodi

*The foolishness of man perverteth his way:  
and his heart freteth against the Lord*  
PROVERBS 19:3

I should have sought express permission from my Chaplain to write this piece, but I shall take it for granted that he would permit me to engage in this bogus reasoning and would not turn me away from Holy Communion the next time I approach the altar. Molecular Biologists and those who hold on tenaciously to the Creationist account of how the universe came into being have been locked in a grim battle of supremacy since the beginning of time. Is Evolution a credible account? Can the Creationist account stand erect to scientific scrutiny in an increasingly secular society in which seeing is believing?

Although the law of conservation of angular momentum appears to disprove the big bang theory, Evolutionists submit that a cataclysmic explosion of unparalleled ferocity resulted in all creation—crustally man. Matter was spawned from an immensely dense dot that expanded into all other astral bodies in the universe which, by the way is still expanding. The introduction of an 'energy force' resulted in the up-spring of unicellular organisms. Welcome to the theory of random chance. The combustible argument is that an ape-like knuckle-walking primate evolved progressively to larger, more bipedal, and intelligent being that culminated in the presence of modern man on earth.

Creationists scream blue murder at such 'twisted thinking' by Evolutionists and ask why Man has stopped evolving. They stridently counter the argument by claiming that every fossil so far discovered has been verified to be of a distinct species with no proven sign of having evolved from a simpler life form. Since this write-up seeks to understand why God in His infinite wisdom, delayed the introduction of Man into His creation until the Sixth Day, I shall crave the reader's indulgence to stick to the biblical account of creation for the rest of this article. Please, don't ask me where I stand; ask my Pastor.

If you press me for an answer, I fancy the *Deists* who argue that God created the world, but is no longer in control of it now. *Deists* believe that God created the world and still controls it today, while *eccentric. Atheists* argue that God neither created the world nor controls it. Excuse me; this is a universe where all shades of opinion should contend for supremacy folks. Spare the blasphemy crap!

Slide with me to the book of Genesis in which we are regaled with fantastic tales of a six-day creation of the entire universe: a single human couple from which we all descended; a great deluge in which Mr. Noah and only his household survive the flood and the beaming claim that the entire universe, not just the earth, is only

six thousand years old! My interest is on God's reason for delaying the entry of Man, who would eventually be charged with the onerous responsibility of subduing and dominating over everything on earth.

*Day One:* God created the heavens and the earth and set His spirit assail on the waters, including planet earth and separation of light from darkness.

*Day Two:* And God said: let there be a firmament and let it divide the waters and called the firmament heaven. So we have atmosphere and division of water.

*Day Three:* God caused dryness in a part of the universe and called it earth. Grass and fruit trees followed, including evening and morning.

*Day Four:* Let there be light, seasons and the stars, (i.e. earth's sun, moon and the rest of the universe).

*Day Five:* Let the waters bring forth the moving creatures, flying fowl, whales and every living creature that moves.

*Day Six:* God still ignored man by giving preference to the creation of cattle, creeping things and the beast. God looked at His accomplishments and was already washing His hands when an Angel probably reminded Him that Man has not been added to the configuration of the universe. Oh! Said God; "Let us make Man in our own image!" (Genesis 1:26 KJV). From the foregoing, it is appropriate to speculate that God did not forget to create Man, after all. The intelligent Designer was obviously thinking deep about the weird ways of Man and reasoning if he would not mess up things once he was added to the list of creation. The fact that God later 'regretted' ever creating Man would support my thesis that He may have deliberately delayed introducing him till *Day Six* of this momentous celestial activities.

*Day Seven:* God took a well-deserved break, probably to keep a close tab on Man from His celestial abode, knowing who and what Man is. Who knows? Man may have attempted to take dominion of the earth long before he was put in charge by divine decree. See what happened once Man was ordered to subdue the earth and take dominion? He licentiously roamed the Garden of Eden and grabbed the forbidden fruit—quite characteristically. Forget the Eve subplot! Research may one day reveal the fact that the so-called rebellious Angel that was forced down to earth may have actually been Man trying to take over the heavenly realm. Where Man should have relaxed to glow in prosperity in a pristine and luxuriant Garden, he rather chose to eat the forbidden fruit that lacked nutritional value, and turned round to blame a woman. Where he would have been adorned in *Ethio or Akwete* and designer shoes, Man chose instead to cover his 'local government headquarters' in mere leaves—yes, just rags!

Watch Nations Geographic! Man is the only animal that kills his kind and other living things just for the sake of satisfying his sadistic instinct for revenge and dominion. Nearly all other species kill to assuage their

hunger, and even *territorialists* would readily lose interest in a fight once the intruder flees. Man is the only species that can deliberately plot to pull his kind down without reason, and is the only animal that assassinates character, plots evil and holds clandestine meetings to undo others. Man is the only species that publicly boasts about his social, economic and academic status. See how Man has unconsciously polluted the pristine environment that was put in his charge? Look at industrial pollution, radiation bomb, cyanide, dams, dynamite, AK 47 and intercontinental ballistic missiles—all products of Man's wicked mind. Man is the sick child of the universe and is set to commit suicide. Nature cannot spare of us, because we are talking care just about everything on earth.

