

UniPort Weekly

Vol. 29, Edition 294 September 12 - September 19, 2016

For Information and Enlightenment

ISSN: 1522-2325

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

Epelle Advocates More Varsity-Industry Partnership At Claude Ake Chair Lecture

As stakeholders continue to decry the poor state of funding of Nigerian universities and their inability to generate funds for robust academic activities as is applicable in the advanced countries, a Development Economist, Mr. Anthony Epelle, has stressed the need for increased collaboration between universities and the industry in order to achieve mutual institutional benefits, reports Obinna Nwodin.

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Side Bar 6TH EGBOGAH LEGACY LECTURE

The 6TH Emmanuel Egbogah Legacy Lecture Series with the theme: "Managing Petroleum Revenue under Volatile Price Dynamics" will hold this Wednesday at the Emerald Energy Institute along the East/West Road. The University community and the general public are cordially invited to attend. Details Next Week.

~Editor

Ramon-Yusuf, NUC Director Lists UniPort's Path To Academic Excellence

By Humphrey Ogu

Issues bordering on how to reposition the University of Port Harcourt to achieve academic and administrative excellence in the face of dwindling resource allocation in a highly competitive operational environment, formed the main thrust of a one-day retreat for top academic and administrative staff which held at the Senate Chambers on Saturday, September 3, 2016.

Delivering a lecture entitled: "Attaining Excellence at the University of PortHarcourt: What Trajectory?", Director of Research and Innovation at the National Universities Commission, Dr. Suleiman Ramon-Yusuf, commended Management of the University for mounting the retreat aimed at updating top level staff on modern management techniques for quality service delivery. "Despite the resource

constraints, Africa needs a new generation of universities that will be veritable engines of economic development and social regeneration. Universities have to position themselves to play a strategic role by re-considering their vision, mission, functions and operational structures.

"Whether we like it or not, we are part of the globalization train, which is moving very fast and the excuse that we are a

developing nation and we do not have money is no longer tenable. The problem with a developing country like Nigeria is that we found ourselves in a conundrum, where we are expected to do quite a lot with very little. So, it is a big challenge for us. Since we have no more excuses to give, we must innovate; we must be the critical thinkers; we must think outside the box

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In A Season Of Holy Rage

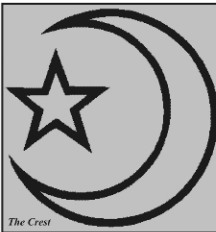
By Williams Wodi

In a letter to his grandson, English Statesman, Philip Stanhope, declared that religion is not a proper subject of conversation in a mixed company. The gentleman did not know he had the Middle East, Nigeria and the Orient in mind. In his own submission, Thomas Brown said: "Persecution is a bad and indirect way to plant a religion." There are deep fissures and seething discontent in the camp of people who peddle a combustible mix of belief systems that motivate them to practise medieval tyranny as a means of forcing their faith on others. They are what a poet calls ignorant armies clashing at night.

It is beyond absurdity that people who revel in primitive adherence to manufactured spiritualism and veneration of self-validating Prayer Contractors have messed up the estate of God. In Nigeria and around the world today, religion is no longer a spectator sport as a combination of cultural relativism and holy rage have stripped God of all redeeming features and rebranded Him as a cheap commodity on the stock exchange. They forge God's signature to perpetuate evil on a massive scale without conscience. There is a barbaric manifestation of religious arrogance that prowls the land while "holy warriors" are willing to exert morbid redress against non-believers in the name of God. The jungle of religious fanatics is expanding fast and threatening to Pakistān or Lebanon's country along sectarian lines to the delight of the zealots, who pledge allegiance to global mentors. They forget that those who worship God merely out of fear would readily worship the devil should he also appear around the corner.

Nothing validates our fear of the rising "holy rage" than the stamping army of terror known as Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) that is violent, brutal and ready to take on the rest of the world. ISIS recites the holy *Quran* and *Hadith*, the oral sayings attributed to the Holy Prophet Muhammad, upside down and speaks pompously about *al-Dawla*—the "state", "emirates" or "caliphate" and its adherents are willing to crush anything or anybody on their way. Sharia, the Islamic jurisprudence is the guiding light for all the combined jihadi army that seek to free the Sunni Muslims from the Crusaders and their collaborators. Shia, Alawites and other minority sects are fair target without apologies. Adherents seek martyrdom and they chase it everywhere

as foot soldiers, suicide bombers, willing wives to bearded "brothers" and ruthless commanders known as *sheikhs* or *imams*. There is no spirituality to their religion and they are a totalitarian and theocratic enemy of true Muslims everywhere, just those spreading the new Pentecostal Influenza are mortal enemies of Christianity everywhere. ISIS leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, although originally from Iraq, seeks to abolish all national boundaries and citizenship. To this medieval tyrant, who preaches a



