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We Will Not Interfere In Students' Union Elections ~Mgt

Contrary to unfounded insinuations in some quarters that Management of the University secretly perfected plans to set up an Interim Executive for the Students' Union, the authorities of the University have explicitly stated that at no point was such a proposal tabled for discussion in any forum, reports *Obinna Nwodin*.

More on p3



Side Bar Inaugural Lecture

Prof Arthur Onwuchekwa of the Department of Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, delivers the 135th Inaugural Lecture this Thursday 27th October, 2016 at the Ebifimi Banigo Auditorium by 3.00 pm
Details Next Week
~Editor

Mgt To Study UDPS C'ttee Recommendations

Story on p2



Stakeholders Seek Ways To Strengthen Medical Research

Story on p3



V-C Inaugurates QAQC /SERVICOM Officers

Story on p4



RSG To Partner Rex Lawson Music Chair

Story on p5



Rivers CP Vows To Deal With Trouble Makers, As Exams Begin Today

By Williams Wodi

Against the backdrop of looming subtle moves by a few students aimed at disrupting the Second Semester Examinations scheduled to commence this morning across the Faculties, Rivers State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Francis Odesanya, has vowed to deal with trouble makers bent on fomenting trouble in the University. The Commissioner handed down the warning when he received a high-powered delegation at the Moscow Road Headquarters of the State Police Command led by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale. "We are aware that a handful of students will always complain about all manner of things just to disrupt the peace on Campus and make themselves relevant in the scheme of things. We are also aware that some students do not want to write examinations, which are part of the statutory requirements for students to graduate from any university. "It is a sad development that most trouble

makers on the Campuses of Nigerian universities are either ex-students, fraudsters or professional agitators, who do not have the interest of the university system at heart. It is more regrettable that universities in the Niger Delta are fast

developing a sub-culture of violence that can be traced to the ongoing militancy, agitation for resource control and other such sundry matters," the Commissioner said, regretting that students have become

More on p6



Mgt To Study UDPS C'ttee Recommendations

By Obinna Nwodin

Management of the University has assured all stakeholders that it would closely scrutinise the recommendations made by an Ad-Hoc Committee on the restructuring of the University Demonstration Primary School (UDPS), with a view to repositioning the school in line with the express directive of the Federal Government.

The Management gave the assurance when it received the final report from members of the Committee led by its Chairman, Professor Samuel Nwidede, at the Vice-Chancellor's Committee Room on Friday, October 14, 2016.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor at the brief hand-over ceremony, showered praises on the Committee for presenting what he described as a comprehensive report, thanked the members for putting together a document that would guide Management as it seeks to comply with the Federal Government's directive on the issue.

"Management will closely study your far-reaching recommendations and implement them in such a manner that would satisfy all stakeholders in the affairs of the school without violating the directive of the Federal Government. If we successfully did the same thing at the University Demonstration Secondary School, I am certain that nothing will prevent us from succeeding with the University Demonstration Primary School," Professor Ibe said while receiving a copy of

the report.

Earlier in his speech, the Chairman, Professor Nwidede, said that the Committee strictly adhered to the terms of reference handed down to it by Management and made far-reaching recommendations that were aimed at repositioning the school for the better if fully implemented. "The Committee visited sister institutions within and outside Rivers State which enabled us to have a holistic view of the assignment in terms of what was obtainable elsewhere. For instance, our recommendations included modalities for the improvement of capacity, as well as infrastructural development of the school for enhanced service delivery to clients. We approached our assignment with a deep sense of purpose and

sensitivity to the concerns expressed by those to be affected in one way or the other by the recommendations we have made for the restructuring of the school," Professor Nwidede said while handing over the report.

It would be recalled that following a directive by government on the issue, staff of all Demonstration Primary Schools in the Federal university system will no longer be paid from government coffers. The University Demonstration Primary School which was established in 1977, provided a veritable platform for trainee teachers in the Faculty of Education to hone their trade, while also enabling staff to give their children quality education within the University environment.



DV-C, (Admin), Prof Ibe (5' left), Principal Officers and members of the C'ttee

In what would amount to legal terms to self-help, Head of the Department of Economics, Professor Kala Ijesma, has donated 20 book volumes to his Department. He also received a big Sharp AR-6020 model photocopier from a group of public-spirited individuals to facilitate reproductive work in the Department.

Speaking before handing over the office equipment to the Head of Department on Friday, October 14, 2016, Mr. Orlando Poweigha, who spoke on behalf of others, said they decided to donate the equipment to save the Department the embarrassment of having to take official documents to public places for reproduction with the attendant risk of compromising sensitive information in the process.

"In the course of inquiring about what we can do to lift the Department, we discovered that the photocopier in the Department was not functioning effectively, thus hampering effective discharge of administrative work. So, we saw a felt need to replace the bad photocopier with a brand new one that would facilitate official work in our beloved Department. Six of us tasked ourselves to buy the Sharp AR-6020 photocopier, which is a good model

HoD Economics Donates Books To Dept, Receives Photocopier From Group

By Otiok Samuel and
Udochi Omeike (Intern)

that can properly service the Department," Mr. Poweigha said.

Receiving the equipment, the Head of Department, Professor Ijesma Kalu, commended the donors for filling a promise they made some time ago, pointing out that the donation would go a long way in assisting the Department in proper record keeping.