Why did God not stop His creation on *Day Five* and rested on *Day Six*; or why did He not wait for about one hundred years before creating Man. He certainly would have



changed His mind after taking that long to reflect on what Man would inevitably turn out to become? Is it too late for God to take Man out of creation to restore primordial sanity in His earthly estate?

Evolutionists and Creationists can go on arguing over how the universe and man came into being, but they need to unravel the true nature of man which is more important than how he came into the world. Man is not good because God made him in His own image, neither is he good because he evolved from unicellular organisms. No! Man is bad because of his wilder side that should have been tamed before he was licensed to dominate the earth. When God blesses bad people, they simply become worse. Come to think of it; if God regretted ever adding Man to His creation, what then can he do about his inherent capacity to make mischief that defies conventional explanation?

Man appears to exhibit his worst chemistry in the Universe environment, where he has unimpeded access to specialised knowledge. Like the element, Man is the simplest chemical substance that cannot decompose in a chemical reaction. Is it not true that too much knowledge is dangerous? The Americans may have been right when they said that some people cannot truly enter into the four walls of a university—even when the walls are broken down. How true!



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The thought-provoking lecture entitled: *The Nigerian Petroleum Refining Industry: History, Problems and Possible Solutions*, was the first in the series organised by the Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals on Thursday, July 7, 2016, located at the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) Park along the East-West Road, Ogedegbe drew attention to the far-reaching recommendations made by the National Refinery Special Task Force (NRSTF), which he championed to save the NNPC and the petroleum distribution network in the country, regretting that politicians had consistently missed up the critical sector.

"The existing NNPC-owned refineries should be privatised within 18 months since the current ownership and business model led to the sub-optimal performance of the refineries," Ogedegbe submitted.

He called for full deregulation of prices in the downstream sector prior to its privatisation and introduction of the necessary palliatives to ease the socio-economic burden that total deregulation would bring to the populace. "A new commercial company from the NNPC should be established to take over the assets of the Petroleum and Pipeline Management Company (PPMC). The new company will concession aspects of the terminals, depots and operations to franchisees, while protecting Nigeria's national interest," Ogedegbe suggested, emphasising the need for government to tackle the security challenges which have negatively affected the critical sector that currently accounted for the country's economic malaise.

Recommending that the implementation plan should be driven by a focused team sponsored at the highest levels of government, Ogedegbe, who also served as former Managing Director of Port Harcourt Refining Company Limited, advocated self-sufficiency in petroleum products, transformation of Nigeria into an exportation hub for petroleum products in West Africa, setting up of a dedicated team to assist the Ministry of Petroleum Resources in the onerous task of implementing reforms in a timely manner to save the industry.

The former Managing Director of Kaduna Refining and Petrochemical Company Limited, identified inadequate

## Ex-NNPC GED Proffers Solutions To Nigeria's Petroleum Sector Problems



Dr. C. (Acad), Prof. Fawehinmi (4th right) flanked by Guest Speaker, Engr. Ogedegbe, Prof. Nte, Kuye (left), Ag. Centre Director, Dr. Ojuala, Prof. Ekebe, Ideare (right) and others

funding and autonomy, lack of proactive governance, poor maintenance of refineries, serious political interference by the Federal Government, absence of competition due to uniform pricing of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), ineffective technical services department, frequent emergency shutdown of units or entire refineries as some of the problems bedevilling Nigerian refineries, reiterating that immediate implementation of the recommendations by the NRSTF would address many of the challenges facing Nigeria's petroleum industry.

Welcoming the Guest Speaker and other participants on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic matters, Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, described UniPort as an Entrepreneurial University, where *now and grow* went with the objective of tackling the great social challenges of our time.

"When I heard the topic of this lecture, I thought that it was most appropriate, considering the issue of pipeline vandalism, scarcity of petroleum products and many other problems that plague the country. To our students,

who are privileged to participate in this lecture, I am very glad that you had a rare opportunity to interact with one of the very best in the industry. It is many lectures rolled into one," he said, expressing confidence in Engineer Ogedegbe's capability to proffer possible solution to the nation's petroleum challenges, giving his specialty, experience and impeccable career in the sector.

Also speaking at the presentation which drew participants from the Faculty of Engineering, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Maureen Ekebe, observed that petrochemicals were critical to the industry, stating that virtually all industries have something to do with petrochemicals and petroleum by-products from refining. Others, who spoke at the lecture, which featured an interactive session, included the Director, Centre for Research Management and Development, Professor Allee Nte, Director of the Centre for Nuclear Energy Studies, Professor Ayo Kuye, Director of Emerald Energy Institute, Professor Wumi Ideare, his Deputy, Dr. Chijioke Nwaosazu and Course Representative of the CGRP graduate programme, Muriywa Komolafe.

## UniPort, Adam Igbudu Institute Sign MoU On Religious Studies

By Otiok Samuel

In advancement of knowledge in Christian Religious Studies, the University of Port Harcourt has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Adam Igbudu Christian Institute, Enevo, Delta State to strengthen training and inculcate sound academic leadership qualities into staff and students of the Institute.

