

## Neglect Of Extractive Industry Responsible For Nigeria's Economic Woes ~Oti



As Nigerians continue to grapple with the current economic hardship occasioned by a free fall in the global crude oil benchmark, which is the country's revenue earner, a renowned Professor of Geology, Michael Oti, has blamed the crisis on the neglect of the extractive industry by successive administrations in favour of oil, reports *Humphrey Ogu*:

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## Side Bar PROJECT INSPECTION

Management of the University embarked on inspection tour of ongoing projects on Campus last Wednesday.

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# FG Confirms Vice-Chancellor's Return To Office

By Williams Wodi

Following the dissolution of the Governing Council, the Federal Ministry of Education has formally written to retroactively restore Professor Ndowa Lale to office as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt. It would be recalled that Professor Lale was inexplicably 'suspended' from office by the dissolved Governing Council headed by Engineer Gesi Asamaoewi on trumped up charges that were later debunked by the Minister of Education.

In a reversal of the illegal decision to 'suspend' the Vice-Chancellor by the erstwhile Governing Council, the Federal Ministry of Education not only directed the immediate withdrawal of the 'suspension' order by the erstwhile Council, but also retroactively restored Professor Lale to his position with effect from Friday, July 1, 2016.

"I am directed to inform you of the dissolution of the Governing Council of the University of Port Harcourt and that the suspension of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale has been withdrawn and he should go back to his office/work with immediate effect, while we wait for the new Council to be

constituted," the letter signed by the Director of Tertiary Education, Mrs. Hindatu Umar Abdullahi read in part. Congratulating Professor Lale on behalf of the Honourable Minister of Education, Mallam Adamu Adamu for reclaiming his mandate, Mrs. Abdullahi disclosed that the Vice-Chancellor's return to office was predicated on the resolution of a meeting

presided over by the Minister, which was attended by the former Pro-Chancellor and External Members of the dissolved Council of the University. The meeting

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Adamu Adamu, Minister of Education



Prof. Lale, V-C

# NMA, Other Medical Bodies Honour Fawehinmi

By Otiakor Samuel

Three separate professional bodies, including the Rivers State Branch of the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), the Anatomical Students' Society of Nigeria (ASSON) and the Port Harcourt Medical Students Association (PUMSA), have separately honoured the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi for his contributions to the growth of the medical profession. The awards were given to Professor Fawehinmi at separate events organised by the State Branch of NMA and student affiliates of the medical practitioners' bodies in the University, in recognition of his track records as former President of Port Harcourt University Medical Students Association in 1990, erstwhile President of the Nigerian Medical Students Association in 1991 and Patron and Staff Adviser to PUMSA and ASSON, respectively. The Rivers State Branch of the Nigerian Medical Association in a letter dated July 11, 2016, and signed by the Secretary, Dr. Kennedy Nkporbu, said the recognition of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor was in recognition of his outstanding commitment to the growth of the medical profession spanning several years of teaching and practice.

"I am pleased to inform you that the State Executive Council, as well as the State Officers' Committee of the Nigerian Medical Association, Rivers State Branch, after careful consideration of your commitment, and contributions to the growth and activities of the Association in the State and indeed the medical profession assessment of your outstanding personality

and also your enviable achievement in the medical profession, unequivocally making you an ideal role model, have approved your nomination for the above award," read part of the letter.

The award by the NMA was bestowed on Professor Fawehinmi on Saturday, July 23, 2016, as part of the highlights of the Annual General Meeting/Scientific Conference held between 14 and 23 July, 2016 at the Atlantic Hall, Hotel Presidential in Port Harcourt.

Professor Fawehinmi was one of the three distinguished personalities who received the NMA Award of Excellence.

Other recipients of the Award of Excellence were: Drs. Adenike Abubuwa and Hope Winston Bell-Gam, while Rev. (Dr.) Israel Kue, Dr. Bennett Okafor, Sir (Dr.) Otonye Danagogo and Professor Jacob Adotey were recipients of the Kofi of Honour Awards.

The harvest of awards which also came from the Port Harcourt Medical Students Association under the leadership of Nnoka Valentine and the University of Port Harcourt Chapter of the Anatomical Students' Society of Nigeria, all cited Professor Fawehinmi for his untiring support to the growth and wellbeing of the awarding bodies. The awards by the student bodies were bestowed on the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in July, 2016.

Presenting the award to Professor Fawehinmi, UniPort Chapter President of ASSON, Samuel Agumagu, described him as an outstanding teacher, explaining that the Award of Honour was given to their mentor in appreciation of his meritorious service and exceptional role towards the development of Human Anatomy in Nigeria and beyond.



Prof Fawehinmi, DV-C (Acad)

## Re: Ex-UniPort Student Leaders Emerge NANS President, Scribe

Contrary to our publication at page 2 in the *UniPort Weekly* edition of August 8-August 15, 2016, with the above title, we wish to state categorically that both Mr. Tonye Tom-George and Mr. Rhino Owshokhire, were neither elected as President nor Secretary of the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) as they falsely claimed in a document they submitted to our newsroom.