"The Department is proud of the donors for identifying a felt need and promptly addressing that need. I wish to promise them that we will make judicious use of the equipment in the Department to serve the purpose for which it was donated. We also wish to advise other alumni to take a cue from these exemplary friends by assisting the Department to

continue to render quality service to students and other stakeholders," Professor Kalu said.

The donors are Humphrey Nchom, Mac-Ibin Tayo, Tony Ebofua, Daniel West, Godspower Lucky and Orlando Poweigha.

In order not to be outdone, the Head of Department also donated over 20 volumes of foreign textbooks to enrich the Departmental Library. Speaking to our Correspondents on what motivated him to make the donation, Professor Kalu explained that the gesture would enable students to access some foreign textbooks in the various specialisations of Economics.

"I am quite enthused to make the donation to my own Department, even though it is said that the reading culture is dying down in our country. I still believe that this gesture will motivate our students to read, not just to pass examinations, but also to increase their knowledge pool. These books cover such specialisations as econometrics, property rights, urban economics and theories, amongst other areas. They will be kept at the departmental library for easy access by researchers at all levels," Professor Kalu said.



Mr. Poweigha handing over particulars of the photocopier to HoD, Prof Kalu

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We Will Not Interfere In Students' Union Elections ~Mgt



V-C, Prof. Ndawa Iale (arrowed), Principal Officers, Parents' Forum, some Senior staff and Students' Union EXCO at the meeting

Cont'd from Page 1

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndawa Iale, made the clarification during a joint meeting he held with the out-going Students' Union Executive and the leadership of the University of Port Harcourt Parents' Forum in the NIM Lounge at the Ekitimi Kanigbo Auditorium, University Park, last Tuesday.

"Considering various options available to all stakeholders under the prevailing circumstances, including the need to ensure a free and fair electoral process that would be acceptable to the generality of students, financial constraints in the Students' Union account, as well as the time-lag for the implementation of the process, it was originally decided that the Students' Union elections be postponed till early January 2017," the Vice-Chancellor said at the meeting.

He further disclosed that the proposal to move the elections forward was necessitated by the fact that the students had squandered all the money in their account and were not operationally ready to embark upon the exercise as stipulated in their own constitution. "Given all the issues raised by various interest groups, including objections by some aggrieved students on the modalities applied in the nomination of Faculty representatives on the Electoral Committee, it made sense to postpone the elections. On our part as a Management, we can assure all stakeholders that

nobody ever contemplated an Interim Executive as was widely speculated by some mischief makers, who were hell-bent on setting the University on fire. We simply wanted to ensure that as soon as students begin to populate their account early next year, they could then go ahead to conduct their elections," the Vice-Chancellor explained.

"A strict interpretation of the constitution of the Students' Union stipulates that elections ought to have been conducted in the week preceding the Students' Week. From all indications, it was clear that the process of nominating Faculty representatives into the Electoral Committee was flawed. We also had to deal with the contentious issue of petitions that alleged reckless spending of the Union's funds by the outgoing Executive Committee," he stated, disclosing that a Panel headed by the Dean of School of Graduate Studies, Professor Regina Ogali, was already in the process of concluding investigations into the matter.

In his speech, President of the Students' Union, Mr. Ephraim Inno-Amaeze, said that the process that led to the emergence of members of the disputed ELECO was free and fair and marked a departure from what was obtainable in the past. He also said that the funds his Executive Committee spent were what he inherited from an Interim Committee that preceded his Executive.

In his contribution, Chairman of the University of Port Harcourt Parents' Forum, Dr. Tony Chuku, said that as major

stakeholders, decisions reached at the meeting would be communicated to members of the Forum for their noting. He appealed to the students to maintain peace on Campus, in view of what the University had passed through in the recent past.

To dampen the palpable tension generated by rumours of impending postponement of the elections, the Management of the University convened yet another stakeholder's meeting on Wednesday, October 18, 2016 at the Governing Council Chambers. Present at the meeting were the out-going Students' Union Executive, Faculty Representatives and the Electoral Committee, during which the authorities of the University finally approved that the elections be held last Friday.

The meeting which was chaired by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Ilakeem Fawehinmi, resolved that all the processes, including screening of prospective candidates be concluded, preparatory to the conduct of the free and fair polls. Professor Fawehinmi had to resort to a voice vote amongst the students present to determine that majority of them were actually in favour of polls proposed for last Friday.

Information reaching *UniPort Weekly* as at the time of going to press, indicated that the elections did not hold as scheduled, owing to heightened agitations by some disaffected candidates, especially those who were repeating a class.

Stakeholders Seek Ways To Strengthen Research In Medical Sciences

By Otiok Samuel

Stakeholders in the medical sciences have advocated major improvements in the health sector through inter-departmental and inter-institutional partnerships by the various experts in the profession.

Professor of Clinical Pharmacology and Visiting NUC LEADS Scholar, Vincent Idemoyan and Professor of Chemical Pathology, Victor Wawue, were among Lead Presenters, who listed proactive measures that would translate research into new knowledge in clinical practice to improve the health sector at a one-day Research and Training Colloquium, which held at the Animal and Environmental Biology Auditorium, University Park, last Wednesday.

In their separate presentations at the event which had the theme: *Strengthening Research in Basic Medical Sciences in a Resource-Limited Setting*, Professor Idemoyan, whose paper was entitled: *Readings of Basic Medical Sciences Research in a Resource-Limited Environment*, stressed the need for inter-departmental and inter-institutional collaborations in order to amass reliable data and share experience that would lift the critical sector.

