

# UniPort Weekly

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For information and enlightenment

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## Borrow Ideas To Save Lives, John Urges Medics



**F**oremost Gynaecologist and pioneer staff of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), Professor Celestine John, has stressed the need for medical experts to borrow ideas and current technologies from the aviation, financial and other sectors with a view to saving lives in the health sector, reports *Humphrey Ogu*.

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## Side Bar Eke's Reception

The Urology Unit of the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), honoured Prof. Ndew Eke on his election as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Global College of Surgeons, last Thursday. Details Next Week

~Editor

### 'We Will Not Withhold Staff Entitlements'



### New OSC Chaplain Pledges To Work With Mgt



### ASUU Meets V-C On Deductions



### ACIB Donates To UDSS



**I**n recognition of the critical role the Admissions Office plays as the first point of contact with prospective candidates who seek admission into the University, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, has charged staff of the Unit to make integrity, accountability, probity and honesty their watchwords in the discharge of their duties at all times.

Professor Lale handed down the charge when he led some Principal and Senior Officers on a familiarisation visit to the Admissions Office at Delta Park, last Monday, describing integrity as the right character trait required of every staff, especially those in the Admissions Office. He warned them against engaging in acts that would tarnish their reputation and put them into trouble, and subsequently drag the good name of the University to the mud.

## V-C Tasks Admissions Office Staff On Integrity, Hard Work

By Otokor Samuel

"For you to be adjudged suitable to work in the sensitive Admissions Office, you must possess a high level of integrity that should earn you the trust of the Registrar and Management of the University. In the past, a few dubiously motivated staff may have compromised their job schedules by engaging in such acts such as selling admission slots to candidates seeking admission into the University. You work in an Office where there is so much temptation, but I want to advise you never

to compromise your integrity if you wish to rise to the pinnacle of your career. If you engage in unwholesome practices and get caught, you will suffer the dire consequences alone. You will not see the devil that people usually blame for their shortcomings," Professor Lale further warned the staff.

"Integrity is the quality of being honest and exhibiting strong moral principles that keep you in good standing professionally and in the larger society. We are talking about staff that are stable,

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# Senate, Sexploitation Bill, University Dons

By Williams Wodi

It is quite understandable that all through his teenage and adult life, man is relentlessly fascinated by the entrance to the local government headquarters of woman. If consulted at his graveside, even Austria's famous psychoanalyst, Sigmund Freud would have readily admitted that this magnetic pull to the feminine angular momentum could be traceable to the fact that man originally came from the 'holy of holies' and is, thus, struggling to go back there. The reason for this struggle is self-explanatory: after all, there is no place like 'home' as they say.

In his combustible book entitled: *The Cancer Ward*, famous Russian dissident writer Aleksandre Solzhenitsyn, quite ominously declared to his readers: "There can be no greater affliction than for a doctor to suffer an affliction in his area of specialization." From all indications, Lecturers in Nigerian universities are about to suffer mortal affliction in their own areas of specialisation. In addition to being paid slave wages that hardly take them to the next bus stop, far away from their homes, these endangered intellectual species are about to find out the full meaning of 'sextortion' on their campuses. Caution: keep running; female students are coming for you!

There are those who would gleefully say: serves them right; they brought the *Sexual Exploitation Bill* upon themselves through the randy lifestyle of a handful of their colleagues in the hallowed corridors of the academia. Still, others would quickly rise to their strident defence on the grounds that the boundary between 'sexual harassment' and willful surrender to the romantic slaughter slab is thinner than the thread. Senator Ono Agege, who sponsored the *Sexual Harassment Bill* must rank as Public Enemy Number One in the estimation of endangered Lecturers in Nigerian universities, just as St. Paul is the mortal enemy of feminists for proposing they stay silent and cover their hair in the church where they ought to be equal with men before God.

Truth be told, there are innumerable miniature Donald Trumps in the corridors of the academia, groping, grabbing and kissing vulnerable female students, whose look is the exhibit for their persecution by Lecturers suffering from moral dysfunction. The impunity quotient of a handful of Lecturers cries to high heavens and something ought to be done about this sordid scenario that bestrides the Nigerian university system like a colossus. Men with serious personality and confidence deficits derive their power from merely standing in front of students with a chalk or marker

pen to decree what happens to innocent female students who do not wish to share the same room, let alone be with them.