Since we were erroneously hoodwinked into publishing that falsehood, it has emerged that both Mr. Tom-George and Mr. Owshokhire merely fled from the chaotic venue of an inconclusive NANS election at the Gombe Township Stadium for Abuja, where they manufactured a super story about their purported 'election' as 'President' and 'Secretary' of NANS, respectively.

A report by the Convention Chairman, Mr. Prince Miaphen, a copy of which was obtained by the Editor of *UniPort Weekly* read in part: "What actually transpired was that registration and accreditation of delegates were barely completed when a group of miscreants invaded the venue of the election after the Police on duty had mysteriously disappeared, only to reappear after mayhem was unleashed by unidentified hoodlums that

supported one of the candidates for the Presidency of NANS. At exactly 4.30pm on July 18, 2016, the former Executive led by Mr. Tijjani Usman, was formally dissolved by the Senate of NANS to pave way for the smooth conduct of elections as approved by the Constitution and Charter of Demands of NANS."

In the report dated August 5, 2016, Mr. Miaphen further disclosed that after he was elected as Chairman of the NANS Convention, he called for nomination of Presidential Aspirants in line with the Constitution, before the miscreants disrupted proceedings and unleashed mayhem at the venue which resulted in bodily harm to some delegates, in addition to dispossessing them of personal effects.

"At this point, the NANS Convention tagged Gombe 2016 was summarily called off by the Convention Chairman as there was high level of insecurity at the venue of the aborted election. Due consultations will be made by the Convention Chairman/Acting NANS President on the way forward, while a new date and venue for the election will be communicated to Nigerian students, especially the delegates in due course," Mr. Miaphen said in the report.

In their own protest letter against the false information fed to the readers of *UniPort Weekly* by Mr. Tom-George and Mr. Owshokhire, the President and Secretary of the Students' Union of the University of Port Harcourt, Mr. Ephraim Inno-Anaeje and Kpema Nukrates, corroborated the statement by the Convention Chairman, strongly condemning the two as impostors, who set out to spread a false result about an exercise that did not take place.

"We want to inform the Management and the entire University of Port Harcourt community that there is no NANS President or any official at the national level at the moment and that any person or group of persons parading

themselves as NANS official(s) from the botched Convention at Gombe State is doing so on their own peril and should be treated as impostors which is a criminal act," the protest letter to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Late read in part.

To our dear readers: *UniPort Weekly* was not at the Gombe Convention ground and only relied on a bogus report sent to the Editor's desk by Mr. Tom-George, claiming to have been 'elected' as 'President of NANS.' Contrary to the claim by the Executive of the Students' Union, neither the Management of the University nor *UniPort Weekly* "is superseding some set of impostors to achieve their mischievous act which might lead to unforeseen circumstances," as was claimed in the protest letter.

We wish to state quite categorically that the whole story was ingeniously manufactured by Mr. Tom-George and Mr. Owshokhire to deceive the public and that there was no intention on our part to favour them by publishing their so-called 'election' in the *UniPort Weekly*. We highly regret that the official news organ of the University was deviously deceived into publishing the false information and we wish to apologise to NANS and the Executive of the University of Port Harcourt Students' Union for the embarrassment this false report may have caused all the stakeholders. Consequently, the entire news item with the above title is summarily retracted and we wish to appeal to our esteemed readers to discontinue the claim as a rumour.

Meanwhile, information reaching our newsroom indicated that the aborted Annual NANS Convention has been rescheduled for the Old Parade Ground, Gariki in Abuja from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2016. The new notice of Convention was conveyed to all delegates in a letter signed by the Convention Chairman and Acting NANS President, Mr. Miaphen.

EDITOR

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Tom-George

Owshokhire

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Delivering the 8<sup>th</sup> Valedictory Lecture entitled: *"Extractive Industry and Nigeria's Development: Where Did We Go Wrong?"* to mark his formal retirement from the services of the University after over three decades of unbroken academic engagement at the Ebidini Bangko Auditorium, last Tuesday, Professor Ogi regretted that successive governments abandoned a very lucrative solid minerals industry to depend entirely on oil revenue.

"The extractive industry gave Nigeria an early head-start to set the compass for the course of its further development at, and since, Independence from colonial rule," the Valedictory Lecturer told the audience drawn from within and outside the University, pointing out that the country would have recorded giant economic strides if it had further developed its abundant solid minerals industry.

Professor Ogi identified the criminal neglect of the extractive industry as one of the things that went awry in Nigeria's economic policy thrust. "It appears that we went the wrong way at various crossroads. We should have stayed the course with the exploitation of our abundant solid minerals, among other resources, especially agriculture, before the discovery of oil. Even when oil appeared on the scene, we should not have abandoned other sectors of the economy the way we did," he said, emphasising the urgent need for the diversification of the nation's economy to save the economy from total collapse.

"Our coal reserves should have been better exploited for power generation at the early stages before our energy needs grew out of pace with the rate of population increase; the extraction and use of industrial metals (tin, tantalum, tungsten, lead, zinc) could have catalysed industrial manufacturing; and our iron and steel industry might have transformed our nation into a manufacturing and construction giant," he noted.