"I once asked some of my younger colleagues in this University why they don't send their research findings outside Nigeria and the answer they gave was that the powerful countries will steal such ideas. There is a need for multi-disciplinary approach to research so that experts in related fields would be aware of what their colleagues are doing. Basic research enterprise in clinical investigations consists of knowledge acquisition, validation, transfer and dissemination to build the health of a nation," Professor Idemoyan said, advising researchers to collaborate with their colleagues if they don't want their career to go down." Professor Idemoyan advised.

Professor Wawue, who spoke on *Research Ethics and Bioethics*, emphasised the need to observe truth, accountability and other related norms to promote ethical values to build public support, stating that many countries now place premium on observation of human and animal dignity in line with the United Nations Charter and other regulations.

"The world is going deep into research ethics. Animal experiments are permitted, but such animals must be treated with compassion and respect. Ethical norms build researchers

accountable to the public and help to promote truth and minimise error," Professor Wawue submitted.

Other presenters were Dr. Gabriel Olatidipo, whose paper was entitled, *Scientific/Medical Journals: Standards, Ratings, Indexing Houses and Acting Head of the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology*, Dr. Abine Noutcha, who spoke on *Result-Oriented Proposal Writing*. In his presentation, Dr. Olatidipo argued that the quality of a journal would be judged by its content and strict compliance with research standards, while Dr. Noutcha, whose paper focused on the intricacy of successful proposal writing, advised prospective proposal writers to meet deadlines and conditions specified by funding agencies.

In his remarks, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Ilakeem Fawehinmi, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndawa Iale, commended the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences for the initiative, expressing hope that the move would transform the conduct of research in the University.

"I am quite impressed with the topic of the seminar which is to strengthen research in the Faculty and I am optimistic that the training would go a long way to boost the morale of staff to carry out quality research that would conform to global benchmarks. There is no doubt that most of the research

findings from this Faculty would be quite relevant to the society," the Deputy Vice-Chancellor said, pledging Management's support in harnessing the research potentials of the University.

In their goodwill messages, Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Christie Mats, Director of the Centre for Research Management and Development (CEREMAD), Professor Alice Nze, Professors Omotayo Ebong and Chidi Ibe, showered praises on the Dean of the Faculty, Professor Chijioke Nwauche for mounting the training session on how to strengthen research in the Basic Medical Sciences. He also pledged support for the Faculty in driving quality research activities.

Earlier in his welcome address, Professor Nwauche said the Faculty had the capacity to push research and to make it stand out among African universities, disclosing that the Faculty has taken the initiative to motivate staff to engage in research as part of the core mandate of the University. In her remarks, Chairman of the Faculty Research and Training Committee, Dr. Joy Olotu, expressed gratitude to the Guest Lecturers and participants for honouring the invitation, promising that the Committee would ensure that the interaction would be a regular feature to motivate the Faculty to record more breakthroughs in research activities.



Dr.-C. (Acad), Prof. Fawehinmi (5 right) flanked by Dean of the Faculty, Prof. Nwauche (right), Provost, CHS, Prof. Mats (left), other guests and staff of the Faculty

Entrepreneurship Centre Ends Web Seminar

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

As part of its mandate to empower student and staff with operational skills, the Entrepreneurship Centre has ended a two-day Information and Communication Technology training programme on Advanced Web Consulting for some students, teaching and non-teaching staff of the University.

Briefing participants on the importance of the seminar which held from Friday, October 14 to Saturday, October 15, 2016, Acting Director of the Centre, Dr. Williams Olori, disclosed that the exercise which was organised in partnership with the Centre for Information and Telecommunication Engineering (CITE) and ENACTUS UniPort, exposed participants to website design and maintenance.

"The Training was designed to enable participants come to terms with the importance of ICT in today's world. At the end of the seminar, participants acquired information and skills that would further expose them to new frontiers of computer application and software management," he said.

In his presentation on *Networking and Database Management*, Head of the School of Information and Communication Technology at the Centre for Information and Telecommunications Engineering in the University, Daniel Ekph, exposed the participants to hands-on training on installation, deployment, configuration and trouble-shooting of CISCO equipment.

"By the year 2020, well over 50 million items would be connected to the Internet, including household gadgets which would be remotely controlled by sensors. This concept is known as Internet of Things (IoT). As it may

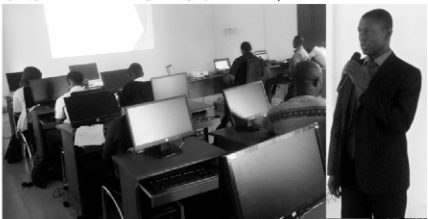
have become obvious to participants, the training was very ideal as it was meant to expose them to new trends in the increasingly complex ICT world, including new networking concepts that we cannot run away from in the new digital environment," he submitted.

Other presentations included: *Handling Entrepreneurship with Respect to Traits of an Entrepreneur* by Acting Centre Director, Dr. Olori and *Introduction to Web Design and Development* by Team Leader of ENACTUS UniPort, Chionne Erondu.