The Crest

darkling vision of the future, only the "Islamic State" matters. To *Salafists*, Western-style democracy and modernity are antithetical to "true" Islam, including the apostate regimes in the Middle East that are excluded from this warped brand of theological purity as propagated by the holy warriors. Those who fail to adhere strictly to Baghdad's twisted thinking are visited with *takfirism*—excommunicated heretics to the faith and beheaded. Like their leader, nearly all recruits into the army of terror are graduates of the American prison

"academies" where they are trained and indoctrinated by resident *imams* on blistering anti-Western screeds that seeks to safeguard Allah's law from the *kuffar* or unbelievers.

The soldiers of the Levant make *bayat*—allegiance—to their Caliph and fight under the slogan: Monotheism and Jihad aimed at liberating Palestine, Jordan and Israel from the infidels after freeing the "Euphrates" and "Mesopotamia"—a clear indication of their backward integration to medieval civilization. Alcohol, music and satellite television are interpreted out of Islam as less pious activities that are visited with death. The holy warriors are desperate to acquire rich and chemical weapons to advance their wretched cause that spiritually handcuffs their brainwashed followers. The black banner of the restored Islamic Caliphate flies all over ISIS-held territories in Syria and Northern Iraq aimed at reclaiming lost power and prestige, notwithstanding the praetorian divisions among the "brothers".

The conversion curriculum of ISIS is designed to mint ready-made agents of mayhem on a massive scale based on the unceasing veneration of *imams* who revel in triumphant discourse that is anchored on an apocalyptic ideology meant to uproot "apostate" regimes. These managers of savagery are determined to implement a seventh-century code in areas under the iron-grip of fundamentalists, who exploit demographic anxieties to advantage. This new *salwa* or awakening is designed to set the world on fire along sectarian lines by dressing Jihad in nationalistic costume. The combined foreign legion led by the Americans has not found a way to destroy this deadly pathogen that swarms like locust invasion in every corner of the world.

In Nigeria, Boko Haram is not different from ISIS to which it had already pledged *bayat* and management of savagery on a primitive scale in the Northern parts. Human Rights Watch estimates that over 10,000 innocent citizens have been serially slaughtered in the North since 1999 when Nigeria returned to civil rule. The contagion goes on with the recent burning alive of eight persons accused of "blasphemy" in Zamfara State and the "holy" murder of a 74-year grandmother at Pandegari in Niger State for the same "offense". The familiar force called "law" in Nigeria has emboldened the maniacs who maim and kill at will, and sometimes without provocation at all—all in God's name—and they fear no censure from a delicate authority.

State sponsorship of religion—which should be strictly a private affair—emboldens the zealots to go after those who do not worship the way they worship. Sectarian intolerance has reached a level where people are censured or even killed if their heard was not long enough! The spark and light approach to defending religious belief threatens the very fabric of Nigeria and the rest of the world and this rising religious wars can only end when the proselytes are no more.

Charles Cullen declares that men will wrangle far religion; write for it; fight for it; die for it; anything but—live for it. In today's reign of holy rage, things have come to such a sorry pass that religion is allowed to invade the private sphere. Not to worry: The world began without man and will end without him, declares French philosopher and cultural anthropologist Claude Lévi-Strauss. In the final analysis, "Every religion is good that teaches man to be good," says political philosopher, Thomas Paine. In a secular society, which Nigeria is, every body ought to be his or her own doctor of divinity, and not dictated to by self-appointed holy warriors—be they Muslims or Christians. Malatuna Gangli reminds us that one of the world's deadliest sins is: "Randi without spirituality."

UniPort Concludes Admission Screening Exercise

By Obinna Nwodin

In compliance with the directive of the Federal Ministry of Education on the screening of eligible candidates for admission in the University for the 2016/2017 academic session, the University of Port Harcourt has concluded screening for eligible candidates into the various Faculties. The exercise which commenced on Wednesday, October 7, ended on Saturday, October 10, 2016 with candidates for the various Faculties and the College of Health Sciences taking their turns in line with the schedule of the Time-Table Committee. Officials of the National Universities Commission also monitored the exercise. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndopea Lale, led other Senior Officers of the University to inspect the Admission Screening at the

Convocation Arena, Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium and Basic Studies Centres on day two of the exercise.

To ensure a smooth exercise, Management of the University held an Orientation programme for staff that participated in the exercise at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, last Monday.