Thanks to Senator Agege, Lecturers who hold patent rights on sexual exploitation are in for a rough deal if they still wish to continue in their reprobate kiss-and-tell tradition on university campuses. The *Sexual Harassment Bill 2016* dutifully prescribes a five-year jail term or N5 million fine for any male Lecturer convicted of this heinous offence that has blighted the prestige and reputation of the academia for too long. Henceforth, men in academic robes who do not remember to tell their tailors to add zippers to their trousers will have to prepare to take late Gani Fawehinmi's place at Gashua prison, and that is not a laughing matter. As Senator Agege said after the Bill was passed: "Finally, we have a landmark for our wives, daughters, aunts and nieces," including that unknown girl-child hawking not so pure water in the backwoods of an economy in recession. Any Lecturer who wants sexual favours to pass female students is fit for the gallows and ought to be shamed thereafter for equating something as serious as character moulding with 'fringe benefits' or 'bush allowance'. Let him sleep with his daughter. The lame argument that female students dress 'provocatively' to entice men rests on wooden crutches; it is a twisted thinking that should not even enter the head of polished gentlemen in and outside the academia in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century knowledge society. Lecturers who can't apply their emotional breaks on beholding half-clad female students ought to speedily return to the primordial social jungle described by Thomas Hobbes, far away from a sophisticated university setting where people are free to think, eat, drink and dress as they wish. Male Lecturers are not fashion police personnel. Female students are at the mercy of randy sex-starved Lecturers who lack the confidence to approach them for mutual consent on the romantic lane. Such Lecturers are worse than five-star armed robbers and should be lined up and summarily shot at the Bar Beach, were it not illegal to do so in Nigeria.

The problem is that most abused female students lack the courage to expose these sexual predators who prowls, stalk and prey on them. The bad news is that some of these female students now enter the university at the impressionable age of 16. Predatory Lecturers are like dogs that chew the bones that are tied around their necks. The shameful part is that such 'men' later boast about their randy exploits in their unguarded moments of drunken stupor.

While there is no doubt that the *Sexual Harassment Bill* is long overdue, there is, however, a big fly in the ointment. What about those brainless female students who travel around the world with moneybags throughout the semester, only to return into the hostile embrace of examination halls? What does the Bill say about randy female Lecturers and students who harass male students and Lecturers? Is Senator Agege feigning ignorance about some desperate female students who make themselves 'surplus' available to make up for what their empty brains cannot offer? It would be interesting to know what the Bill says about 'consensual' sexual liaison between students and their Lecturers. What about using what I have to get what I want, *quid pro quo* style?

By the way; how did the National Assembly handle the weighty allegations of sexual misconduct by three of its own during an official trip in faraway America? Or is it a question of 'change' beginning in the universities and not in the National Assembly? Won't it also be nice to hear from those 'provocatively' dressed female staff of the National Assembly on their experiences working with very 'Distinguished' Senators and 'Honourable'



Melam Adamu Adamu, Minister of Education

Members who host bacchanalian candlelit pizza parties in sleazy hotel rooms around the world at taxpayers' expense? What about those predatory 'Men of God' who anoint their female parishioners in luxury hotels and behind the altar when decent people are deep asleep? What about bank managers and other captains of industry who spoil under-aged girls with mindboggling gift items that can even tempt Mother Teresa into abandoning her vow of chastity? What about the lewd sexual escapades of their majesties, lordships, men in uniform and those randy traders in my community at Rumuigbo?

How does this Bill safeguard whistle blowers who may suffer interminable academic detention by vengeful Lecturers out to cut a pound of flesh very close to their hearts? Once refined, the Bill should promptly become an Act of Parliament after presidential assent. What constitutes sexual harassment must be definitively defined to remove the ambiguities that currently becloud a commendable initiative to save female students from criminals in academic robes. By the way, Senator Agege is yet to openly declare that he had never benefitted from what he is up against on the floor of parliament—a measured mark of hypocrisy—you would say? We do not want men with heavy moral conscience to engage in a devious scheme of mass deception on the profane altar of populism! Nigerian politicians are not particularly good role models for the rest of us. The Bill as it currently stands suffers from laughable selective short-sightedness that needs to be remedied before being thrown at culprits.

Translation: morally bereft Lecturers should be ready to eat half-cooked beans with watery stew in county jail rooms as a deterrent to other randy Romans in the hallowed corridors of the academia; but, it must cover every offender, not just male Lecturers. It is not a laughing matter at all.



Prof Abiodun Ogundimu, ASUU President

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Delivering the 2<sup>nd</sup> Obstetrics and Gynaecology Departmental Guest Lecture series entitled: "Borrowing to Save Lives" at the UPTH Auditorium last Tuesday, Professor John noted that selective, careful borrowing of knowledge, skills, material and personnel can save lives, adding: "To borrow to save a life is a good art with a good intention. What we borrow to save a life can be very simple or complicated."