Speaking on the benefits of the training, Dr. Humphrey

Aigbe of the Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management in the Faculty of Agriculture, told our Correspondent that what he was exposed to would enable him to create and manage a website. "My area of specialisation is Forest Biometrics and Measurement and the training exposed me to the digital tools used for managing forest resources. A good knowledge of the Internet would aid me in the use of Geographic Information System which is a vital tool in managing forest resources," he disclosed.

Other participants who shared their experience at the seminar also expressed gratitude to the Centre for equipping them with modern website design and management skills that would be of use in personal business enterprises in future.



Participants during the training. Inset: Acting Director, Dr. Olori

V-C Inaugurates QAQC/SERVICOM Officers For Faculties, Colleges

By Obinna Nwodin

As part of efforts aimed at enhancing service delivery in the University, the authorities have inaugurated SERVICOM Officers for the Faculties and College of Health Sciences under the auspices of the Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QAQC) Unit.

Performing the inauguration ceremony at the Ebitimi Banjo Auditorium last Tuesday, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, described the Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit as a critical component of his vision to ensure that staff and students took their schedules very seriously in the age of Total Quality Management. He further stated that continuous education was important to enhance capacity of staff to deliver quality service to stakeholders in the affairs of the University.

"I wish to encourage staff and students to avail themselves of the opportunity provided on the QAQC/SERVICOM platform to improve their capacity to discharge their responsibilities in a most effective and efficient manner. It is a disservice to the system for some intended participants to decline attendance at this critical experience-sharing workshop which is part of our continuous education process. Good leadership comes by purposeful training and education and not by engaging in boring routine that undermines Total Quality Management. To attain the right results in our various duty posts, we must be ready to change our mind-set by being receptive to new ideas," he stated at the opening ceremony of the workshop.

In his presentation entitled: *Work Ethics and Consequences of Service Failure*, the Nodal Officer at the National Universities' Commission, Alhaji Ibrahim Aliyu, who was represented by the Deputy Chairman in charge of SERVICOM Focal Parastrals Meeting, Professor Solomon Oyeleye, highlighted the need for proper work ethics in order to avoid service failure by stakeholders in the university system. "Service failure leads to poor service delivery to the community, state and the nation at large. SERVICOM Unit is the watchdog of the University. SERVICOM is charged with complete monitoring of how service is delivered to the satisfaction of University's customers," Professor Oyeleye told the participants.

Also speaking on *Developing Examination Question, Grading Systems and Marking Schemes to Optimise Quality Assurance in Higher Education Institutions*, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lale, who took on the role of a Resource Person, highlighted the need for standardisation in the assessment of students' performance at examinations. He outlined the art of crafting examination questions in such a manner that would not confuse students. Professor Lale encouraged staff to develop the right attitude in grading students' script, as well as developing and utilising standard marking schemes in the assessment of students' performance.

"For instance, a Lecturer can mark Question One across board, before taking on Question Two in that order, rather than marking script by script which may not give him a fair assessment of the performance of each student in a particular paper. Instructions in each question must

be precise and unambiguously stated in a manner that does not confuse the student. Again, the Lecturer's mind-set and emotional stability also play important roles in the process of grading examination answers. The number of students who fail a paper does not show that the Lecturer is tough; it either exposes his failure to impart knowledge or his wickedness," Professor Lale said.

Earlier in his welcome address, Acting Director of QAQC/SERVICOM Unit, Dr. Ikechukwu Agbagwa, expressed gratitude to the Management of the University for the support his Unit had so far received from the Vice-Chancellor since he assumed office, stating that quality and prompt service delivery issues were key to the success of any organisation. "If we want to ensure that higher education makes sense, teaching and learning must be done properly and in line with established rules. We undermine the system when we do not perform up to our installed capacity. The staff selected to serve in this very important capacity would be expected to make huge sacrifices for us to succeed in this important assignment. I am happy to note that the Vice-Chancellor had graciously approved the establishment of a reward system for staff who perform exceptionally well on their duty posts. So, a lot is expected from the officers we have selected to champion this exercise in the various Faculties and Colleges as Service Marshalls and Brigades," Dr. Agbagwa told the gathering before the inauguration. The event which featured a question and answer session, also witnessed the commissioning of QAQC/SERVICOM Feedback Boxes at the Senate Building and other strategic locations on Campus by the Vice-Chancellor.



V-C, Prof Lale (arrowed) flanked by Prof Oyeleye (left), DV-C (Academic), Prof Hakem Fanchewh (right), other Principal and Senior Officers of the University and the newly inaugurated SERVICOM Officers

RSG To Partner Music Chair On Rex Lawson Int'l Festival

By Otiakor Samuel

Music lovers from all walks of life joined scholars at the Conference Hall of the International Students' Centre, University Park to celebrate the foremost indigenous highlife legend, Cardinal Rex Jim Lawson, under the auspices of the Professorial Chair endowed in his honour by the University.

With the theme, *Highlife Music: Structural Dynamics and Modernity*, the musical festa, which was the 2nd Rex Jim Lawson International Music Conference and Festival, held between Wednesday, 12 and Saturday, 18 October, 2016 with the Sole Administrator of Greater Port Harcourt City Development Authority (GPCHDA), Ambassador Desmond Akawor as Chairman.

Rivers State Commissioners of Tourism/Culture and Commerce/Trade, Mrs. Tonye Briggs and Mr. Bright Jacob, were Special Guests of Honour at the occasion. The Commissioner of Tourism and Culture, Mrs. Briggs, who is also an *Alumna* of the Department of Biochemistry, expressed the commitment of her Ministry to partner the Cardinal Rex Jim Lawson Chair in Music to organise the next edition of the festival.