Addressing Line Officers who participated in the exercise, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakem Fawellim, told them that their selection was based on their integrity. "You should put up your best performance and be polite to the candidates as the global approach is to treat candidates the way the private sector treats its customers," he said. He told them that the new process was a complete

departure from what was done in the past as the staff were expected to screen the credential of the candidates to ensure that they were in tandem with the documents they presented during the University Matriculation Examination.

The interactive event included briefing of the participants by the Admissions Officer, Mrs. Flora Iyagba, Academic Officer, Dr. Agatha Ataga, Chief Security Officer, Lt. Col. Reginald Iguzo (rtd), Acting Director, Information and Communication Technology Centre (ICTC), Dr. Chidiebere Ugwu, Dr. Gladys Emenike of the Department of Geography and Environmental Management, as well as Mr. Kuntu Sofolabo of the Faculty of Science.



V-C, Prof Lale (arrowed), observing the Screening exercise

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Mr. Epelle made the call while delivering the 2nd Professor Claude Ake Professorial Chair in Political Economy which held at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park on Thursday, September 1, 2016.

The Guest Lecturer, whose presentation was entitled: *Town and Gown: Making the Critical Connection for Mutual Benefit*, stated that there were enormous gains derivable from such functional partnerships in the face of poor funding from government sources.

"There appears to be a disconnect between *Town and Gown*, which needs to be cemented. Ours must be a collaboration that not only enlightens, but empowers. *Town* moves to *Gown* to learn and acquire the basics and fundamentals for the career progress of town dwellers," he stated, adding that "*Town and Gown* must stay together consistently to forge a formidable partnership. This will strengthen competences and capabilities on both sides, make universities more dynamic and entrepreneurial and consequently earn new respect to the University community," the Guest Lecturer told his audience.

Mr. Epelle stated that the funding constraints have been mainly the result of Government remaining the largest source of financial support for institutions of higher learning, noting that the Federal Government accounted for almost 90% of higher education funding in the country. He stressed the need to redefine the role of universities to enable them play a more active role in

Epelle Advocates More Varsity-Industry Partnership



DI-C (Administration), Prof Ibe (arrowed) flanked by Guest Speaker, Mr. Epelle, Chair Occupant, Prof Ekeke, 7th V-C, Prof Joseph Ajenka (left) and other guests after the Lecture

society and governance, charging academics to make their outstanding research findings available to the wider community to enable them reap better returns on investment from such research, amongst others benefits. In his remarks, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, commended the Claude Ake Chair for organising the lecture. "The essence of public lectures is in highlight thought-provoking issues that would help move the system in the right direction. The recommendations made by the Guest Lecturer should serve as a wake-up call to academics to engage in meaningful research activities and make them available to the larger community. The days when we merely published for promotion are behind us as academics; in this age of globalization of ideas, academics must find a way to capitalise their research findings to benefit society and themselves in a mutually-beneficial partnership. That

means that our curriculum must be relevant to the needs of the society in which we operate and we must find more creative ways to take the *Gown to Town*," Prof Ibe said.

Earlier in his welcome address, Occupant of the Claude Ake Chair in Political Economy, Professor Eme Ekeke, expressed gratitude to the Guest Speaker for accepting to deliver the Lecture. "Although the late Professor Claude Ake was an international scholar of the Marxist persuasion, he was not a fanatic as he recognized the place of praxis in his thought and activities in and outside the classroom. Ake's interest was focused on how to bring the good life to majority of the people without a voice or representation in high places where their fate is determined by people who are more powerful than themselves. The essence of the Lecture is to help engineer that critical meeting between *Town and Gown* for the mutual benefit of both parties," the Chair Occupant concluded.

Mgt, Student Leaders Agree On Sept 20 As Final Surcharge Payment Deadline

By Otiok Samuel

In furtherance of its regular engagement with relevant stakeholders as part of efforts aimed at creating open communication channels in the University, Management has again consulted Students' Union leaders on the delay in the payment of charges and surcharge by students. The latest meeting was convened at the instance of Management to remind the student leaders of the expiration of an initial six-week deadline for the payment of the outstanding registration charges and another one meant to defray the cost of property damaged during the violent students' demonstration of April 11, 2016.

The student leaders were reminded of their apparent failure to keep to the mutual agreement to mobilize their colleagues to pay up the outstanding charges and surcharge for the last session which both parties and their

parents agreed upon under the aegis of the University of Port Harcourt Parents Forum (UPHFF).

Speaking at the meeting which held in the Committee Room last Tuesday, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, regretted that only less than 50% of the student, out of an estimated 22,000 students has so far paid up their outstanding charges and the surcharge of N5,000.00, even when Management yielded to the pleas by the students and other stakeholders to shift previous deadlines. "It is on record that all parties agreed that the outstanding charges would be paid within six weeks after resumption for the Second Semester, which has since elapsed and even with the extension of the deadline to September 2, 2016, a large number of students still failed to pay up.