"To say that Nigeria has all its eggs in one basket is a metaphorical understatement. With oil and gas alone, Nigeria seems to be perched on a fragile and precarious economy, as the geopolitics of the global oil commodity price is not within its control," Professor Ogi noted, adding that "as new technologies were being developed to unlock hard-to-reach reserves, more and more nations are producing their own oil, while advanced countries are shifting their energy mix in favour of more renewable sources due to environmental and sustainability concerns."

A new Acting Director has been appointed to run the Community Service Programme of the University. She is Dr. Helen Imafidior of the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology in the Faculty of Science. Dr. Imafidior took over from Professor Monday Godwin-Egein, who concluded his two-year tenure on Tuesday, August 16, 2016.

Speaking to our Correspondent at a brief handover ceremony which held at the Conference Room of the Unit last Monday, immediate past Director, Professor Godwin-Egein, listed some of his achievements in office for the last two years aimed at giving the Unit a facelift, pointing out that lack of equipment and means of mobility were the major challenges that needed to be

## Neglect Of Extractive Industry Responsible For Economic Woes ~ Oti



Valedictorian, Prof Oti (in academic gown) flanked by some Principal, Senior Officers and 7<sup>th</sup> V-C, Prof Joseph Ajenka (left)

Oti, who observed that oil revenues wasted on subsidies and alleged corruption could have provided Nigeria with the power it needed for all-round industrial output and development, said: "Our oil and gas resources should have been better utilised to provide better social services such as education, health and infrastructural development in transportation, road networks and a better life for all citizens," regretting that Nigeria paraded some of the world's worst road networks and inadequate electricity supply system that largely depends on private power generating plants.

The Valedictory Lecturer, however, expressed optimism that Nigeria could still extricate itself from the economic quagmire in which it was currently trapped. "It is never too late. We should begin to retrace our path, re-set our priorities, re-visit those critical areas where we may have missed the opportunities for sustainable growth, diversify our economy, abhor corruption, and re-commit ourselves to building a more successful, just and prosperous Nigeria, in peace and unity," he recommended.

Speaking after the lecture, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, who stood in for

the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, commended Professor Oti for a well-delivered lecture and the depth of his thinking on the issue, wishing him well in retirement. Describing the extractive industry as very critical to the development of any nation, Professor Ibe hoped that Nigerian policy-makers would harken to the recommendations from experts such as Professor Oti.

"From the facts and figures presented to us by the Valedictory Lecturer today, it appears to me that Nigeria had its Independence a bit too early and did not master the rudiments of self-governance and proper economic management at that time. I am saying this because South Africa, which did not have its own self-governance until 1994, is doing better than Nigeria in many areas, despite suffering under a brutal Apartheid government for so long. The blacks there were agitating for self-governance, yet things were taking shape under white minority rule and we all know where South Africa is today in terms of economic power, despite the lies we tell ourselves about being the giant of Africa and possessing the largest economy on the continent," he said.

## Godwin-Egein Ends Tenure, As Imafidior Unveils Vision For Community Service Unit

By Otiokor Samuel

addressed urgently to enable the students fully benefit from the programme.

"The Community Service Programme is a University-wide programme meant to expose students to the spirit of rendering service to the community on their graduation.

It was meant to prove to the students that everything they were supposed to learn from the University was not just limited to books. Every University Undergraduate student must engage in some form of Community Service in the Second Year of study. It is credit-scoring and compulsory for graduation. That is how important it is and it is not part of the two courses that a student could waive," Professor Godwin-Egein said.

"We are still requesting that what is obtainable at the CES Unit be extended to the Community Service Programme to enable the Unit to also directly present its result to the Senate of the University, instead of the Departments as is currently

the practice," the immediate past Director told our Correspondent, appealing for a dedicated building to accommodate the Unit. "As I prepare to handover in my successor, 27 staff, including 18 Board members and nine administrative staff are presently crammed into three 10x14 rooms. This setting can hardly motivate staff to greater productivity as envisaged by the University authorities," he regretted.

Meanwhile, the new Acting Director, Dr. Imafidior, had promised the Board and Staff of the Unit of total commitment to duty and a desire to work closely with them to take the Unit to higher grounds. She also declared her resolve to ensure that participants take the scheme very seriously to achieve productive community service, promising to initiate an awareness campaign in line with the mandate of Senate of the University for the programme.

"I wish to thank my predecessor for the services he rendered to improve the programme. We will do all that is within our powers to build on the existing situation on ground. We will encourage vocational training and services to the communities in line with the Motto of the University: *For Enlightenment and Self-reliance*. "We will carry out more awareness campaigns on environmental health, because only a healthy person can be effective; so, we will encourage our students to take this message to the community. We will also try our best to strengthen the symbiotic *Town and Gown* relationship through the Community Service Programme," the new Acting Director said, adding that the general concept was to improve the lives of members of the University and host communities through quality services delivery.



Prof Godwin-Egein (right) handing over to Dr. Imafidior

## C'ttee On ESRI-GIS To Sensitize Staff, Students On Software

By Obinna Nwodin

The University of Port Harcourt Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) would commence a sensitization workshop in September to enlighten members of the University community on the benefits of the project. Chairman of the Project Implementation Committee, Professor Samuel Arokoyu of the Department of Geography, who made the disclosure to *UniPort Weekly* in a sideline line interview, last Monday, disclosed that the

University indicated interest in membership of the project in June 2014 and obtained the software license in December, 2014.