"In response to a passionate appeal by the Chair Occupant, Professor Omye Nwankpa, that the Rivers State Government should aside January 16 each year to mark Cardinal Rex Jim Lawson Day, I wish to say that January 16 is already on the cultural calendar of my Ministry. We did not celebrate it this year due to the volatile political environment in the State. I am extremely delighted with the University for this laudable initiative of immortalising our own musical maestro, Cardinal Rex Jim Lawson. The Ministry will partner the University on this very important initiative to promote our rich highlife heritage," the Commissioner said, extolling the leadership qualities of the only survivor member of the band, Chief Anthony Odi for continuing his mentorship of younger musicians through the Rex Lawson Memorial Band.

Welcoming guests to the University, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, praised the dignitaries that gathered to honour a legend who died in a tragic car accident on his way to perform in Warri. "Although the great highlife prodigy, Cardinal Rex Jim Lawson, died over 30 years ago in a very tragic circumstance in the line of duty, he left a huge vacuum in indigenous highlife music that is yet to be filled. During his lifetime, Rex Lawson's brand of music was well-received locally and internationally and it is only proper that we immortalise his great memory in the University, Rivers State and the rest of the country," Professor Ibe said at the occasion.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor recalled that the Chair was instituted by the immediate past administration to celebrate the musical exploits of late Cardinal Rex Jim Lawson and also promote his excellent brand of indigenous highlife which the late musical prodigy composed over three decades ago, stressing the need for

more collaborations to accord the late composer a pride of place in the scheme of things.

"The University needs financial assistance from public-spirited individuals and groups to contribute to the



Commissioner of Tourism and Culture, Mrs. Briggs (5th left), flanked by her counterpart on Trade and Commerce, Mr. Jacob (left), Sole Administrator, GPCHDA, Amb. Akawor, DVC, Admin, Prof Ibe, DVC, Acad, Prof Hakeem Fawehinmi, Dean Humanities, Prof Shaka, HoD Music, Prof Nwankpa (right) and others

activities of the Professorial Chair. This is because the Chair as presently run is self-sponsoring, which makes it a huge task for the Chair Occupant to embark upon activities on a scale that would build the image of the great man," Professor Ibe told the gathering.

Corroborating his statement, the 5th Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Nini Briggs, described the university as a learning environment with a mandate to advance teaching, conduct research and community service, disclosing that the University represented the gown, while the community stood for the town in a symbiotic relationship that existed to enable society benefit from the products of the Ivory Tower.

In his speech, Chairman of the occasion, Ambassador Akawor, who endorsed the quality of highlife music composed by the late Rex Lawson, showered praises on the University for establishing a Professorial Chair to immortalise the music legend.

"I feel highly honoured, but humbled to be invited to join to celebrate a legend, Cardinal Rex Jim Lawson. It would have been a strange event if his great legacy was celebrated in another University. The late Rex Lawson was special; he spent just three decades on earth, but was a very successful musician. His style of music was unique. He was a serious pan-Africanist, who produced over 35 albums and spoke Ghana, Igbo, Ibibio and other languages fluently in his songs. He was also unique in his mentorship style. So, I am happy to identify with this special event set aside to celebrate such a great man," the former Ambassador to Korea said, promising to attend the next festival if invited. In his goodwill message, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor Femi Shaka, expressed gratitude to

the Chair Occupant for organising the conference. He was also full of praises for the participants for helping to make the event a huge success.

"One problem with our society is that we hardly sustain institutions once we established them. This particular conference and festival in honour of Rex Lawson needs to be sustained and we should jointly nurture it to expand beyond what we are seeing now," the Dean said.

Earlier, in his address, Occupant of the Rex Jim Lawson Chair of Music, Professor Nwankpa, gave a brief background to the conference and festival: "On Wednesday, January 16, 2013, on the occasion of the First

UniPort Annual Memorial Concert for Cardinal Rex Jim Lawson, the Department of Music commenced the voyage to give honour to whom honour is due and to engage in research activities on the music of Rex Lawson. Indeed, we recall that it was in the early hours of January 16, 1979, now 45 years ago that the unthinkable happened after 33 years of his earthly journey. Rex died as a result of the injuries he sustained following a ghastly motor accident at Urhobio along Agbor-Warri road on his way to Warri to honour a performance invitation."

Professor Nwankpa, who also doubles as Head of the Department of Music, showered encomium on 89-year-old Chief Odi, the Keynote Speaker, Chief Dumbo Oruolu and the Lead Paper Presenter, Dr. Austin Emile.

"On a sad note, please permit me to announce the passing on of some musicians since we last met here: Professor Musumola Omiyil-Odi, whose birthday was celebrated on this floor during the conference last year, Professor Lucy Klemme, Dr. Sam Chukwu, and Prince Robert Ehinlomo. We also lost King Sunny Brown, one of the two surviving 'generals' of Cardinal Rex Jim Lawson's band. May their souls rest in the bosom of the Lord," Professor Nwankpa added.