"It is on the basis of your plea for another period of grace that Management agreed to reopen the University. Students should bear in mind that the surcharge would

have been higher than N5,000.00, but for the intervention of the Parents' Forum and student leaders, yet the response has not been so far encouraging. We readily acknowledge that online transactions could occasionally be truncated by system failure, but the affected students should bear in mind that the Payment Portal will not remain open forever. As I address you, the local branch of the Academic Staff Union of Universities is threatening to boycott lectures to protest the delay in compensating its members for the losses they incurred during the April 11 riot by their own students," the Vice-Chancellor told the student leaders.

Following a passionate plea by the student leaders for another extension of the deadline by two weeks, Management conceded that the final date for payment should finally close next Tuesday. "At midnight on September 20, 2016, the Portal will be finally shut down and once that happens, we do not expect any further plea for extension of time. Students, who do not pay their charges before the expiration of the final deadline will face appropriate sanctions," the Vice-Chancellor warned.

Corroborating the Management's position on the extension of the initial deadline, President of the Students' Union, Ephraim Inno-Amaeze, said that it was part of the demands by students to Management to allow them write the First Semester Examination unconditionally, stating that they had promised to pay up the outstanding charges during the Second Semester if their demand to unconditionally sit for the First Semester Examinations was granted.

"The average UniPort student is willing to pay the surcharge for the damages done on Campus, but there are congestions on the networks in most of the banks and such delays interfere with lecture hours. The time too is a bit too short. So, I want to plead with Management to kindly allow us more time," the President said.

The meeting was also attended by the Deputy Vice-Chancellors in charge of Administration, Professor Anthony Ibe, Academic matters, Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otin, Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Ablici, University Librarian, Dr. Susan Umazor, Acting Dean of Student Affairs Department, Dr. Otu Ekpenyong, the Students' Union Executive and Presidents of Faculty Associations.



V-C, Prof Lale (arrowed) with other Principal and Senior Officers and Student Leaders during the meeting

UniPort To Host CDRMDS Workshop, Regional Confab

By Otiok Samuel

Plans have been concluded for the hosting of a workshop and regional conference by the Centre for Disaster Risk Management and Development Studies (CDRMDS) on Thursday, September 15 and October 10 to 13, 2016, respectively.

Making the disclosure in a chat with a *UniPort Weekly* Correspondent, Acting Director of the Centre, Dr. Prince Mmom, disclosed that the workshop which would be jointly organised with relevant partners in environmental management and allied stakeholders, has "Nowhere to Run: Nigeria's Climate and Environmental Crisis," as its theme. The event will hold at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium as from 10:00 am each day.

The Head of Delegation of the European Union to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Ambassador Michael Arrión and Rivers State Governor, Chief Nyesom Wike, are some of the heavyweights expected to grace the event, while the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nwada Lale will be chief host. Panellists would include Rivers State Commissioner of Environment, Professor Roseline Konyia, Acting Head of Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Dr. Vincent Weli and Inemo Samlana of the Stakeholder Democracy Network, while Amara Nwankpa of

the Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Foundation and environmental campaigner, Naimmo Bassey would moderate the panel discussions. Similarly, the Centre has announced the maiden Regional Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction scheduled between Monday, 10th and Wednesday, 13th October, 2016. With the theme: *Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies and Sustainable Development in the 21st Century*, the conference also scheduled for the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, has *Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies; Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response Infrastructure and Strategies; Smart Cities, Urban Development and Disaster Risk Management and Indigenous Knowledge; Post-Crisis Recovery and Management of IDPs* as sub-themes, among other topics that range from Public Health issues, security and oil and gas.

The organisers advised interested authors to submit abstract of not more than 250 words to <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=cdmss2016> not later than September 26, 2016. "All abstract submissions must not be more than 250 words in MS word format. It must include author's name, affiliation, contact e-mail address and phone numbers, as well as keywords," the Acting Director, stated, adding that Registration fee is N10,000, while Undergraduate students would

register at a subsidised rate of N5,000.00



Dr. Mmom, Acting Director

Paediatric Nephrologist, Eke Harvests Awards At Indian Confab

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Following an invitation to speak at an international conference on Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatobiliary Transplant and Nutrition which held at NIMS University, Jaipur in India, Professor Felicia Eke of the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Faculty of Clinical Sciences in the College of Health Sciences, has returned with four awards in different categories as reward for the quality of her presentation.

They include an award as Chairperson of the Scientific Symposium, International Lifetime Achievement Award for extra ordinary

contributions on a global scale and yet another award as Speaker at the conference.