He said that "the software was designed to spread the use of ArchGIS software and spatial analysis across African universities, adding that "the Environmental Systems Research Institute with headquarters in California, United States, is a pioneer in the field of ArchGIS and they had donated 3,000 licenses to the University for teaching and learning research." According to him, ArchGIS is the leading software for

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) across the world.

Arokoyu, who is also Associate Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, further disclosed that a Committee was inaugurated for the implementation and deployment of the software, adding that the Committee had already swung into action to evolve strategies for the deployment of the software for the use and benefit of staff and students of the University.



Prof Arokoyu

## Stop Press

### PLACING OF BANNERS ON CAMPUS

This is to notify individuals and groups wishing to place Banners/Flex, Posters, Roll-Up Stands, Signages, including Road Shows and other publicity activities at any location in the University to formally apply and obtain permission from the Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit before proceeding to do so.

All such Banners and vehicles deployed for Road Shows without due authorisation will be summarily confiscated and their owners appropriately surcharged by the Bursary Department. This new policy is designed to restore order to the placing of Banners and mounting of Road Shows with the aim of keeping the University clean and orderly.

Even when Banners are approved, individuals and organisations that place them must take full responsibility for their prompt removal at the end of each event. We appeal for cooperation from the University community and business operators to achieve the Unique UniPort of our dream. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation.

Contact: Deputy Registrar, IPPR Unit, 08033093371

## NAAT Ends South-South Zonal Meeting In UniPort

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The South-South Zone of the National Association of Academic Technologists (NAAT) has ended a one-day Meeting of the body in the University of Port Harcourt, with a charge to members to rededicate themselves to duty and the search for professional excellence.

Giving a detailed handover report at the Meeting which held at the Animal and Environmental Biology Auditorium at the University Park on Friday, August 19, 2016, immediate past Zonal Coordinator of NAAT, Mr. Ambrose Ogbegbe, commended the University Management for ensuring improved staff welfare. He also lauded the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Late for what he described as the cordial relationship that has existed

between Management and the University of Port Harcourt Branch of the Union since his assumption of office.

"We wish to express gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor for restoring the Occupational Hazard Allowance which was stopped sometime ago without explanation to the intended beneficiaries. In our opinion, this kind gesture has truly portrayed Professor Late as a Union-friendly Vice-Chancellor, who deserves to be supported to accomplish his mandate," Ogbegbe said.

Reiterating the need for more Technologists to be employed in the University to meet the stipulated Lecturer-Student-Technologist ratio in line with the National Universities Commission standard to cater for the growing student population that use laboratories, workshops and studios, Ogbegbe

called for sponsorship of Technologists to training programmes, using the Tertiary Education Trust Fund meant for that purpose to enhance their professional skills and quality service delivery.

"Our members should also be paid relevant professional allowances as approved by the Federal Government of Nigeria and allowed to exercise their professional functions, including procurement, installation, testing, commissioning and training, which should not terminate until the Technologist is able to use the purchased equipment to accomplish the prescribed duty schedules," he said, drawing attention to some peculiar challenges facing the Union.

Disclosing that Technologists are skilled experts trained in the application of scientific knowledge to solving practical and societal problems, the immediate past Chairman of the UniPort Branch of NAAT frowned at a situation where Graduate Assistants and Assistant Lecturers were preferred to Technologists in the scheme of things. "The South-South Zone of NAAT has resolved to be more responsible with a view to fostering stability on our campuses which is essential for the accomplishment of the goals and objectives of the University system. This in turn would translate to higher productivity and accelerated development of the universities in our zone, both federal and state," he said.

A major highlight of the NAAT Zonal Meeting was the inauguration of a new Executive led by Zonal Coordinator, Mr. Dienagha Ekeipre, Secretary, Patrick Idili, Treasurer, Aniefiok Uwah and Public Relations Officer Onyeabur Nwabun.



UniPort NAAT Chairman and immediate past Zonal Co-ordinator, Mr. Ogbegbe (centre, front) and other Zonal delegates

# OSN Institutes Prize For Outstanding UniPort Students

By Mercy Adeniji

A part of its vision to promote excellence in the practice of Ophthalmology in Nigeria, the Ophthalmological Society of Nigeria (OSN) has instituted a N1million Prize for the Best Graduating Student in the specialisation.

Receiving a delegation of OSN last Tuesday, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, commended the College of Health Sciences and the professional body for endowing the Prize in the University. "We thank you for thinking in this direction and wish to assure you that the prize would be utilised for the purpose for which it was instituted. We are certain that your kind gesture would go a long way in encouraging the students to strive for academic and professional excellence."

"This endowment would enable us catch students young and expose them to the field of Ophthalmology. When I got my Professorship in Electrical Engineering, I decided to celebrate it by endowing a Prize for the Best Graduating Student in Power System Engineering for 10 years. The rule is that you must pass up front; I did so and the Prize is still running today. My endowment has helped in encouraging students to strive for academic and professional excellence. So I believe this latest Prize would go a long way in catching them young to enrich the critical Ophthalmology profession," he stated.