The Keynote Speaker, Chief Oruolu spoke on: *The Impact of Silence, Non-Verbal and Masterful Use of the Patios of the Native Tongue and Idleness in the Cacophony of Music-Rex Jim Lawson as a Case Study*, while the Lead Paper presentation by Dr. Emile was entitled: *Old Wine in New Bottles, New Wine in Old Bottles or New Wine in Old Bottles?*

*Additional Report by Udochi Omeike (Intern)

Non-NUC Programmes C'ttee Submits Report

By Obinna Nwodin

Committee Room on Friday, October 14, 2016.

Professor Ibe, who thanked members of the Committee for carrying out what he described as a very difficult assignment, said that the exercise has enabled Management to be fully abreast of the revenue profile of

Centres and Institutes in the University.

Presenting the report, Chairman of the Committee, Professor Abdulrazzaq Kilani, said that the Committee held several meetings with various Centres and Institutes, expressing delight that most of them turned out to be viable in their operational structure and revenue generation capacities. "Non-NUC funded programmes were established to share up the University's revenue generating activities. It is the hope of our Committee that when the report is finally implemented, the University would enhance its revenue generating capacity from these programmes," the Chairman said at the hand-over ceremony.

Professor Kilani further emphasized that although the revenue profile of the Centres and Institutes was high, the Committee regrettably observed that they expended over 90% of what they generated, which was not good enough for the sustainability of the Centres and Institutes and overall growth of the system. He appealed that if the authorities implemented the Committee's recommendations, it would go a long way in improving the fortunes of the University in line with the vision for setting up such Centres and Institutes.

Authorities of the University have assured that they would work out ways to ensure that revenue generated from non-NUC funded programmes would be adequately appropriated to the satisfaction of all stakeholders in the system and in the overall interest of the Institution.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, gave the assurance when he received the report of the Committee on Review of Remuneration from non-NUC funded programmes at the Vice-Chancellor's



DVC, Admin, Prof Ibe (far right), flanked by Prof Kilani (right), Principal Officers of the University and other members of the Committee

Cont'd from Page 1

so brazen in the University of Port Harcourt in recent times.

Promising that the Rivers State Police Command would continue to manage the situation in a mature manner and within the ambit of the law, Mr. Odesanya warned that his men would not allow any individual or group to instigate anarchy in the University or its environs to advance their pecuniary interest. "I am aware that the Students Union platform was designed to allow students manage their own affairs and also learn how to be responsible citizens when they enter the larger society. I am very disappointed to hear that a few student leaders can sit down and squander a huge sum of N52,000,000.00 out of the dues paid by their colleagues in the name of *aduta*. With such level of profligacy at this stage of their lives, such students will graduate and also mismanage funds when they are put in charge of positions of responsibility in the nation in later life," the Commissioner lamented.

On the issue of security, Mr. Odesanya regretted that the Police had not recruited in the past ten years, which he said had an adverse effect on force deployment to sensitive areas of the State. "In our tradition, every new Police Station must be in a position to defend itself before setting out to police its neighbourhood in order not to be overwhelmed by criminal elements who are usually averse to the presence of security in their midst. We were compelled to deploy personnel to UniPort because of the rising

Rivers CP Vows To Deal With Trouble Makers

crime wave and kidnapping in the area and I am pleased to note that the situation has improved for good, but we will continue to do our best to completely rid the area of criminal elements," he promised the Vice-Chancellor.

Earlier in his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor had expressed gratitude to the Commissioner for the prompt deployment of personnel to the University to fight crime and kidnapping of staff, recalling that previous efforts by his administration to make the Station operational failed for inexplicable reasons. "We are happy that the current Commissioner of Police visited the University and promptly responded to our request within one week of his arrival in Port Harcourt. I wish to assure you that the mere presence of the Police has reduced the high crime wave in our neighbourhood and we promise to contribute our own quota to facilitate their operations in and around the University."

"We are here to solicit the assistance of the Police as we count down to the Second Semester Examinations scheduled to commence on Monday, October 24, 2016. As is increasingly becoming the norm, a few of our students have already started agitating against the examinations, despite the fact that the Academic Calendar approved by Senate of the University at the

beginning of the session clearly specified what would happen at each turn, including the Students' Week, election into the Executive of the Union and Examinations. It is on record that the Police assisted us to ensure order during the last Examinations."

"From N200,000, the students increased their annual levy to N2,000,000, bringing the sum collected to N55,800,000.00 in the current session alone. I regret to inform all stakeholders that the students then went ahead to withdraw N52,000,000.00 of that money, only to turn around to demand another N18,000,000.00 to run their just-ended Students' Week activities. Unfortunately for them, we could only make available the balance of their money to them for that purpose. The extra money they are asking us to make available to them is a dedicated fund meant for a proposed Students' Centre project, that cannot be tampered with under any guise," Professor Iale said.

The Vice-Chancellor was accompanied on the trip by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, University Librarian, Dr. Susan Umorior, Deputy Registrar (Informal), Williams Wodi, Acting Dean of Students' Affairs, Dr. Ott Ekenyong, Acting Director of Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit, Dr. Ikechukwu Agbagwagwu, Chief Security Officer, Lt. Col. Reginald Igazu (rtd) and Special Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Kingsley Wogwa.

The Commissioner was joined at the meeting by the Deputy Superintendent of Police in charge of Administration, Mr. Cyril Okoro, Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of Operations, Mr. Steven Hasso, Superintendent of Police in charge of Special Investigations Bureau, Mr. Godwin Wekara and Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Omoni Nnamdi.