"We are all encouraged to borrow from the airline industry the art and meaning of safety measures. This emphasis is particularly so in the surgical sciences. Every factor contributing to a safe flight has a failure rate. These safety measures aim to keep the failure rate in humans involved equal to or below a specified risk level," he explained.

"Just this year, some universities have researched into what medicine can learn from the motor industry. They researched into the ethics and workings of the largest and most successful motor company in the world; the Toyota brand," Professor John told his colleagues, adding that a lot of new ideas, especially the one of quality control which has made Toyota the top selling range, needed to be borrowed by medical practitioners as a way of controlling the quality of students trained and sent out to work as medical doctors.

"We need to borrow the idea of quality control in medicine. We need

## Borrow Ideas To Save Lives, John Urges Medics

to borrow more from the motor industry to firm up our quality control over our own products," Professor John admonished his younger colleagues.

"The financial industry mainly through a country's Central Bank carries out periodic stress tests on the banks. These tests are designed to strengthen the financial capacity of the banks. Yes, we do have a number of stress tests, but how often do we insist on them to establish the wellbeing of our patients. We should borrow from the financial industry and carry out our stress tests more often," he recommended.

The Guest Lecturer observed that medical technology encompassed a wide range of healthcare products used to diagnose, monitor or treat diseases that affect humans, pointing out that "from technology, there has been a large scale application of organised knowledge and skills in the form of devices, medicines, vaccines, procedures and systems developed to solve health problems and improve the quality of life and save lives."

Meanwhile, associates, former colleagues and students of Professor John have paid glowing tributes to him for his solid contributions to the health sector in service. Some of those who spoke on their experience with Professor John with nostalgia were Professors Kanu Nkagimie, Anthony Okpani, John Ikimalo and Owanari Georgewill, including Dr. Hope Bell-Gam, who represented the Chief Medical Officer of UPTH, Professor Aaron Ojule.

Others included Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Christie Mato, Dean of the Faculty of Clinical Sciences, Professor Samuel Uzoigwe, Dean of the Faculty of Basic Medical Science, Professor Chijioke Nwauche, Director of Administration, UPTH, Mrs. Boma Amaomun-Jumbo and Chairperson of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Departmental Guest Lecture Organising Committee, Dr. Ngozi Oranulike.



Prof John (7<sup>th</sup> right) flanked by Provost, CHS, Prof Mato (right), Mrs. Amaomun-Jumbo, Profs. Nkagimie, Ikimalo, Nwauche (left) and others

## We Will Not Withhold Staff Entitlements, V-C Reassures Union Leaders

By Obinna Nvodim

The authorities of the University have reiterated their total commitment to improved welfare for staff at all levels, promising not to withhold any entitlement due them for any reason whatsoever.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, gave the assurance when he received the newly-elected Executive Committee members of the University of Port Harcourt Branch of the Senior Staff Association of Nigeria Universities (SSANU) at the Committee Room, last Tuesday.

Professor Lale congratulated members of the Executive on their election, assuring them that whatever was due staff of the University would be promptly paid to them by Management. "Let me assure you that we will not hesitate to promptly pay our staff their due entitlements as a matter of policy, provided there is cash backing from the Federal Government. I want all the Unions on this Campus to take us into full confidence and trust us to do the right thing at all times. If government gives us a dime,

we will pay it to you as soon as we receive same from the appropriate government agencies without giving excuses," Professor Lale promised.

The Vice-Chancellor expressed the willingness of his administration to do only those things that were within its powers to promote staff welfare, disclosing that he would soon convene a meeting of the Congregation of the University to deliberate on the changes in the fiscal policies of the Federal Government that may affect the End-of-Year Christmas package that had been implemented in the last three years.

"So much is expected from the Union leaders who are critical stakeholders in the affairs of the University. It is not only when leaders create crisis that they are considered as successful in their positions. You must beware of the obvious temptations of 'second tenure' syndrome that impugn on the credibility of some leaders in office. You can be rest assured that I am still the same person before I became Vice-Chancellor and I shall be willing to help you succeed in office," Professor Lale told the SSANU Executive.

He commended members of SSANU for conducting themselves in a peaceful manner during elections, expressing satisfaction that no protests had so been forwarded to his office by any of the contestants in the

polls.