In his response, President of the Ophthalmological Society of Nigeria, Professor Shabazz Nwosu, thanked the authorities of the University for the warm reception accorded his delegation. "We are also here to inform you that we are holding our National

Conference and 41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting here in Port Harcourt and this is the second time we would be meeting in Port Harcourt since the inception of our Society," he said.

According to Professor Nwosu, the Ophthalmological Society of Nigeria is both an academic and professional body that caters for the interest of its members and their professional development.

"A university as big as this deserves to have a thriving Department of Ophthalmology and that is why we decided to come here and endow a Prize. We are very proud of the Ophthalmology service and academic activities going on at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital. We, however, regret to note that the Ophthalmology programme is still struggling to attain full Departmental status in the University of Port Harcourt. Our appeal is that the specialisation should be accorded full Departmental status in the University as soon as possible. Our endowment of a N1 million Prize is meant to catch students young to enable us pass on the baton to the next generation," the President said.

In her remarks, Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Christie Mato, expressed gratitude to the

Ophthalmological Society of Nigeria for the endowment. "Part of the job of an Ophthalmologist is to give light to the world. We want to thank the Society on behalf of the College of Health Sciences and the University for instituting such an important Prize. I understand what it means for a professional body to bring out this kind of money at this time when things are very difficult. We also wish to express gratitude to the University Management for supporting the College," Mato stated.

The Provost also revealed that the College of Health Sciences was working hard to establish a Department of Ophthalmology, disclosing that the documents would soon be tabled before the Senate Committee on Academic Policies and Programmes (SCAPP) for consideration and approval.

Also present were the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto and University Librarian, Dr. Susan Umazor. Other members of the delegation were the Treasurer, Dr. Chinyere Pedro-Egbe, Acting Head of Department of Ophthalmology at the UPTH, Dr. Sotonihi Conkey and Public Relations Officer of OSN, Dr. Jeff Ajewole.



Dr. V-C (Admin), Prof Ibe (seated centre) flanked by Prof Nwosu (right), Provost, CHS, Prof Mato, Univ. Librarian, Dr. Umazor (right) and Registrar, Mrs. Otto, Dr. V-C (Acad), Prof Fawehinmi (left), other members of the delegation and SAV-C, Mr. Kingsley Wogwu (standing)

Restoring the University Arts Theatre—The CRAB to its former glory and facilitating the foundation laying for a state-of-the-arts theatre is the long term goal of the new Acting Head, Department of Theatre and Film Studies, Dr. John Yeseibo.

Speaking with a UniPort Weekly Correspondent in his office last Tuesday, Dr. Yeseibo disclosed that plans are on to reach out to well-placed graduates of the Department, who are in the entertainment industry, especially the Nollywood stars to assist in laying a foundation for the planned Ola Rotimi Arts Theatre, adding that alumni of the Department already have what is known as *Crabite*



Dr. Yeseibo

## Yeseibo Plans Big For UniPort Arts Theatre

By Humphrey Ogu

Forum in three zones—Abuja, Lagos and the South-South Zones, which includes South Eastern states.

Yeseibo, who was a pioneer student of the Department, regretted that the CRAB is currently in a state of disrepair. "I was here from the very beginning as a student; we were only five students then—two males and three females. I also served as President, Association of Theatre Arts Students (ATAS) for two consecutive years, 1985 and 1986. It bothers me so much that the CRAB is now the shadow of itself. No fix lantern. Anytime we have production, we have to hire lantern. We also need dimmer board, which is about N400, 000. If I can put the theatre in order, I will be very, very happy person," he said.

"My priority is to ensure that we have full accreditation for our programmes. We are also hoping that our new programmes: MA Theatre and Media Studies, MA Film and Television Studies, MA Film and Television Studies

and Postgraduate Diploma in Theatre and Media Studies, which is designed to enable candidates that had Third Class degrees or who graduated from other disciplines to enrol for a Master's degree. These proposed programmes have passed through School of Graduate Studies and it is before the Senate for ratification," he said.

Yeseibo, who is the first Crabite to be appointed Head of the Department, said: "As an indigenous HoD, I want to make huge impact by the grace of God and the support of my colleagues. We have regular interaction with students through departmental dialogue. We have the highest number of lecturers in the Faculty of Humanity, with four Professors."

He disclosed that the Department has continued to produce actors and actresses apart from the very popular ones, adding that the budding film stars trained by the Department are currently being overshadowed by the veterans. "The younger graduates of the Department are rising stars that will shine soon," he said.

## Stop Press New Lassa Fever Outbreak

Following the recent outbreak of Lassa Fever that was reported to have resulted in the death of a Medical Doctor at Nnewi in Anambra State on Wednesday, August 17, 2016, the Health Services Department, has urged the University community to take proactive cautionary steps to prevent the spread of the deadly disease in the University. A statement dated August 23, 2016 and signed by the Acting Director, Dr. Chinwe Ezirim, advised members of the University community to take preventive measures such as killing all rats on sight, keeping homes, hostels and offices clean and free from excess loads, storing food in rodent-proof containers and observing regular environmental sanitation. The statement also appealed to staff and students to report any suspicious case to the Health Services Department for prompt action.