Briefing *UniPort Weekly* on the conference that was organized by the Society of Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology Transplant and Nutrition (PGITNCON-2016) from Thursday, February 11 to Sunday, February 14, 2016, Professor Eke disclosed that the gathering attracted participants from over 100 countries of the world, adding that she gave a talk on *Experience of Transplantation in a Resource-Poor Environment*.

"This conference afforded me a rare opportunity to seek international support and collaboration to establish a functional transplant centre in the

University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital. It also provided a platform for experts to chart a way forward on the treatment of renal diseases and transplant," she disclosed, regretting that while cases of renal disorder and detection were on the increase, Nigeria was regrettably lagging behind in the treatment of kidney diseases.

Disclosing that hereditary and other factors such as poverty, insect bite, skin infections, dirty environment and malaria, diarrhoea and vomiting in children, as well as environmental factors could become predisposing factors to acute kidney injury, Professor Eke listed awareness, clean environment, and malaria prevention, including avoidance of medicinal herbs, as remedial measures against the deadly disease.

Professor Eke, who is a Paediatric Nephrologist, promised to share knowledge gained from her Indian trip with younger colleagues, whom she implored to rededicate themselves to their humanitarian calling as doctors without focusing too much on material rewards. "Young doctors need all the training and exposure they can acquire to improve themselves on the job. They have to take it one step at a time to get to the pinnacle of their career in the profession. No professional with integrity rises to the top overnight; young people must learn to do things the proper way and wait for their turn for recognition," she advised, lamenting the recent trend where young doctors crave for monetary gains against quality patient care.

In a related development, Professors Ifeoma Anochie and Eke last Friday met with the Commanding Officer in the Nigerian Air Force Medical Centre, 97 Special Operating Group Port Harcourt, Dr. Gideon Luka and staff of the REKKIF Kidney Support Foundation led by its Executive Director, Charles Awoyemi. The essence of the meeting was to finalize arrangements for a seminar aimed at expanding knowledge and creating awareness of kidney-related diseases. Details of the proposed project would be made known in our subsequent publications.



Profs Anochie and Eke displaying some of the awards won by Prof Eke

Senate of the University of Port Harcourt has approved new graduate programmes for the various Faculties that requested them. The decision was taken at the 424th Meeting of the august body held last Tuesday at the Senate Chambers, after a presentation by the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, Professor Regina Ogali.

The programmes approved included the Master of Arts (MA) degree in Theatre and Media Arts, Master of Arts (MA) in Film and Television Studies; Master of Fine Arts (MFA-Professional) in Film and Television Studies—all in the Department of Theatre and Film Studies, Faculty of Humanities. Senate also approved the Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) programme in Production and Energy Economics, Master of Science (M.Sc-Professional) in Energy Economics, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Energy Economics and Management for the Emerald Energy Institute. It approved a request for the Postgraduate (PGD) programme in Natural Resources and Environmental Management in the Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and

Senate Approves New Programmes, Results At 424th Meeting

By Obinna Nwodin

Department of Geology in the 2011/2012 Session as presented by Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, Professor Regina Ogali.

Senate also considered Reports of Students' Disciplinary Committee on Manipulation of Examination Results and Alleged Submission of Thesis, as well as the Report on Alleged Case of Manipulation of Examination Results in the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, as presented by Dean of the Student Affairs Department, Dr. Otu Ekpenyong.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, had earlier announced recent appointments/elections into academic positions, advising Deans and Heads of Department to prepare adequately for the

The Vice-Chancellor also notified Senate that the six week deadline allowed students to pay their charges lapsed on Friday, September 2, 2016, adding that Management met with student leaders on the issue just before the Senate meeting. Professor Lale told Senate members that the students had pleaded with Management to give them an additional grace period of two weeks which would end on September 20, 2016. He said that based on the development, the Payment Portal will be finally shut down at midnight on Tuesday, September 20, 2016. He further said that the local branch of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), was already threatening to embark on a strike action over the delay in payment for damages inflicted on the property of



Senate in session. Inset: V-C, Prof Lale

Sustainable Development (INRES), as well as the Postgraduate Certificate (PGC) in Nuclear Security Science obtainable in the Centre for Nuclear Energy Studies.

The apex academic regulatory body also considered a Report on the Implementation of Senate's Decision on Entrepreneurship as presented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawchinn, opting instead to retain the current format for running courses in Entrepreneurship in the University.

Senate also considered the Final Report of the Committee on Implementation of Direct Entry Admission mode into the University of Port Harcourt as presented by Associate Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, Professor Samuel Arokoyu. It thereafter decided that the effective date of implementation should be the 2017/2018 academic session to give ample time for its smooth take off.