In his speech, re-elected Chairman of the Union, Mr. Bikume Syder, told the Vice-Chancellor that they were in his office to present the reconstituted SSANU, promising to work in concert with Management to move the University to new heights.

"We have to assure Management that the Union is not working at cross-purposes with Management; there is, therefore, a need to forge synergy with the Unions to enable the University record accelerated development. We equally expect that Management reciprocates our kind gesture by responding to the genuine demands of workers, so that we could be happy and willing to give of our best to the system. We want open communication channels that would lead to a harmonious working relationship with staff and end rumour-mongering," Syder told the Vice-Chancellor. He also appealed to Management to seriously consider the provision of the usual End-of-Year package for staff as has been the case in the past four years.

Earlier in her address, Chairman of the Electoral Committee, Dr. Mite Ngeh, described the elections as very competitive, free and fair with observers from the National Executive of the Union in attendance to ensure credibility of the process.

Others elected to serve in the reconstituted Executive included: Mr. Bernard Chukwu (Vice-Chairman), Mrs. Otami Akubom (Secretary-General), Mr. John Nwajioji (Treasurer), Franklyn Isah (Financial Secretary), Mr. Peter Edozien (Public Relations Officer), Mrs. Elizabeth Amadi (Assistant Secretary), Mrs. Elizabeth Akani (Women Leader), Mr. Peter Ezi (Ex-Officio Member) and Francis Nwigwe (Trustee).



V-C, Prof Lale (seated 3<sup>rd</sup> left) flanked by the Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Omu, University Bursar, Mr. Vinalis Abetse (left), and Mr. Syder, Univ. Librarian, Dr. Susan Umehvor, DV-C (Acad), Prof. Hakeem Fawehinmi (right) and other SSANU EXCO members

## DPPD Ends Tender Opening For Hostel Rehabilitation, Other Projects

By Obinna Nwodin

In furtherance of efforts aimed at creating a conducive learning environment for students and staff, the authorities of the University of Port Harcourt have concluded opening of Tenders for the Rehabilitation of Projects under the 2013 NEEDS Assessment funds of the facilities of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund).

Addressing the contractors who bid for the jobs before the commencement of the two-day exercise which took place between Monday, 24 and Tuesday, 25 October, 2016, at the Senate Chambers, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, expressed gratitude to them for indicating interest in the accelerated development of the University. He further told them that the Management tried its best to make the exercise as transparent as possible to ensure that the most qualified companies got and executed the various projects to specification, wishing them success in their bids.

In his address, General Manager of one of the Consulting Firms, Mayfair Projects Limited, Engineer Peter Ipole, said that the exercise which included the verification of the Technical and Financial submissions of each contracting firm was in line with the procedure established by the Public Procurement Act.

The consultant scrutinized the basic and mandatory

requirements that qualified each company to bid for the various lots in line with the requirements stipulated by the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP).

Projects bided for included: Renovation of Goodluck Jonathan Hostel; OBI Clinical Hostels I and II; Renovation of Claude Ake Blocks A and B; Rehabilitation of Nelson Mandela Blocks A, Block B, C and D; Rehabilitation of PG Hostel Blocks A, B and C, respectively.

Other projects to be rehabilitated by successful bidders



Principal Officers, NUC representative, Consultant and bidders at the Tenders Opening

New Chaplain of Our Saviour's Chapel (Interdenominational, Protestant Chaplaincy), the Reverend Francis Iduma has promised to work with the administration to raise the spiritual and moral tone of students and staff of the University of Port Harcourt.

Making the pledge when he paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale at the Committee Room, last Monday, Reverend Iduma described the University environment as an important place to mould the character of impressionable students, who usually come under strong peer pressure that lends some of them astray.

Reverend Iduma expressed optimism that the Professor Lale-led administration would continue to impact positively on the character of staff and students of the University in line with scriptural injunctions. "I wish to plead that your leadership should continue to inculcate good character and promote godliness in the University community. Let your priority be to focus on God and making him first in your public and personal life as the surest way to success," Reverend Iduma told the Vice-Chancellor.

The new Chaplain expressed gratitude to the University

community for the warm reception he received since his arrival in the University, calling for continued cooperation from staff and students to enable him succeed in his onerous assignment.

"I am aware that the primary reason for establishing the University is to impart knowledge, but even more important is the spiritual and moral compass of residents and visitors to the Campus. The Chapel will be more than willing to collaborate with the Management to raise God-fearing staff and students in a society that has lost direction," he said at the occasion.