# FG Confirms Vice-Chancellor's Return To Office

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which held on Wednesday, June 8, 2016 at the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, focused on issues surrounding the purported 'suspension' of Professor Late from office as Vice-Chancellor and set a timeframe for his recall to office.

It would also be recalled that the dissolved Council overreached its powers by purporting to have suspended the Vice-Chancellor without following the due process of querying and summoning him to appear before an Investigation Panel to determine his guilt or otherwise in the spirit of fair-hearing. The defunct Council also acted outside its powers when it went ahead to appoint an 'Acting Vice-Chancellor'—a power that should have been exercised on the recommendation of the Senate of the University in line with Section 3 (sub-section 13) of "The Universities (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amended) Act, 2013."

Sub-section 9 of the same Act states: When the proposal for the removal of the Vice-Chancellor is made, the Council shall constitute a Joint Committee of Council and Senate consisting of three members of Council, one of whom shall be the Chairman of the Committee in line with sub-section (i), while sub-section (ii) makes

provision for two members of Senate on the Panel. (10) The Committee shall conduct investigations into the allegations made against the Vice-Chancellor and shall report its findings to the Council. Sub-section (ii) states that the Council may where the allegations are proved, remove the Vice-Chancellor or apply any other disciplinary action it may deem fit and notify the Visitor accordingly; provided that the Vice-Chancellor who is removed shall have the right of appeal to the Visitor.

Following the dissolution of the Governing Council of the University on Thursday, June 30, Professor Late made a triumphant return to office on Friday, July 1, 2016, amidst jubilation by staff and students, who trooped out to usher him back to office.

In a brief statement, the Vice-Chancellor expressed gratitude to all those who stood by him during his travail, following the violent student demonstration of April 11, 2016, that culminated in his 'suspension' by the dissolved Governing Council.

"I wish to thank all my supporters for resolutely standing by me in those very difficult days of my career and to assure them that I will continue to discharge my duties to the best of my abilities in line with my Campaign Manifesto. I also wish to thank all my detractors who engaged in elaborate celebrations to mark the ugly



Prof. Abubakar Rasheed,  
Executive Secretary, NUC

development as their expected reaction gave me the needed shot in the arm to remain resolute and determined to fight the reign of lawlessness and impunity that befell the University. May God keep you all," the statement said in part.

## When The Bell Told For A Jolly Good Administrator

By Obinna Nwodin

That Friday afternoon, he strolled briskly into our newsroom on the left entrance into the expansive Senate building. It was peak production time of *'The Editor Weekly'*. "A-a-a-a-a," the Editor echoed a shortened version of his surname as he usually did, a big smile lighting his face on seeing his town's man. "Oga, I came to pay homage as usual," he cheerfully replied. He then headed straight to the Editor's fridge in another office to perform his accustomed 'absolution'.

He re-emerged and took a seat close to the Editor and for over one hour, we engaged him in discussions of all sorts, including the botched elections into the local branch Executive of the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) that had been postponed severally. He put up a spirited defence of the Electoral Committee which he headed as Chairman, including giving us a vivid explanation about why the polls had to be severally postponed, promising to give the National Vice-President what he described as a piece of his mind when the fellow finally decided to show up to observe the elections, which he thought was not necessary. He joined our usual austere production environment comprising groundnuts, biscuits and wine to boot.

It was during the conversation that I learnt that he was a good footballer and had played with such greats as Imama Amapakahor, current Coach of Rangers International Football Club of Enugu; Kennedy Boboye, immediate past Coach of Abia Warriors Football Club; Tonworomi Duere, who made it to the maiden edition of the FIFA/JVC Under-16 Junior World Cup in China, amongst others. I also learnt that he later coached two local teams in his neighbourhood. While Amapakahor and Boboye pursued their football career to become professional coaches, Makele took his professional public service career as an ace Administrator to its very pinnacle. It was a highly animated conversation that eased the usual tense atmosphere that usually characterized the newsroom setting as we approached the final deadline for the *UniPort Weekly* to go to 'bed' in production parlance.

His mere presence that afternoon gave us the needed boost to conclude our production pronto. As carnal men, we did not remotely envisage that as the news we would see or hear from him—ever! Two days later,

the bad news filtered into town that the boisterous and lively Deputy Registrar was no more. Life was snuffed out of him by trigger-happy bandits as he led a delegation to attend a training workshop organised by the Association of Nigerian University Professional Administrators (ANUPA) at the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru, near Jos.