Senate also considered and approved the Report of the University of Port Harcourt Open, Distance and e-Learning (ODEL) Policy as presented by Acting Director of the Centre, Dr. Baribor Vikoo. It also considered the Report of the Committee Investigating the 'Graduation' of one Mr. Uche John Bosco and other MSC Students of the

coming accreditation exercise. He urged them to adhere strictly to the guidelines set by the National Universities Commission (NUC) for the purpose. "Departments that obtained Interim Accreditation status during the last exercise must strive towards obtaining Full Accreditation this time around. We all know that failure to be fully accredited for a second time would lead to closure of such Departments until such a time when they can meet the stipulated criteria for Full Accreditation status," the Vice-Chancellor explained.

Professor Lale also informed Senate that the Admission Screening Exercise for the new academic session would commence on Wednesday, 7th and end on Saturday 10th September, 2016. "Based on the directive of the Minister of Education, there would be no written or oral examinations. By the new rule, prospective candidates will simply appear with the originals of their credentials, take a bow and go. We will then sort out the rest," the Vice-Chancellor said.

He also emphasized the need for academic staff to upload their publications in order to populate the University website and give it enhanced visibility for purposes of ranking by national and global rating agencies.

its members during the violent student protest of Monday, April 11, 2016.

The Vice-Chancellor also advised Deans and Heads of Department to comply with the Senate directive that they should attach names of students not graduating in their final submissions to Senate, adding that the essence of the directive was to ensure that some names would not be dug up and brought to Senate long after such students ought to have graduated.

Professor Lale also thanked members of Senate for their understanding, support and prayers throughout his travail at the hands of the dissolved Governing Council, praying that such a development should never reoccur in the University.

Senate also considered and approved various categories of results from the College of Health Sciences, the Faculties of Humanities, Social Sciences, Science, Education, Engineering, Management Sciences, Pharmaceutical Sciences and Agriculture. Senate also approved the appointment of External Examiners for some Departments, as well as Postgraduate and Higher Degree results from the School of Graduate Studies.

Ramon-Yusuf, NUC Director Lists UniPort's Path To Academic Excellence

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and ascertain where our strength actually lies. We generally look outside for solutions to our problems, which are sometimes peculiar to us. Globalisation makes it possible for us to continue to do whatever is necessary to remain competitive," the Guest Speaker told the gathering.

"Far-reaching reforms are urgently required in curriculum design, pedagogy and criteria for student recruitment. Universities must take a frontal approach in nurturing creativity and innovation and incubate businesses, using the Silicon Valley as a model to be emulated by research institutions," Dr. Ramon-Yusuf submitted, urging university managers to be more creative in their approach to make their institutions relevant in the years ahead.

He listed overcrowded classrooms, over-enrolment, paucity of qualified academics with less than 60% PhDs, excessive "moonlighting" (teaching in other universities), preponderance of "analogue" lecturers' poor (moribund) research culture, poor mentorship culture, abuse of promotion guidelines, poor governance and management, delay in release of results, cases of missing grades, delay in the processing of academic transcripts and abuse of academic freedom, as some of the problems plaguing Nigerian universities today.

Earlier in his address, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, commended staff for turning out *en masse* to attend the programme, even on a Saturday morning, when they could have been at private

functions. "It is an indication that the participants are supportive of the administration's vision to reposition the University of Port Harcourt for academic and administrative excellence. Let me, especially express gratitude to the Guest Lecturer, Dr. Ramon-Yusuf, who has spent a greater part of his career at the NUC, for finding time to deliver the lecture. I am hopeful that participants will strive to implement the recommendations made by our Guest Speaker to move the University to where we all want it to be in this competitive age.

This retreat would be adjudged to successful if we all decide to reproduce the 'take home' points on our desks," Professor Lale told the participants.

The well-attended event featured an interactive sessions during which Dr. Ramon-Yusuf responded to questions posed to him by participants on some of his recommendations. The retreat was attended by Principal Officers and other top Management staff, Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Deans of Faculty, Centre Directors, Heads of Department and Units,



A Cross-section of participants at the Retreat

V-C Charges UPHF On Aggressive Fund-Raising Strategies To Support Development

By Obinna Nwodin

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, has challenged the University of Port Harcourt Foundation to evolve proactive measures aimed at generating the needed funds that would help improve the fortunes of the Institution, even as he has praised staff of the Foundation for the effort they are making in a difficult operational environment. Professor Lale gave the charge during an interactive meeting he held with the Director and staff of the Foundation in Delta Park, on Tuesday, August 30, 2016.