Introducing the new Chaplain, Vice-Chairman of the Chapel Management Council, Dr. Jones Ayuwu, who spoke on behalf of other members of the Council and Board of Trustees present at the reception, told the Vice-Chancellor that it was the tradition of the Chapel to host a new Chaplain every three years. "It is also our tradition for an incoming Chaplain to pay a courtesy visit on the Management of the University which is our host."

"We are here to solicit that the same support that was accorded his immediate predecessor, the Venerable Saturday Nheke, be extended to our new Chaplain. We will continue to be grateful to the administration for allocating the parcel of land on which our Chapel is built. We also wish to assure you that while the University is in the business of raising students in character and learning, the Church is



V-C, Prof Lale, receiving books authored by the new OSC Chaplain, Rev Iduma

## New OSC Chaplain Pledges To Work With Mgt To Build Character In Staff, Students

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

committed to the moral and spiritual upbringing of staff and students in a society with conflicting values. OSC is ever willing to take up any responsibility that may be assigned to it by the University Management, even as we seek continued support from Management for the Chapel and our new Chaplain," he stated.

Receiving the delegation, the Vice-Chancellor formally welcomed the Reverend Iduma to the University, urging him to deploy his wealth of experience to serve the people of God in the University of Port Harcourt. "I am pleased to note that the new Chaplain has served in the same capacity in three other universities and would certainly bring such valuable pool of experience to bear in his new station."

"I wish to assure you that the Chapel has always had a wonderful relationship with the University staff. It is embedded in several collaborative activities that impact on the spiritual life of staff and students. We wish you a peaceful stay in the University even as you quickly adapt to the values and culture of the new environment in which you now find yourself. We will rely on your apostolic authority for continual prayers that would sustain the spiritual leadership of the University."

The Vice-Chancellor told the new Chaplain, describing him as a prolific writer of spiritual and motivational books. In their goodwill messages, the Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto and Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and member of the BoI in the Chaplaincy, Professor Regina Ogal, expressed the commitment of the University Management to support the Chapel and the new Chaplain to succeed in his demanding assignment in the University.

Other Principal Officers who joined the Vice-Chancellor to receive the new Chaplain included the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Rakeem Fawehinmi, University Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Alenzi, University Librarian, Dr. Susan Umeozor, Deputy Registrar in charge of Information Unit, Williams Wodi and Special Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Kingsley Wogwun.

Other members of the Chaplaincy that accompanied Reverend Iduma on the courtesy visit included: Professors Andrew Oluafemi, Ehi Amakuru, Dr. Salem Ejeha, Mrs. Onyinye Orij, Mrs. Rose Assechime, Mrs. Amaka Harcourt and Mrs. Ngazi Uduwa.

**I**n an attempt to clarify the actual amount to be deducted from the entitlements of staff of the University of Port Harcourt which has become a contentious issue, Management has promised to approach the National Salaries, Incomes and Wages Commission (NSIWC) with a view to finally resolving the perceived discrepancies as alleged by the Unions. This hint was dropped by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, at a meeting he held with the Executive of the University of Port Harcourt Branch of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) at the Committee Room on Friday, October 28, 2016.

The Vice-Chancellor dispelled rumours that Management was not willing to effect the deductions on the basic salaries of staff, assuring the Unions that his administration would never withhold whatever was legitimately due any staff. He said that Management would promptly pay whatever was approved by the Federal Government, provided such approvals were backed by allocations.

"At the onset of this controversy, Management was advised by the Bursary Department that salaries have been consolidated, thus eliminating the need to fragment what is to be deducted from the entitlements of staff. The Unions, especially ASUU, is insisting that only the basic salary should be subjected to such deduction. Luckily, the fact of the matter is not to be ascertained from a Gallup Poll or from cyberspace; we will approach the National Salaries, Incomes and Wages Commission in Abuja to clarify and lay the matter to rest once and for all. At the end of the day, we will go with what the NSIWC recommends, and not what is dredged up from any other institution," the Vice-Chancellor told representatives of ASUU.

Arguing that NSIWC would be relied upon to provide appropriate information on the actual breakdown of the components of staff entitlements, Professor Lale reassured the Unions of his total commitment to the legitimate welfare package available to all staff.

"I understand that ASUU wants calculation to be based on basic salary, and not the entire package. The Union will have a point if its position is confirmed in Abuja, rather than relying on secondary data obtained from other universities that may be acting unilaterally. As you can be sure, I am running the University by the books and I am not going to do anything that would give my enemies firepower to foment more mischief," the Vice-Chancellor said.