Late Mr. Kelsey Makele had taken a sudden bow after playing his part on this stage of life. Today, we can only remember his amiable qualities that endeared him to both the high and low. News of his death reverberated across the four corners of the University and beyond, not only because he was the first to die in such a gruesome circumstance, but because of the lives he touched while he played his part on the stage of life. It also manifested in the outpouring of eulogies by people from all walks of life on the Jolly Good Fellow, who made uncountable friends than enemies behind his desk and off duty.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa, who led a litany of tributes, described him as a "seasoned University Administrator and an amiable fellow and role model to the younger generation," stating that his



Late Makele

"unexpected demise cast a cloud on the University and has further impoverished the ranks of seasoned Administrators in our University and the nation at large." He expressed gratitude to God that Late Mr. Makele lived a fulfilled life; bequeathing to his family the virtues of hard work, forthrightness and integrity. Director of the University of Port Harcourt Business School (UPBS), Professor Clifford Ofurum, described Late Mr. Makele's death as very shocking, painful and unbelievable, adding that he had to "depart at a time when his life would have been the sweetest to him and his family." National President of the Association of Nigerian University Professional Administrators (ANUPA), Mr. Okey Ikeghuam, described Mr. Makele as "a committed and devoted member of the Association, who played his part and quit the stage though untimely." To the UniPort Branch Chairman of the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), Mr. Biktum Syder, "Late Mr. Makele devoted much of his lifetime to the service of the University of Port Harcourt where he demonstrated excellence, diligence, hard work and dedication to duty, rising from the position of Clerical Officer to the pinnacle of his career."

To Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Okey Onuchukwu, Late Mr. Makele was able to nurture a worthy family that would continue to represent him. Chairman of the UniPort Branch of ANUPA, Mr. Roland Wabali, described Mr. Makele as "a member of staff who contributed immensely to the growth of the Registry Department in particular and the University in general."

To UniPort Branch Chairman of the Nigeria Universities Pensioners Association, Mr. John Wonne: "The sad news was received by members with deep sorrow and regret." George Orlu of De Senate House Rumuigbo, described the deceased as "a man of dignity who understood the heart of people."

Late Mr. Makele would be described as an epitome of hard work, dedication and determination, who combined so many good attributes that enabled him rise from the position of Clerical Officer to that of a Deputy Registrar in a chequered career path that dated back to 1982, when he joined the services of the University. He served in numerous capacities in various sections of the University and was until his untimely death, the Secretary/Head of Administration at the University of Port Harcourt Business School and Secretary of the UniPort Branch of ANUPA, amongst other top positions.

He was buried in his country home at Rumuigbo New Layout on Friday, August 19, 2016. Kelsey Anenob Makele will be sorely missed in UniPort and everywhere he made a good impression. He was truly a Jolly Good Fellow and ace Administrator!

## GUIDEPOST

## APPOINTMENT

**Professor Chijioke Nwauche**, Department of Haematology, Blood Transfusion and Immunology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, appointed *Chair Occupant, NDDC Professorial Chair of Malaria Research*. The appointment which takes immediate effect is until further notice.

**Professor Igbo Joe**, Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, re-appointed *Chairman, Board of Open and Distance Learning (ODEL) Centre*. The two-year appointment which took effect from August 14, 2016, terminates on August 13, 2018. Other members of the Board are: Professor Henry Alapidi, Drs. Adedapo Aiyelaja, Barobor Vikoo, Kikpoye Aaron, Chidiebere Ugwu and Nathaniel Abraham. Mr. Stephen Ekeh of the Registry Department will serve as Secretary.

**Professor Abdulrazac Kilani**, Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, appointed *Chairman, Board of College of Continuing Education*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect, terminates on August 15, 2018. Other members of the Board are: Professor Comfort Monagor-Ighororo, Drs. Dakoru Charles-Granville, Kikpoye Aaron, Fidelis Allen, Godly Oton, John Ojiele, Baridisi Isaac, Chinedu Ogbuji and Benson Eyoamwan. Others are Messrs Mark Roman, Joe Ayotamuno and Michael Uhom, while Mr. Stephen Ekeh of the Registry Department will serve as Secretary.

**Professor Anthony Ataga**, Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, Faculty of Science, appointed *Director, Regional Centre for Biotechnology and Biofuel Research*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect, terminates on August 15, 2018.

**Dr. Elizabeth Kaegan**, Department of Educational Management and Planning, Faculty of Education, appointed *Coordinator, Centre for Early Childhood Education*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect, terminates on August 15, 2018.

**Dr. Oforime Ndicho**, Department of Curriculum Studies and Educational Technology, Faculty of Education, appointed *Coordinator, Centre for Primary and Secondary Education, Institute of Education*. The two-year appointment which took immediate effect, terminates on August 15, 2018.

**Dr. Josephine Agogbua**, Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, Faculty of Science, appointed *Assistant Director, Regional Centre for Biotechnology and Biofuel Research*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect, terminates on August 15, 2018.

**Mr. Adekunle Sofolabo**, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, re-appointed *Assistant Director, Community Service Programme*. The two-year appointment which takes effect from September 4, 2016, terminates on September 3, 2018.

## PROMOTION

**Dr. Daprim Ogaji**, Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2014.

## RENEWAL OF ADJUNCT APPOINTMENT

**Dr. Eni Alobo**, Faculty of Law, granted a one-year *Renewal of Adjunct Appointment as Senior Lecturer*, effective June 4, 2016 to June 3, 2017.

## REVIEW OF STATUS

**Dr. Helen Oloro**, Department of Hospitality Management and Tourism, Faculty of Management Sciences, granted *Review of Status from Lecturer II to Lecturer I*, effective February 7, 2012.