Speaking before the brief signing ceremony which took place at the Vice-Chancellor's Committee Room on Wednesday, June 28, 2016, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, pledged the preparedness of the University to ensure that the Centre was fully mentored and monitored to provide requisite training for students and also uphold standards that would be reflected in the quality of instruction. "We have had a fairly long relationship with the Centre which has been formalised today with the signing of this

Memorandum of Understanding and we are very hopeful that this development would mark a new beginning for both collaborating institutions. With the successful signing of this MoU, we are embarking on an entirely new journey that would hopefully result in more mutually beneficial intellectual harvest.

"Let me quickly assure you that the University is totally committed to keeping to its own side of the agreement and we will do so in line with global best practice that would result in the required standards. We are very concerned about quality, and so from time to time, our Local Accreditation team will be visiting the Centre to conduct on-the-spot assessment of facilities and available manpower as part of our overall preparations for securing accreditation from the National Universities Commission," the Deputy Vice-Chancellor notified the delegation.

The Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, urged Management of the Adam Igbudu Christian Institute to ensure that major decisions received approval of the University

through the Faculty of Humanities and the Department of Religious and Cultural Studies. "What we do here is

what we expect to be done at the Institute. We will not compromise standards and will closely monitor standards there to ensure that the quality of instruction available to your graduates meet the same benchmarks that are obtainable in this University."

Earlier in his speech, Director of Local Affiliations in the University, Professor Julian Ounji, promised that his Unit would do everything possible to assist the Institute discharge its responsibilities to the students.

"After the provisional approval granted the Institute to affiliate to the University of Port Harcourt, the signing of the MoU has finally activated the commencement of formal academic activities. With this development, the University through the Local Affiliations will commence strategic planning to draw up a suitable curriculum to be run by the Institute, prescribe courses, duration and types of degree to be awarded to deserving students and other issues that would result in quality education," the Director said.

In his remarks, Rector of the Institute, Dr. Bernard Itebe, gave a brief profile of the Institute, disclosing that the Institute was established as a Christian Leadership Centre on April 5, 1987 by the Anglican Church. He expressed optimism that the partnership with the University would contribute to the growth of the Institute through raising of sound graduates that would join in propagating the gospel.

Other senior officers of both institutions present at the signing ceremony were: Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Professor Femi Shuka, former and current Heads of the Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Professors Christopher Ejizu and Wellington Wotogbe Weneka. Also present were the Chairman of the Governing Council of Adam Igbudu Christian Institute, Rt. Rev'd Edafe Emaejor, Registrar of the Institute, Rev. Canon Lucky Maminor, Head of Department of Religious and Cultural Studies and Secretary, Elo Ena-Israak.



Dr. C. (Acad), Prof. Fawehinmi (Seated 3rd left) flanked by Chairman, Governing Council of the Institute, Rt. Rev. Emaejor, Rector, Dr. Itebe (right), Registrar, Mrs. Otto (left) and other members of the University and Institute

# Kwashi Tasks Nigerians On Ethical Values At Maiden OSC Public Lecture

By Humphrey Ogu  
and Williams Wodi

In view of the rising cases of corruption and other social vices currently plaguing the country, the Anglican Archbishop of Jos Ecclesiastical Province and Bishop of Jos Metropolis, Most Reverend Benjamin Kwashi, has stressed the need for Nigerians to reiterate the prized virtues of sprightliness, transparency and respect for the family as some of the ways of stemming the ugly trend.

Delivering the maiden Public Lecture of Our Saviour's Chapel (Interdenominational) entitled: *The Enhancement of Ethics and Social Development in*

good and dishonouring whatever is to be rejected and mediocrity and encouraging hard work," he said.

Welcoming guests to the Lecture on behalf

of the OSC Board of Trustees and Chapel Management Committee, Chaplain and Chairman CMC, Venerable Saturday Nkete, said: "The maiden edition of the Public Lecture series is part of OSC's contribution to the mission of the University to raise and train students who are sound in character and learning. We are in the serious business of raising students and lecturers who have the fear of God, respect for others, a sound moral and spiritual standing that would prepare them for greater exploits in society and the Kingdom of God." In his welcome remarks, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, showered praises on the Guest Speaker, Most Reverend Kwashi for shovelling other competing pastoral engagements to come to the University to spiritually uplift the flock. He told the Archbishop that his ecclesiastical mission came at a time when the University was passing through a very difficult phase.



V-C, Prof Lale (5' left), S' V-C, Emeritus Prof Briggs (2' left), Guest Lecturer, Most Rev. (De) Kwashi (centre), Ven. Nkete, his Wife, Baridole and other members of Board of Trustees and Chapel Mgt Council

Contemporary Society, at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Friday, July 1, 2016, Archbishop Kwashi decried what he described as the rising social ills that threaten to tear the nation apart, warning Nigerians to retrace their footsteps before the country further descended to social and spiritual perdition.

"There must be integrity and morality with money, use of time, in what is said, in our manner of living, fear of God, in doing research, in everything, knowing that we are only stewards and God demands faithfulness from his stewards," the Man of God told the audience, reminding Nigerians that utmost integrity was required in all relationships and dealings, whether in individual families, within the community circle and amongst staff and students of the University, who should serve as prime arbiters of high ethical standards for others to follow.

"A person of integrity should provide a model for the community and leave an example of accountability, self-regulation and peer regulation with lasting impact for generations to come. He is concerned about the poor, the weak, those who have no influence and no one to speak for them. His ethical integrity should create an effective social impact and development, drive away poverty, institute justice for all and uphold law and order," he admonished the Nigerians.