On what ASUU perceives as undue harassment of its members by the Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit, Professor Lale promised to look into observed excesses of Line Officers at the QAQC, but reaffirmed his administration's resolve to ensure that academic staff engaged in actual teaching and quality contact hours with their students, in addition to research for purposes of promotion.

"We want an orderly environment where things are done in a proper way in line with global best practice. For your information, QAQC is now mandatory in Nigerian universities and we cannot be left behind. I am aware that some Lecturers do not teach until a week to Semester Examinations, yet they earn salaries they did not work for and still sleep well at night. It is becoming obvious that Nigerians want change as long as it does not apply to those advocating it. I hope that ASUU will join me to stabilise the University through cooperation. I don't want anybody to believe that the power of Unions can only be measured through agitations and warfare," Professor Lale said.

## NSIWC To Clarify Appropriate Deductions From UniPort Staff Entitlements, Says V-C

By Williams Wodi

He assured the Unions that his administration would continue to promote deserving staff, notwithstanding the fact that the Governing Council was dissolved last June. On the Union's concerns over the delay in the payment of remuneration from the Non-National Universities Commission and poor electricity supply on Campus, Professor Lale assured the Union that concerted efforts were being made to address them within available resources.

Concerning increasing complaints that the anti-plagiarism software was hard on ASUU members aspiring to obtain higher degrees from the University, the Vice-Chancellor assured the Union that it was not different from the software in use in other climates, regretting that some graduate students were hell-bent on cheating their way through the system to obtain higher degrees.

Earlier in his presentation, ASUU local branch Chairman, Dr. Austen Sado, had expressed the concern of his members about the mode of deductions of Contributory Pension Scheme and other issues that needed to be resolved in the interest of industrial harmony.

"As I address the Vice-Chancellor, over 50 universities have rectified the deductions on staff basic salaries. We have been talking about this issue for the past seven months without any logical explanation from the Bursary Department or resolution in sight. My duty is to convey

the position of Congress to the administration," Dr. Sado said, calling for transparency on the issues he raised, including payment to deserving staff from the Students' Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES), remunerations from the Non-NU/C, poor electricity on Campus and alleged blackmail of ASUU members by the QAQC.

"We support legitimate processes aimed at enforcing standards in the University, but we think that quality assurance should cut across the University and not just limited to our members who work under very severe constraints that result in high mortality rate. We also wish to appeal that whatever the University may wish to contribute to the burial of bereaved ASUU members should be given to their families before burials," Dr. Sado pleaded with the administration.

The Vice-Chancellor was joined at the meeting by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Oti, Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Alor, University Librarian, Dr. Susan Umunor, Deputy Bursar (Treasury), Dr. Felicia Ayuwu, Systems Analyst, Mr. Arhite Princewili, Deputy Registrar (Information), Williams Wodi and Special Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Kingsley Wogwa.

The ASUU Chairman was accompanied to the meeting by his Vice-President, Dr. Eze Wosu, Secretary, Dr. Tochukwu Okonkwo, Internal Auditor, Dr. Faith Ken-Amankpog, Investment Secretary, Dr. Adedaramola Oyeasoo and Assistant Secretary, Dr. Steve Omedun.



V-C, Prof Lale and UniPort ASUU Chairman, Dr. Sado in a tete-a-tete

### Deadline For Basic Studies

#### Application Form

**T**he School of Basic Studies has announced 12 midnight Tuesday, November 8, 2016, final closing date for the sale of application form for admission into the School for the 2016/2017 academic session. A statement dated November 2, 2016 and signed by the Acting Director, Dr. Ipeghan Otaraku, advised prospective candidates to make themselves available for an admission screening exercise on Saturday, November 12, 2016 at 8:00am at designated venues.

### Trade and Development Institute

**T**he Institute of International Trade and Development (IITD) has extended the deadline for the sale of Application Form for the 2016/2017 session. Director of the Institute, Professor Augustus Ghosi in a statement dated November 1, 2016, disclosed that the new deadline was now Friday, December 30, 2016. He requested interested candidates to avail themselves of the opportunity to purchase the form.

### Int'l Radiology Day

**T**he Department of Radiology in the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital has invited the University community and other interested members of the public to this year's International Day of Radiology holding tomorrow, Tuesday at the UPTH Auditorium. A statement jointly signed by the Chairman and Secretary of Organising Committee, Drs. Enighe Ugbonna and Ebibi Robinson, disclosed that Professors N.C. Nwankwo and C.C. Nzotta would be Lead Speakers on the theme of the celebration:

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upright, decent, truthful, trustworthy and of high moral probity in their daily engagements. No matter how brilliant they may be, people without character and a high dose of moral rectitude do not go far in their public or private lives," he admonished them.