Professor Lale told staff of the Foundation that his administration attached much importance to the good

work being done there, encouraging them to strive towards achieving the purpose for which it was established, which is to drive infrastructural development in the University. "The reason you are here is to raise critically-needed funds for the University and if you are not making money for us, then you would be deemed to be failing in your job schedule. You must put up your thinking cap in order to cultivate the necessary prospects that would enable you raise money that would drive development in the University," he challenged them.

Professor Lale expressed delight in the proposal by the Director of the Foundation to carry out an enlightenment campaign in which staff would be encouraged to

contribute in raising funds for the University.

"Everybody would be requested to make a commitment to the survival of the University and we will approach the Provost, Deans, Directors, Heads of Department and Units to drive the process because the time has come when all hands should be on deck to strengthen the financial fortunes of the University," the Vice-Chancellor said, advising the Foundation to consider a Roll of Honour in strategic places in the University to immortalize donors who would assist in lifting the financial fortunes of the University. Professor Lale further directed the Executive Director of the Foundation, Professor Henry Alapiki, to forward the necessary proposals for consideration by Management.

Earlier in his report to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alapiki had said that from his interactions and experience so far, it was important to mount more aggressive campaigns to motivate alumni of the University to be part of the Foundation's fundraising effort, stressing the need to engage the alumni within and outside to give back to the University in a mutually beneficial relationship.

"All over the world, alumni donations constitute over 70% of sources of funding that come to universities and we intend to continue in our efforts to cultivate as many alumni as possible, who are the real owners of the University brand and they should be made to be proud of their *alma mater*," the Director said, appealing for contributions from all stakeholders to move the University forward.

Professor Alapiki enumerated a number of activities carried out by the Foundation since he assumed duty as Executive Director, stressing the need to constitute an Advisory Board and re-constitute the Governing Board of the Foundation for enhanced service delivery. He also highlighted a number of constraints facing the Foundation in the effective discharge of its mandate.

In his contribution, Acting Director of the College of Continuing Education, (CCE), Dr. Kikpoye Aaron, stressed the need to activate a robust strategy that would attract donors to the University, identifying effective communication through letters of commendation to donors, as well as outreach strategies to prospective donors as some of the ways to attract more funding to the University.



V-C, Prof Lale (1st right) flanked by Executive Director of the Foundation, Prof Alapiki (2nd left), Acting Director CCE, Dr. Aaron (right) and staff of the Foundation

GUIDE POST

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT

Dr. Bright Obasuyi, Department of Anesthesiology, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, granted *Confirmation of Appointment*, effective October 15, 2014.

RENEWAL OF ADJUNCT APPOINTMENT

Professor Vincent Okoro, Department of Pharmaceutical Microbiology, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted *Renewal of Adjunct Appointment*, effective August 22, 2016 to August 21, 2017.

STUDY LEAVE WITH PAY

Mr. Idika Uduoma, Department of Marketing, Faculty of Management Sciences, has been given approval to proceed on a three-year *Study Leave with Pay*, effective October 3, 2016 to October 2, 2019.

Miss Philomina Kika, Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Faculty of Science, has been granted a one-year *Study Leave with Pay*, effective September 12, 2016 to October 31, 2017.

CONVERSION TO ACADEMIC CADRE

Mr. Ifeanyichukwu Nwabueze, Department of Educational Management, Faculty of Education, converted from *Personal Secretary III* to *Assistant Lecturer* in the Department of Educational Management, effective August 30, 2016.

REVIEW OF STATUS

Dr. Samuel Ebete, Department of Educational Management, Faculty of Education has been elevated from *Assistant Lecturer* to *Lecturer II*, effective May 25, 2016.

RESUMPTION OF DUTY

Ms. Josephina Gbobb, Department of Nursing, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, has resumed duty after successful completion of her Doctorate degree programme at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa.

RESUMPTION FROM STUDY LEAVE

Dr. Akuru Big-Alabo, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, resumed from *Study Leave*, effective August 8, 2016.

V-C To Lay Foundation Stone For Sandwich Students' Hostel Sept 22

By Otokor Samuel

As part of the administration's renewed commitment to the welfare of all categories of students, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, has promised students on the Post-National Certificate of Education Sandwich programme of improved service delivery that would enable them get the best during their stay in the University.

Professor Lale made the promise when he led other Principal Officers to receive the Executive of the Sandwich Students which paid him a courtesy visit, last Monday, advising them to lead an exemplary lifestyle that would be worthy of emulation by the regular

Students Association (SSA) or better still, Sandwich Students, stating that even the Management of the University was not a "government."