Most Reverend Kwashi noted that wrong doing and unethical behaviour often began from the home, said: "Unethical behaviour thrives because parents support it, families enjoy it, religion benefits from it, teachers coach it; communities and society honour those who do wrong. Unethical behaviour militates against social development, but the war against it can be won by honouring the just and uplifting the honest, promoting

"It is a very pleasant coincidence that I am here to receive Your Grace on the first day of my return to office, following our descent to chaos that was contrived by a few selfish persons who were hell-bent on dragging the University backwards. It is now on record that God in his infinite wisdom refused to allow injustice to prevail and your presence here today is a confirmation that we are beneficiaries of that grace. The University had gone through very difficult times since April 11, 2016 and it is my hope that I can now be left alone to do the job I applied for," the Vice-Chancellor said, expressing gratitude to all those who made it possible for peace to return to the Institution.

In his remarks, Chairman of the occasion and a prominent member of the Chapel, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, expressed gratitude to God for the return of the Vice-Chancellor to office after four weeks of his suspension by the defunct Governing Council, urging him to strive harder to take the University to greater heights. He also thanked the Guest Lecturer for accepting to deliver the lecture, hoping that it would bring abundant blessings and be the beginning of the Archbishop's association with the University of Port Harcourt.

"We have to challenge and examine ourselves to know how well we are executing our duties in the little corners of society God put us in charge. It is the ethical orientation in what we are doing that will help lift society from its current morass. We must make a conscious decision to be the very best in whatever vocation we choose for ourselves. If we are teachers, if we are students, if we are administrators or technical staff, let us give it our best shot. We must satisfy our conscience that we are doing the

right thing at all times. We cannot be good Christians if we ignore the other ethical issues that drive civilised conduct and development in societies in other parts of the world," he said.

On her part, Chairman of the Lecture Planning Committee, Professor Regina Ogali, commended the Vice-Chancellor, the Guest Lecturer, Chairman of the occasion and the Chaplain, the Congregation and other invited guests for their support and various roles in making the event a success. "We are happy to note that the lecture was a huge success and it is our hope that we will all gather next year to listen to another Speaker. In an academic environment, it is important that the Church should combine spiritual upbringing with strong intellectual activity," she stressed.

Archbishop Kwashi had earlier paid a courtesy visit on the Vice-Chancellor, during which he prayed for the University and counselled against actions that could retard its growth. "A University is set aside for the propagation of knowledge that would advance society and bring glory to God's name. As students, as staff, as alumni and other stakeholders, we all owe a bounden duty to support the administration achieve the purpose for which the founding fathers established the University of Port Harcourt. Unnecessary bickering and power struggle will be detrimental to the core mandate of the University and it is my hope that everybody has learned a lesson from events of the recent past in this University. It is my prayer that peace should reign here at all times for quality research to thrive in the glory of God who is the author of the idea of a University," he told the community.

## STOP PRESS

### SGS WORKSHOP

The School of Graduate Studies (SGS) has announced an in-house Workshop for staff of the School with the theme: *Promoting an Effective Process of Graduate Admission and Graduation of Students, holding on Wednesday, July 13, 2016, at the Seminar Room. Time is 11:00 am.*

Contact: Graduate Studies Officer, Mrs. Christy Nwora.

### CHS RETREAT

The Provost, College of Health Sciences (CHS), Professor Christie Mato, has announced a one-day Retreat for Heads of Department in the College. The Retreat which will have the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, as Chief Host, will be chaired by S' Vice-Chancellor of the University, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs. The statement further added that the event will hold on Thursday, July 14, 2016, at the NIM VIP Lounge, Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park. Time is 9:00 am.

Contact: College Secretary, Mrs. Joyce Tamuno.

In continuation of its community development projects, the Association Internationale des En Sciences Economiques Commerciales (AIESEC), has received new interns from Ghana and Kenya. The Interns are in the University to partner AIESEC UniPort on some on-going projects initiated by the Association, ranging from Project Sunshine, Project Pink and Young Minds Project.

Immediate past Director of Exchange and Linkage Programmes Unit and Chairman of the AIESEC Board of Advisers, Professor John Otaigbe, who accompanied the group to the UniPort Weekly Newsroom on Thursday, June 23, 2016, commended the Interns for coming to experience the city of Port Harcourt. He urged them to be good ambassadors of their countries and also project the University in good light when they return home.

"AIESEC is a very serious-minded organisation that focuses on leadership training that impacts positively on society. Since you are here to render voluntary service, I urge you to feel free to interact with everyone you meet. As you may have already discovered, Nigerians are very friendly people and we appreciate the work you have come to do here. I wish you all the best and when you return home, please tell others that Nigeria is a good place to be," Professor Otaigbe told the visiting Interns.

On their part, the Interns described their stay in the University of Port Harcourt as very rewarding and exciting. Miss Caroline Marece from Kenya and Sylvia Adulo from Ghana, said they were in Nigeria to work on Project Pink, which is on Breast and Cervical Cancer campaign. "This is my first time in Nigeria and I have been here since April. We are here to continue Project Pink. We would be going out to selected communities and high schools to create awareness about the deadly diseases and we hope to be able to encourage more people to come forward to be tested for cancer. We are already in contact with the Rivers State Ministry of Health, Preventive Health Initiative and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) to support our battle against cancer. We hope to come back to Nigeria when we are through with our Internship," the Interns promised.