"As Vice-Chancellor, my success depends on the efficient performance of your individual duty schedules. If you assist the system to grow, we will all grow together. Don't be mistaken. Management is aware of the contributions of each staff of the University and so we cannot post staff with questionable characters to very sensitive Units of the University. How would you feel that once your name is mentioned, there is strong objection about you being posted to a particular Unit? Be rest assured that once that happens, you are on your way out of the University because of the moral question mark on your integrity quotient," the Vice-Chancellor added, promising to give the Admissions Office a facility by making provision for a briefing complex for the staff.

He charged the old staff to cooperate with the new Admissions Officer and other staff that were recently redeployed to the Unit for it to continue to discharge its duties in an efficient manner.

In her introductory remarks, the Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, described the Admissions Office as a critical Unit of the Registry Department that related directly to students and their parents on admission matters. She told the Vice-Chancellor that the Unit had recorded much improvement away from when a few bad eggs engaged in unwholesome activities that tended to undermine its functions.

"Time there was when we had problems with our admission documentation processes. I can

## V-C Tasks Admissions Office Staff

confirm to the Vice-Chancellor and other stakeholders in the affairs of the University that we have come a long way from that era with the new online processing of admissions which started about four years ago. This is a clearing house for all admission processes. We need to properly accommodate the Admissions Office to provide it with an enabling environment to give of its best to students. We also want to introduce admission booking for students to ensure efficiency and reduce overcrowding in the Unit during admission exercises. The booking system has worked so well at the Health Centre when students undergo their medical examinations. We want to replicate it in the Admissions Office to reduce the pressure staff face in the registration of students," the Registrar said.

She explained that the Unit also served as the Secretariat of the Committee of Provost and Deans, directing the new Admissions Officer to immediately brace up to the challenge of ensuring that previous Minutes of CPD meetings were updated and presented at the next gathering of the body.

Mrs. Otto, who thanked the Vice-Chancellor for taking time out to visit the Admissions Office, further tasked the

staff to be meticulous in discharging their assignments.

"In dealing with the public, you must be polite and courteous, calm, clean and always be on the right path. Students who secure admission through this Office are here primarily to study, graduate and become useful members of society and proud alumni of the University; so we need to assist them to actualise their vision without subjecting them to undue stress," she said.

Earlier in his brief, the newly redeployed Admissions Officer, Mr. Goodness Ifah, said he was still studying the files left behind by his predecessor and would brief the Registrar and Vice-Chancellor of his findings in due course.

"I am aware that the Merit List has been published and that what is left is the Supplementary Admission List. I will come to the office to brief you on what I met on ground and how we intend to move forward in the discharge of our duties," Mr. Ifah said.

Also on the entourage of the Vice-Chancellor were the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, Deputy Registrar (Information), Williams Wodi and Special Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Kingsley Wogwu.



V-C, Prof. Late (arrowed), flanked by Registrar, Mrs. Otto, SAVC, Mr. Kingsley Wogwu (right), DV-C (Acad), Prof. Hakeem Fawehinmi, DR (IPPR), Williams Wodi, Admissions Officer, Mr. Ifah and other staff of the Unit

## V-C Advises Provost, Deans, HoDs On Students' Result Upload, Payment Of Charges

By Otok Samuel

In keeping with the decision of Senate of the University on the final deadline for students to pay up charges and register their courses for the outgoing academic session, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ydowa Late, has met with Provost, Dean of Faculties, Heads of Department and the Service Provider, Cinfores, to discuss ways of implementing the decision.

In his opening remarks, the Vice-Chancellor lauded the

senior officials for attending the meeting at very short notice, frowning at a reported case of delayed commencement of an examination in violation of the scheduled time-table. He pointed out that such treatment to students was wrong, directing Heads of Department to monitor how examinations were being conducted by Course Lecturers and Supervisors to ensure that students were treated fairly and with the respect they deserve at all times.

On the eligibility of students to write the second semester examinations, Professor Late stated that Management allowed all the students to write the examinations to forestall a repetition of the violent protest that marred a similar exercise on April 11, 2016. He advised Heads of Department against wasting valuable time and resources in marking and compiling results of students that were not eligible to write the Second Semester Examinations as specified by the Senate.