Rivers State CP, Mr. Odesanya (S' right), flanked by V-C, (left), DV-C (Acad right) and other Senior Officers of the University and Police

Forestry Department Holds Entrepreneurship Seminar For Students

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

In a bid to inculcate the entrepreneurship spirit in their students, the Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management, Faculty of Agriculture, last Tuesday, organized an Entrepreneurial Seminar entitled: *Non-Wood Forest Products, a Hidden Treasure for Wealth Creation and National Development* at the new Faculty of Agriculture Building, University Park. Speaking at the interactive event, which had the students showcasing locally-made goods, using Non-Wood Forest Products, the Acting Head of Department, Dr. Solomon Lariinde, reminded them that the seminar was in line with the vision of the Department to pass on requisite skills that would sustain students after their graduation from the University.

"The essence of the seminar was for our students to be able to pick their areas of specialisation and production. The idea is to turn the abundant forest non-wood resources to useful and marketable products that would earn income for them and serve as a means of livelihood on their graduation from the University," Dr. Lariinde told our Correspondent.

In their separate group presentations on the Use of Medicinal Forest Plants/Herbs for Treating Diabetes and Fibroid, Production of Juice and Pasty using *monodora myristica* (African nutmeg) and *Piper guineense* (Black Pepper), Economic Analysis of Snail Production in UniPort Demonstration Farm, Choba, Rivers State, Survey of Plants Used as Local Dyes in

Choba and Alakalia Communities of Rivers State and Economic Analysis of Fuel Wood Consumption among Food Vendors in UniPort, the students disclosed that abundant opportunities for job and wealth creation abounded in the use of non-wood forest products.

"In Nigeria, natural dyes (Lali, Gmelina, Awolewa) and other such products can offer not only rich and varied sources of dyed stuff, but also the possibility of earning an income through sustainable harvest and sale of these plants," leader of Group 5, Duke Kudah asserted. Speaking on behalf of the Seminar Coordinators, Ebhe Ofodile, described forestry as more than timber, saying that the seminar was put together to expose the hidden indigenous treasures in the vast forests of the country

and proffering ways through which they could be harnessed to generate wealth and jobs for the teeming youths, especially in the face of the ongoing economic recession in the nation. "When these youths are gainfully employed as entrepreneurs in diverse specializations, they would contribute to the economic growth and development of the country, in addition to keeping away from social vices such as kidnapping and other acts of criminality," he said.

The well-attended event also attracted some Senior Lecturers from the Department, including Dr. Adekunle Oladele and Alex Amalinim who served as Seminar Coordinators.



Acting HoD, Dr. Lariinde (arrowed), flanked by staff and students of the Dept. Inset: Locally-made products by the students

GUIDE POST

APPOINTMENT

Dr. Tobison Briggs, Department of Mechatronic Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, re-appointed *Acting Head of Department*. The two-year re-appointment which takes retroactive effect from September 26, 2016, will terminate on September 25, 2018.

Dr. Boniface Orij, Department of Petroleum Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, re-appointed *Acting Head of Department*. The two-year re-appointment which takes effect from November 1, 2016, will terminate on October 31, 2018.

Dr. Koyejo Odoola, Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, appointed *Acting Head of Department*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect will terminate on October 6, 2018.

Dr. Chukwuba Osoia, Department of Mechatronic Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, appointed *Acting Head of Department of Mechanical Engineering*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect will terminate on October 6, 2018.

Dr. B.O. Omijeh, Department of Electronics and Computer Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, appointed *Acting Head of Department*. The two-year appointment which takes effect from October 29, 2016, will terminate on October 28, 2018.

Dr. Ejikeme Ogwuoha, Department of Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, appointed *Coordinator, Department of Environmental Engineering*. The one-year appointment which takes effect from November 1, 2016, will terminate on October 31, 2017.

Dr. Endurance Diemuodeke, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, appointed *Coordinator, Master's in Environmental Engineering Programme*. The one-year appointment which takes immediate effect will terminate on October 6, 2017.

Dr. Saturday Ebigenbo, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, appointed *Coordinator, Master's of Engineering Management Programme*. The one-year appointment which takes immediate effect will terminate on October 6, 2017.

STUDY LEAVE

Mr. Christopher Azubike, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, granted a four-year *Study Leave with Pay* to enable him undertake a Doctoral Degree programme in Industrial and Environmental Biotechnology at Newcastle University, United Kingdom, effective September 26, 2016 to September 25, 2020.

Miss George Awola, Department of Nursing, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Science, granted a one-year *Study Leave with Pay* to enable her pursue a Masters Degree programme in Nursing at St. Monica American University Buca, Cameroon, effective September 12, 2016 to September 11, 2017.

SUSPENSION FROM PROGRAMME

Christiana Unuigboje (U2010/1825297), Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities, suspended from the University for the 2015/2016 academic session.

Ibiyeye Abiyi Urama (U2010/1825180), Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities, suspended from the University for the 2015/2016 academic session.

Our Error

In the *UniPort Weekly* newspaper of October 17-24, 2016, Vol. 29, Edition 299, we reported that Professor Kinsie Okoko donated "1,000 book volumes" to the Department of Political and Administrative Studies. The actual number of books donated is 100 volumes. We also reported that he retired from the Department in 2014, instead of 2010. These errors are highly regretted.