Another Intern from Ghana, Lily Botsye disclosed that she was in the University to work on Project Sunshine aimed at equipping orphans and vulnerable children with requisite skills and knowledge they would need to become better citizens. Her colleague also from Ghana, Mr. Akwesi Kusi, added that he was in Nigeria to work on the Young Minds Project, aimed at reaching out to and giving young students the necessary direction.

"As have observed in this age, technology is ravaging

## AIESEC Welcomes New Foreign Interns For Projects Pink and Sunshine



AIESEC Adviser, Prof Otaigbe (middle, front row), Deputy Registrar, Williams Wodi (left), Interns and AIESEC EXCO members

By Mercy Adejiji

our country and young people need to be properly equipped to plan how to handle this digital revolution that can be applied to achieve either positive or negative ends. As AIESEC, we have the capacity to help young people adjust properly to the growing challenges posed by the wonders of information. The Young Minds Project will help to teach students about IT so that they can develop interest in it when they enroll in higher education," Kusi told our Correspondent.

Speaking on his tenure which ended in April, immediate past AIESEC President in the University, Tony Oluwa, recalled that the 2015/2016 session was a very challenging one. "We started very strong with different plans for the University and its environs. We achieved some key goals for Port Harcourt and other communities around and we also hosted a Career Fair in which over 700 students participated, while 15 companies sponsored us. We also got support from the University Management. AIESEC was recognized and registered as an NGO with the Rivers State Ministry of Youth and Sports. We had a good financial membership strength at the end of my tenure and we also hosted 14

Interns from Benin Republic, China and Ghana," he disclosed.

On her part, new AIESEC President, Miss Vivian Atucheukwu, said: "We currently have four Interns from Kenya and Ghana working on the various projects and we want to create more awareness about AIESEC activities in Rivers State. We would also want to create more impact because AIESEC believes in developing the leadership potentials in youths. We invite new members to pick up our forms at [bit.ly/AIESECpreenrollment1617](http://bit.ly/AIESECpreenrollment1617).

Other members of the new Executives are: Vice President, Human Resources, Ovie Ekong; Vice President, Outgoing Exchanges, Gift Womun; Vice President, Incoming Exchanges, Elsie Ekong; Vice President, Business Development, Mabel Ideh, and Vice President, Public Relations and Communication, Justin Ikonvichukwu.

In a related development, the Association organised the opening ceremony of Project Pink on Saturday, June 25, 2016 with the aim of sensitising the public on the causes and prevention of Breast and Cervical Cancers which are currently on the rise amongst the populace.

## Ndukwu, New INRES Director, Sets Agenda

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Newly-appointed Director of the Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainable Development (INRES), Professor Benjamin Ndukwu, has disclosed that his tenure would not only sustain the achievements of his predecessor, but would seek to raise the INRES bar in line with the vision of the Institute's founding fathers.

Unfolding his plan for lifting the

INRES to greater heights during an interview with a UniPort Weekly Correspondent in his office, Professor Ndukwu disclosed that he has been part of the INRES project right from its inception, noting that the idea was to run graduate programmes with the core objective of producing critical manpower that would help in all the interventions aimed at managing the dwindling natural resources of the Niger Delta and other multi-faceted environmental problems in other parts of Africa.

"We are faced with the challenge of raising technically qualified personnel to deal with the issues of managing the natural resources and responding to the perturbing situation of the Niger Delta and Nigeria at large. Within the Niger Delta, the West African sub-region and the African continent, we have serious shortage of manpower to deal with depleting natural resources and degraded environments. Issues of natural resources and environmental management are intertwined in nature and we want INRES to incorporate that international element that would enable us make a huge impact in this field of specialisation," Professor Ndukwu said.

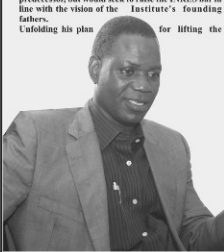
Professor Ndukwu stated that his tenure would seek ways to access more funding from international grant-making agencies to sustain his vision, disclosing that INRES has been designated as a Nigerian focal point for the Climate Change Impact Observation of Africa Coastal Zone (CEOCCHACZ), with a grant from the Group Earth Observation with similar

centres located in Egypt, Kenya and South Africa. He believed that the designation of the Institute would further boost the image of the University of Port Harcourt both regionally and on the African continent.

"There are plans to start a joint Master of Science degree programme with the Egypt-based National Authority on Remote Sensing and Space Science. We are also proposing a Doctoral degree programme which would commence in July to train high level manpower that could train others and also a Postgraduate Diploma programme in Natural Resources and Environmental Management targeted at industry personnel that need technical training and exposure," he said.

"We have also received a grant from the Directorate of Technical Corporation in Africa (DYCA) that has enabled us to attract foreign students from other African countries. For instance, this year alone, over 20 prospective African students are vying for admission, which is a clear indication that the INRES programme is gaining international acceptance," the new Director said, promising that he would seek greater participation of all stakeholders in the affairs of the Institute to realise the objectives for which it was established and even seek to surpass what has been achieved.