**Dr. Nkolika Swazor**, Department of Electronic and Computer Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, granted *Review of Status from Lecturer II to Lecturer I*, effective February 22, 2016.

## New AIESEC Interns Train On Software Programming

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

**F**our Interns from the Republic of Benin are currently in the University of Port Harcourt to participate in a six-week training exercise on software programming under the auspices of an international student organization, AIESEC.

The new Interns are Kidam Imoumana from the High Institute of Management Adonia, Pio Adjakoton and Berence Amoussou, from the Institute of Formation and Research in Computer Science, University of Abomey-Calari and Jean-Jacques Sodo from the Institute of Technology, Lokossa, in the Republic of Benin.

Briefing *UniPort Weekly* on the training programme which is the first of its kind to be organised by AIESEC UniPort, President of the Chapter, Miss Vivian Atuchukwu, said the training on system software C# was being facilitated by Microsoft Student Partner, Joshua Joshua.

"Interns usually visit the University to participate in running projects such as *Project Sunshine* and *Project Pink*, but this is

the first time we are hosting Interns solely for purposes of training them in software programming," she told our Correspondent. Speaking on behalf of the Interns, one of them, Adjakoton noted that aside from the training, they were also in the country to discover Rivers State and the University of Port Harcourt, describing the University as big and clean. "Back home in the Republic of Benin, we have heard a lot about Port Harcourt. My first impression of the University of Port Harcourt is that it is clean. UniPort is bigger than the biggest university in the Benin Republic which is the University of Abomey-Calari," he added.

AIESEC Vice-Presidents in charge of Talent Management, Ovie Ekenye, Public Relations and Communications, Justina Ifeanyichukwu, Business Development and Incoming Internship Programme, Mabel Ideh, accompanied the Interns to the Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit, Office of the Vice-Chancellor, where they were received by the Deputy Registrar in charge of the Unit, Williams Wodi.



The new AIESEC Interns

**DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
WEATHER OBSERVATORY  
WEATHER FORECAST FOR PORT HARCOURT AND SURROUNDING AREAS  
FOR SUNDAY AUGUST, 28 – SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 03, 2016.**

DATE	TEMPERATURE III LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 28 AUGUST 2016	30.0 23.0	74	WSW	-	6:27 6:40	Mostly cloudy day anticipated.
MONDAY, 29 AUGUST 2016	29.0 22.0	82	WSW	38.5	6:26 6:39	Passing showers and breaks of sun later in the day.
TUESDAY, 30 AUGUST 2016	30.0 22.0	86	WNW	6.3	6:26 6:39	Light rain accompanied with a mostly cloudy dispersion.
WEDNESDAY 31 AUGUST 2016	28.0 22.0	73	SW	9.1	6:26 6:38	A few thunderstorms accompanied with a mostly cloudy rainfall.
THURSDAY, 01 SEPT. 2016	29.0 22.0	65	SW	8.1	6:26 6:38	Thunder storms early and a mostly cloudy dispersion.
FRIDAY, 02 SEPT. 2016	30.0 23.0	67	WSW	6.3	6:26 6:37	Isolated thunder storm and a mostly cloudy outlook expected.
SATURDAY, 03 SEPT. 2016	29.0 23.0	65	W	-	6:25 6:37	Partly sunny day anticipated.

DR. V.E. WELI  
AG. HOD  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY & ENV. MGT.

DR. PRINCE C. MMOM  
AG. DIRECTOR  
(C.R.M.D.S.)

## Reception For UMaT Students, Lecturers

A total of four staff and 51 students from the University of Mines and Technology (UMaT) Tarkwa, Ghana were received by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, who was joined by other Principal and Senior Officers of the University at the 6<sup>th</sup> UniPort/UMaT Exchange programme on Monday, July 4, 2016. The event took place at the Conference Room of the International Students' Centre. Our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU**, captured highlights of the reception:



R-L: Director, ELPU, Prof Ifeanyi Aghakwu, V-C, Prof Lale, D-V-C Acad, Prof Hakeem Fanchinmi, Ag. HOD, Petroleum Engineering, Dr. Boniface Orji and CSO Lt. Col. Reginald Igeges (left) rise for the Anthems



UMaT Students rise for the National, UniPort and UMaT Anthems



V-C, Prof Lale welcoming the students to the University



Director ELP, Prof Akakuru making a remark



Ag. HOD, Petroleum Engineering, Dr. Orji speaking



Director, Centre for Nuclear Energy Studies, Prof. Ayu Kye and Director, Sports Institute, Prof. Ken Anagwele giving their remarks



R-L: V-C, Prof Lale and D-V-C (Acad), Prof Fanchinmi in a side-by-side



A cross-section of UMaT Students



Co-ordinator of the programme, Dr. Chikwenda Uban and Director, CEREMAD, Prof Alice Nne also giving their remarks



HOD, Petroleum Engineering of UMaT, Dr. Samuel Ndur speaking, while other Visiting UMaT Lecturers listen



Class Captain, Miss Grace Mensah-Ametume speaking on behalf of her colleagues



A cross-section of UMaT students taking the Cocktail



V-C, Prof Lale (arrowed), some Principal and Senior Officers of the University and Visiting Lecturers and UMaT Students