-Editor

NOT A LAUGHING MATTER

WAZOBIA ABOARD NIGERIA AIRWAYS

It was at the end of the Nigerian Civil War in January, 1970 and shuttle diplomacy was the order of the day. Three Nigerians from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were jostling to board a Port Harcourt-bound *Nigeria Airways* plane from Lagos. Quite unfortunately, the Air Hostess announced that only two seats were still available on board. Translation: one of the three intending passengers would not make the trip under the circumstance.

The unremitting struggle by the three desperate passengers to board the flight attracted the attention of the bemused pilot, who quietly approached them to resolve the jig-saw puzzle that momentarily defied conventional aviation logic. Sensing their desperation to make it to Port Harcourt by every means possible, the pilot devised an ingenious selection and elimination game to fill the two available seats. He lined the not too gentlemen up and asked the first intending passenger:

"What's your name and which part of Nigeria are you from, please?"

"Kai, my name na Umaru and I come from Northern Nigeria. Any parabullem?"

"No problem Sir; kindly step aside," motioned the pilot. Next person please; tell me your name," shouted the pilot obviously ranking him.

"My name is Segun and you can guess I am from the defunct Western Nigeria. Can I board now?"

Just a minute, said the pilot, who posed the same question to the last man standing.

"Well, my name is Okoro and I am from Eastern Nigeria and as you may be aware, Port Harcourt was the unofficial capital of the vanquished Biafran territory. You see why I should not have been subjected to this question-and-answer session to board this plane like Umaru and Segun?"

Pilot: "Gentlemen, as you have already been told, we have only two seats remaining on board this plane. I can already see that the three of you are ready to power your way unto my plane and that is not allowed in international aviation safety rules. I may be an expatriate, but my colleagues tell me that Nigerians have a very high impunity quotient and can even offer to lap each other even aboard a space rocket. I am not going to allow lawlessness on my plane. So, each of you will answer a question to secure a seat. Agreed?"

"Agreed," they chorused with a measure of trepidation and mutual suspicion.

Pilot: "Here we go then... Umaru, when did the Civil War begin?"

Umaru: "Kai, July, 1966"

Pilot: "Segun, how many people died during the War?"

Segun: "About two million innocent Nigerians perished. So, so sad." Well, for a country that consistently scores distinction in poor record keeping, the pilot grudgingly accepted Segun's answer to be marginally correct.

Pilot: "Now, Okoro, your own question is very simple. I am told your people are big business moguls and good with figures, especially when it has to do with counting money. Just go ahead and name the two million innocent Nigerians who perished in that unfortunate War."

Counting time! You want to know how the counting game ended. Ask the British pilot. It was not a laughing matter at all.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

WEATHER OBSERVATORY

WEATHER FORECAST FOR PORT HARCOURT AND SURROUNDING AREAS FOR SUNDAY OCTOBER, 23 - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2016.

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (HH) (HH)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY 23 OCTOBER 2016	32.0 23.0	72	WSW	32.0	6:17 6:56	Thunderstorms late accompanied with a mostly cloudy disposition.
MONDAY 24 OCTOBER 2016	31.0 23.0	76	WSW	16.2	6:17 6:55	Isolated thunderstorms and a mostly cloudy day expected.
TUESDAY 25 OCTOBER 2016	32.0 24.0	69	SW	11.8	6:17 6:55	Thunderstorms expected with a mostly cloudy outlook.
WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER 2016	32.0 23.0	63	SW	-	6:17 6:55	Partly sunny day anticipated.
THURSDAY 27 OCTOBER 2016	32.0 23.0	57	S	-	6:17 6:55	Partly sunny day anticipated.
FRIDAY 28 OCTOBER 2016	33.0 23.0	60	SW	2.2	6:17 6:55	Thunderstorms late accompanied with a mostly cloudy disposition.
SATURDAY 29 OCTOBER 2016	32.0 23.0	60	SW	5.1	6:17 6:54	Thunderstorms late accompanied with a mostly sunny day.

DR. VE. WELI

AG. HOD.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY & ENV. MGT.

DR. PRINCE C. MMOM

AG. DIRECTOR,

(CDRMS).

2nd Claude Ake Professorial Chair Lecture

The 2nd Professor Claude Ake Professorial Chair Lecture organised by Claude Ake School of Government took place at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Thursday, July 2, 2016. Our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU**, was on hand to capture the highlights of the event as displayed below:



Chair Occupant, Prof Ene Ekekwue (right), welcoming the Guest Lecturer, Mr. Anthony Epelle



The audience and members of the High Table rise for UniPort Anthem



Prof Ekekwue delivering a welcome address



DV-C (Admin), Prof Anthony Ibe, delivering the Chairman's address on behalf of the V-C



Prof Omenihu Nwagwu reading the citation on Guest Lecturer



Mr. Epelle, delivering the lecture



Assistant Director of the centre, Dr. Sofiri Joab-Peterside speaking



L-R: Prof. Andrew Efemini, 7th V-C, Prof Joseph Ajienka and Prof Vincent Idemiyor



L-R: Asst. Director, Ake School of Govt, Dr. Joab-Peterside, HoD, Economics, Prof Ifeoma Kaku and HoD Political and Admin Studies, Prof Nna Johnson



Emeriti Profs Samuel Okiwele and Nimi Briggs at the Lecture



DV-C, (Admin), Prof Ibe and Prof Ajienka



Group photograph of the Guest Lecturer (7th right) and Senior Officers of the University