The new Director was full of praises for his predecessor, Professor Eusebius Akpologbe for his great pioneering effort that has resulted in a strong footing for INRES, promising that he would continue to be relevant in the affairs of the Institute. Professor Ndukwu also commended Dr. Bolade Igbi for his tireless support for INRES.



Prof Ndukwu

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## UniPort Condolences Family of Late Amadi

are privileged to be alive have a big responsibility to emulate the simple lifestyle of this great man, who shunned the type of wealth and limelight that corruption breeds in our country today," he said, assuring the family that the University would play its part during the burial ceremony.

Responding on behalf of the family, eldest daughter of Dr. Amadi, Chinyere Elechi Amadi, described her late father as a great man, who touched many lives, expressing gratitude to authorities of the University for identifying with the family in its moment of grief. "My late father touched so many lives and so could be regarded as a father to all. I feel so honoured to have had a father who made so much name for himself, locally, nationally and internationally. We are in mourning that he is no more, but we take solace in the fact that so many people have been trooping into our compound to testify to his goodness to even total strangers. Only God knows best why our beloved should die at this point in time when his wisdom and wise counsel was most needed," she stated.

In his speech, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem

Fawehinmi, thanked the family for the warm reception accorded the delegation, promising that once the obsequies were announced, the University would join the family to give the great man the befitting burial he very much deserved.

The Vice-Chancellor and his entourage also visited the homes of the wives of the late literary sage, where prayers were offered for God to grant them the fortitude

to bear the irreparable loss.

Late Dr. Elechi Amadi who died on Wednesday, June 29, 2016 at the age of 82, was a great friend of the University, who played important role in citing the University at its present location. He was also appointed a Writer-in-Residence by the administration of Professor Joseph Allenka, as well as the recipient of an Honorary Doctorate Degree from the University.



Eldest daughter of late Amadi, Chinyere (standing) responding on behalf of the family

## Mgt, Unions, Aluta Season

By Humphrey Ogu and Williams Wodi

**D**ealing with industrial unions could be a very daunting task for even the most skilled negotiator. It is even more so in a university setting, where every *Conrad* need not only *aluta*-tested, but also adept at defining what constitutes the full welfare package due each staff. In recent times, for instance, the three industrial unions under the template of a Joint Action Committee (JAC), have been musing on the 'battle front' and demanding a list of entitlements that they believe can no longer wait.

Boxed into such tight corners, Managements all over the world seek ways to ensure that there is industrial peace, at the same time as they weigh the size of their purse, especially in these lean times, when expenditure run far ahead of income. Assurances to unions are usually viewed with a healthy dose of suspicion and trepidation, as their leaders come under unrelenting pressures from impatient followers to 'confront' Management on diverse welfare matters. In this cat and mouse game between Managements and Unions, good intentions are not just good enough; for even the road the hell was paved with good intention.

When Management speaks of operating an 'open door policy' and preach the gospel of 'transparency' in their dealings with unions, such assurances rather heighten their suspicion about their 'real' intention. It is comparable to that cantankerous relation between the mischievous *Ton* and *Jerry* in the popular cartoon series that excite the imagination of children. Yes, staff care about the future of where they put in an honest day's work, but they also believe that a labourer is most deserving of his pay. Inflation is the worst enemy of their pockets and they don't want anything to stand between them and the good life.

Unions always compare notes with their counterparts in other institutions and demand to replicate the gains in their pocket.

Union leaders in the University of Port Harcourt are not different from their counterparts anywhere else. They want to contribute to productivity on one hand, and also reap the reward of their labour on the other hand. They expect the Management to be fair in running the affairs of the institution, especially in handling issues pertaining to the welfare of their members, even in their retirement. When union leaders raise the *aluta* and *solidarity forever* song, they are simply sending signals that their members require more attention, and a responsible Management had better listen!

One union is enough wahaha. When three unions combine their forces, then there is trouble in Paradise! In recent times, JAC in UniPort has raised issues concerning some packages that it wants Management to address *pronto*. After a series of meetings, the three unions under the JAC umbrella; namely, the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), National Association of Academic Technologists (NAAT) and Non-Academic Staff Union (NASU), finally met with the Management of the University on Tuesday, June 28, 2016.

Addressing the union leaders in the Vice-Chancellor's Committee Room, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, noted that the dwindling revenue accruable to the University had made it difficult to meet some of its statutory responsibilities, including certain demands by the Unions.

He disclosed plans by Management to set up a Working Committee to assess the revenue strength of Non-UC sponsored programmes in the University with a view to meeting the genuine demands tabled by the Unions. "We have requested the Academic Staff Union of Universities to



Syder, SSANU

Ogbeghe, NAAT

Igwe, NASU

nominate representatives to serve on the Committee that would assess how much revenue that accrues to the University from such programmes and determine what percentage of it would be set aside for distribution to deserving staff. JAC should also nominate three representatives to serve on the proposed Committee, Directors of Centres running non-UC

programmes shall serve on the Committee to ensure proper disclosure of revenues accruable from their programmes," Professor Ibe assured the Union leaders.