"There is only one government in the University which is headed by the Visitor and President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. I do not run a 'government' in this University and it would be proper for you to adopt a more civil approach to the way you refer to your organisation if you want us to perceive you in good light. Such inappropriate appellations as 'Comrade', 'Union' or 'Government' will not add anything to the established way of doing things. Such irrelevant titles can only ridicule a laudable initiative by our Sandwich Students, who are already doing a good job towards the



V-C, Prof Lale (arrowed), Principal, Senior Officers and the Sandwich Students' Executives

students who, he said were like their younger academic siblings and kids.

"I am happy that you came together on some kind of platform to promote your collective aspirations as students and I totally agree that you need some form of association to enable you interface with one another and fully appreciate the purpose for which you came here," the Vice-Chancellor said, advising them to continue to conduct themselves in a mature manner that would serve as a good example to other students.

Professor Lale further commended the Sandwich students for mobilising a large number of their colleagues to contribute to a fund meant for the construction of a dedicated hostel accommodation for students on the programme, expressing delight that they had not constituted themselves as a hindrance to the smooth running of the programme which was why Management decided not to shut it down.

The Vice-Chancellor, however, directed the Executive of the Sandwich Students to drop its current nomenclature as "Sandwich Students Union Government," advising them to go with Sandwich

accelerated development of the University," the Vice-Chancellor admonished them.

He reiterated the commitment of his administration to continue to place importance on giving quality training to students on the Sandwich programme, most of who are teachers, assuring them that he would be on hand to lay the foundation stone for their hostel project to provide permanent hostel accommodation for them. In his remarks, Director of the Institute of Education, Professor Samuel Nwilededub, who represented the Dean, Faculty of Education, Professor Lawrence Igwe, expressed gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor and other Principal Officers for the warm reception accorded the expanded Executive of the Sandwich Students, stressing the need for them to be good ambassadors of the University.

In his contribution, Executive Director of the University of Port Harcourt Foundation, Professor Henry Alipkai, reminded the students that they are part of the unique brand, charging them to imbibe the culture of giving back to the University on their graduation. He promised to meet with the Coordinator of the programme to activate a database of past and current students.

Earlier, Coordinator of the programme, Dr. Gospel Kpee, introduced the expanded Executive to the Management, disclosing that Sandwich Students from all the states of the federation on the programmes were represented on the Executive.

In his speech, President of the body, Mr. Orubu Inabietonye, commended the Vice-Chancellor for granting audience to his members, soliciting his support and approval for some proposed projects which included the foundation laying stone of the proposed Sandwich Hostel scheduled for Tuesday, September 20 and Cultural Day Festival scheduled for Thursday, September 22, 2016.

"So far, in collaboration with the Coordinator, Dr. Kpee, we have mobilized over 2,500 students to pay all fees and charges, despite the fact that most of us are teachers and have not been paid our salaries, we have conducted ourselves in an orderly manner by obeying existing rules and regulations of the University," the President added.

Other members of the Executive on the entourage included Victory Obuzor, Daniel Ogbonna, Stephen Akwe, Tuhubili West, Joseph Abuh, Thomas Oluokunle, Tynah Amadi, Eric Oweh, Matthew Omokpe, Irem Irem, Paul Ekanem, Lassid Entolu, Simcon Ugana, Jumbo Oka, Innocent Manu, Okonkon Owuening, Peter Agbo, Victor Wopara, Gabriel Otuji and Doris Dianna, amongst others.

A major highlight of the courtesy visit was the presentation of a family portrait of the Vice-Chancellor.

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UDSS Dormitory Project

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale laid the foundation stone for the construction of a two-storey model dormitory building for boarding by students of the University Demonstration Secondary School (UDSS). The exercise which took place on Monday, July 11, 2016, was initiated by the Parent-Teacher Association. Our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU**, captured highlights of the ceremony as shown below:



V-C, Prof Lale disembarks from the UniPort Conuster bus at the Permanent Site of the School



Principal, UDSS, Ogechi Anole, welcoming the V-C, while UDSS PTA Chairman, Dr. Gospel Kpee watches in admiration



V-C in a handshake with Chairman, UDSS Board of Governors Chairman, Prof. John Ikimalo, while Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otuo looks on



Principal, Mr. Anole making opening remarks



Chairman, UDSS Board of Governors, Prof. John Ikimalo welcoming V-C and his entourage to the School



Chairman, PTA, Dr. Kpee reading his address



V-C addressing staff and students of the School



Prof. Lale (2nd right), Principal, Mr. Anole, V-C (Acad), Prof. Hakeem Fawehinmi, Registrar, Mrs. Otuo and others walking down the site



The Contractor explaining the architectural design of the building to the V-C



A cross-section of the students and a teacher



A group photograph of V-C, Prof Lale (4th right), Principal, Prof. Hakeem Fawehinmi, Registrar, Prof. Ikimalo (5th right) and Mr. Anole (left)



V-C performing the foundation laying ceremony