In response to other demands made by JAC, he assured the Union leaders that Management was engaging them in good faith. "The issue of modifying the Contributory Pension Scheme which you tabled before us is actually not within our powers to determine. The deduction is based on a Federal Government directive and we lack powers to unilaterally determine the percentage that must be deducted from staff emoluments. I will also like to plead that we change the name of the so-called '13' Month Salary' to 'Christmas Package' for easy implementation by Management," Professor Ibe told stressed, reminding them that the issue of a new Career Structure was already before the appropriate authorities for consideration and possible implementation, pleading for understanding and patience from the Unions in the interest of industrial harmony in the University.

On the issue of Hazard Allowance, Professor Ibe agreed in principle that those staff entitled to the package would be paid, reminding the Union leaders, however, that the Federal Government expects universities to pay such allowances from their Internally Generated Revenue, which he regretted had dwindled so badly in recent times, especially with the directive that Part-Time Students should not be more than twenty per cent of Full-Time Students in any Federal University.

Professor Ibe used the opportunity to announce a salary shortfall of N69.2 from the University's total wage bill of N719.8 million for the month of June, disclosing that Management sourced the balance from sundry sources to enable to pay salary for the month of June. Earlier in his speech, Chairman of SSANU, Mr. Bikame Syder, had stated that the Union leaders were mandated by JAC to meet Management on pressing issues such as review of Non-teaching Staff, Career Structure, Contributory Pension Scheme, Earned Allowance, especially Hazard Allowance and '13' Month Salary, among others. He called on Management to look into the demands tabled before it with a view to reaching an amicable resolution with the Unions under the auspices of JAC.

"I wish to thank the Management for being so frank with us on the issues we tabled for discussion on the directive of our joint Congresses. We want the Contributory Pension Scheme to be pegged at eight per cent so that we can survive the prevailing economic downturn in the country. We also plead that implementation of the Hazard Allowance should commence in July, while Peculiar Allowances should not be included in computing our pension," he told Management, pledging the full support of union members to the accelerated development of the University.

Managements would come and go, but the Unions would remain constant variables in the annals of the University of Port Harcourt. While justifiably demanding welfare packages, it is also pertinent that Union leaders would prevail on their members to improve their productive capacity to earn the privileges they so stridently demand. It is a *quid pro quo* situation that should be respected by all sides. *Aluta continue!*

## GUIDE POST

## APPOINTMENT

**Professor Gordian Obute**, Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, Faculty of Science, appointed *Dean of Faculty*. The two-year appointment which takes effect from July 31, 2016, will terminate on July 30, 2018.

**Dr. John Yeseibo**, Department of Theatre and Film Studies, Faculty of Humanities, appointed *Acting Head of Department*. The two-year appointment which took immediate effect will terminate on June 30, 2018.

**Professor Iyegbe Siminlalayi**, Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, appointed *Director, Centre for Malaria Research and Phytomedicine (CMRAP)*. The two-year appointment which takes effect from August 1, 2016, will terminate on July 31, 2018.

## RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

**Dr. Erzebet Didia**, Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Management, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective July 2, 2016 to July 1, 2017.

**Dr. Anthony Udez**, Department of Experimental Pharmacology/Clinical Pharmacy, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted *Renewal of Appointment as Adjunct Reader*, effective April 8, 2016 to April 7, 2017.

## STUDY LEAVE

**Dr. Job Otokwala**, Department of Anaesthesiology, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, granted a one-year *Study Leave with Pay*, for a Fellowship programme in Intensive Care Medicine at the Christian Medical College Vellore, India, effective July 15, 2016 to July 14, 2017.

## SABBATICAL LEAVE

**Professor Willie Okowa**, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted *Sabbatical Leave* to the Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Rumuolumeni, Port Harcourt, effective November 11, 2015 to November 10, 2016.

## HIGHER DEGREE

**Dr. Okon Eton**, Department of Accounting, Faculty of Management Sciences, awarded the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Accounting from the University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State on May 5, 2016.

**Dr. Petronilla Ogoke**, Department of Maths/Statistics, Faculty of Science, awarded the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Statistics (Biostatistics) from the University of Port Harcourt on September 30, 2015.

**Dr. Chukwuemeka Nwaobakata**, Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, awarded the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Civil Engineering (Highway and Transportation Engineering) from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

## CONVERSION

**Mrs. Ashley Stewart**, Department of Fine Arts and Design, Faculty of Humanities, converted from *Senior Producer to Assistant Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2015.

**Mr. Chiderzie Okoli**, Department of Fine Arts and Design, Faculty of Humanities, converted from *Producer I to Assistant Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2015.

## CHANGE OF NAME

**DR. OGECHUKWU EBERE EZIM**. Former Dr. Ogechukwu Ebere Okafor of the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science, now wishes to be known, called and addressed as Dr. Ogechukwu Ebere Ezim. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

## UniPort Joins Others To Mark World Olympics Day

By Otiok Samuel

In line with its designation as an Olympic City, the University of Port Harcourt was the only Nigerian university that joined the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to mark this year's Olympic Day Run which held at the University's Stadium on Saturday, July 2, 2016.

Speaking before the very colourful event which kicked-off from the Stadium Gate, University Park, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, stressed the need for members of the University community to engage themselves in regular exercises to keep fit, expressing gratitude to all those who trooped out in their large numbers to participate in the maiden Olympic Day Run in the University.

"This event is meant to remind us of the great Olympic ideals of mass participation,

the event turned out to be very successful in the University of Port Harcourt. The Vice-Chancellor started and finished the race in style. Our only regret was that the Director of Olympic City Centre in the University, Dr. Chukwuemeka Agi missed the event because of his abduction by kidnappers; but we are, however, happy that he was released the same Saturday after the exercise."

The Director further expressed satisfaction that part of the objectives of setting aside the day was met, adding: "We inspected roads on Campus and although we couldn't quite get a clear race course that measured 1.5 kilometres, we felt that it would be a big risk if the Vice-Chancellor and other top University officials were made to run up to 5 kilometres which is the next official distance. The race course we finally adopted was slightly more than 2 kilometres and we had mass participation of men, women and



V-C, Prof Lale (in Tracksuit) leading other participants during the Run

humility in victory and grace in defeat. It also reinforces our shared humanity and a sense of community in a world that is burdened by numerous problems. We must strive to extend a helping hand to one another in line with the Olympic symbol of the continents that are joined together by six rings. Coming this year when we are preparing to host the West African University Games (WAUG), it is important that we all become more active in sporting activities that would keep us fit with the attendant health benefits," the Vice-Chancellor told the runners.

Giving a background to the Olympic Day Run, Director of the Sports Institute, Professor Ken Anugweje, disclosed that the International Olympic Committee set aside June 23 each year to commemorate its establishment in 1894, describing the Olympic Day Run as an annual event aimed at promoting sporting activities around the world.

"In 1987, it became mandatory for all IOC member-nations to celebrate the Olympics Day Run as a way of promoting the values of mass participation in sporting activities and friendship. The celebration is commemorated by running over any distance between 1.5 and 10 kilometres," Professor Anugweje said.

On whether the University had to mark the event on a later date, the Director said: "The Nigerian Olympics Committee made a special request to the IOC to move its own participation forward by a week, from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> June for several reasons, including the nationwide Environmental Sanitation Day that coincided with the day designated for the exercise. In all, I am very pleased to note that

children."

The Director commended Chairman of the Sports Complex Management Committee, Professor Matthew Wegwu for approving funds for logistic arrangement, Dr. Johnson Okpaka for coordinating the technical officials, Dr. Victor Ogunleye, Coaches Godpower Geoffrey, George Obiano and Captain of Team UniPort, Fidelis Awusa, the Security Unit and Team UniPort athletes. He also expressed gratitude to other participants that included Professors Barisua Nwinea, Okey Onuchuku and the immediate past Registrar of the University, Mrs. Matilda Nnolim.

## STOP PRESS

## Batch 'B' Corps Members

Prospective Corps Members for the Batch 'B' Service Year, whose names were missing on the tentative list published by the Student Affairs Department, are directed to ensure that their NYSC Mobilisation Forms are duly completed and submitted without further delay.

A statement by the Director of the Department, Mrs. Bridget Nnolim, however, disclosed that candidates whose degree results were yet to be approved and those not cleared by the Certificate Verification Committee (CVC), would not be listed for service.

Others whose Mobilisation Forms were not properly completed and students with queried Bank Tellers would also not be listed for service, the statement said. "We assure all prospective Corps Members of our determination to capture the names of all qualified candidates for service," the Director promised.



## Lale Returns To Work

**I**t was an outpouring of joy among staff and students of the University when Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, made a triumphant return to work on Friday, July 1, 2016, after his suspension from office by the defunct Governing Council led by Engr. Gesi Asamawei. On resumption of duty, Professor Lale hit the ground running by presiding over the maiden Public Lecture organised by Our Saviour's Chapel, Interdenominational (OSC). Our Camera men, **OTIKOR SAMUEL** and **MITCHELL EBI-EKIYOR** captured pictorial highlights of the return as shown below:



Jubilant staff ushered in the V-C, Prof. Lale (arrowed) into the Senate Building



Another view of jubilant staff ushering in the V-C, Prof. Lale into the Senate Building



Prof. Lale addressing the staff at his official Car Park



DV-C (Acad), Prof. Hakeem Fawehinmi welcoming Prof. Lale back to office



V-C (standing), addressing some well-wishers and staff in his office



Prof Lale speaking with newsmen



V-C receiving the Chaplain of OSC, Ven. Saturday Nkete and the Anglican Archbishop of Jos Ecclesiastical Province, Most Rev. (Dr.) Benjamin Kwashi on a courtesy visit



Prof. Lale (5' left) flanked by Guest Lecturer, Most Rev. (Dr.) Kwashi, DV-C (Acad), Prof. Fawehinmi (left), V-C, Emeritus Prof Nind Briggs, his wife, Lady Dato and Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto at the maiden OSC Public Lecture



V-C addressing participants at the Lecture



Most Rev. (Dr.) Kwashi handing over a copy of the Lecture to V-C, Prof. Lale



V-C, Prof. Lale (4' left) some Principal Officers of the University, Board of Trustees and CMC Members in a group photograph with Archbishop Kwashi after a Courtesy Visit on the V-C



Prof Lale, V-C, Emeritus Prof Briggs (2' left), Ven. Nkete, his Wife, Baridole and others after the Lecture



A group photograph of participants and organisers