"As a fallout of the violent protest on April 11, we held several stakeholders' meetings with the student leaders during which they passionately appealed that Management should reopen the portal for them to continue the payment of charges and conclude their registration processes before the Second Semester Examinations. As is now obvious, we agreed and even further extended the time for them to comply with the directive just to allow peace to reign and put those goading them on out of business. At the expiration of the final deadline, we were left with no other option than to shut down the portal and compile the list of eligible students which our Service Providers had assisted us to accomplish to specification. The various lists are now with the Departments, Faculties and College; you should compile your results, using only the list of eligible students as provided by Cinfores" the Vice-Chancellor directed them.

He also frowned at the idea of reporting minor cases that

could be resolved by Units and Departments to Unions in the hope of dramatising such issues, advising staff whose salaries were omitted to meet with the Bursary Department to resolve such matters, rather than going to the Unions to lodge complaints with the intention of igniting avoidable warfare against Management.

Professor Late further tasked Departments that were due accreditation by the National Universities Commission and relevant professional bodies to put all necessary requirements in place in order to secure full accreditation status for their programmes, reminding them of the dire consequences of failing accreditation. He further disclosed that the new Executive Secretary of the NUC, Professor Abubakar Rashied, had designated the months of May and November for accreditation of programmes in Nigerian universities.



Prof. Late, V-C

## Stop Press

## UniPort To Mark World Diabetes Day Nov 11

Diabetes Association of Nigeria (DAN) in collaboration with the Senate Lee Macba Foundation has concluded plans to mark the 2016 edition of World Diabetes Day in the University of Port Harcourt. A statement dated October 28, 2016 and jointly signed by the State Chairman of DAN, Emeritus Professor Ebigherhi Alaguna and Vice-Chairman, Dr. H. C. Oporuan, addressed to the Editor, *UniPort Weekly*, indicated that the event will commence with special prayers at the University Mosque at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, November 11, which will be followed by special prayers at the Chapel of the Annunciation and Our Saviour's Chapel on Sunday, November 13, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., respectively. Major highlights of the event would include Screening for Diabetes Mellitus and its complications, exhibitions and paper presentations. The University community and interested members of the public are cordially advised to attend.

## GUIDE POST

## ACIB Ends Orientation For Students, Donates To UDSS

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Newly-admitted students as Associates of the Chartered Institute of Bankers (ACIB/B.Sc) Linkage programme of the Department of Finance and Banking in the Faculty of Management Sciences, have been charged to pursue knowledge for societal change and to avoid situations that may jeopardize their stay in the University. Giving the charge at an orientation exercise which held on Saturday, October 22, 2016, at the Faculty Auditorium, University Park, the Dean, Professor Barisua Nwince, reminded the new entrants that the ACIB/B.Sc Linkage programme provided them a veritable platform to excel professionally, disclosing that a professional Master's degree programme in Finance and Banking would soon commence.

"Under my watch, I will not relax any of the extant University rules to accommodate anybody. I shall run my administration by the books and would insist on staff and students conforming to global best practice to make our products competitive. As knowledge-thirsty students you must confine yourself within your rights as stated in the Students' Handbook, because ignorance of the law will not serve as an excuse for anyone who falls short of the rules and regulations of the University," he told them, stressing the importance of regular class attendance in line with the expectations of the Senate of the University.

Describing the ACIB as a two-year programme designed to meet the academic requirement of the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN), the programme Coordinator in the University, Dr. Ebele Ifionu, noted that the programme is a partnership between the University and the Institute and is designed to meet the minimum academic standards of the National Universities Commission (NUC).

"On successful completion, the students graduate with a B.Sc degree in Finance and Banking and it is designed in

such a way to enable you acquire skills despite your working schedule. The curriculum is designed to update, strengthen and enhance the academic and analytic skills of the students thereby, improving their efficiency and productivity on the job. We deemed it necessary to have an orientation to avoid ignorance of rules and regulations in the University," Dr. Ifionu said, noting that a total of 520 students are currently enrolled in the programme.

Zonal Coordinator of the CIBN in charge of Eastern Zonal Office, Owerri, Mrs. Marin Nwagboso-Kalu, who lauded the partnership between the Institute and the University in promoting finance and banking education in Nigeria, enlightened the students on the benefits of the ACIB/B.Sc linkage programme in the University. "The Institute supervises finance and banking education as a way of maintaining high level professionalism in the banking discipline in the country. The ACIB/B.Sc linkage programme allows graduates to gain professional membership of the CIBN and it is one of the requirements to qualify as a Chartered Banker," she said urging them to remain focused and committed to their studies. Other presentations included the Rules and Regulations Governing the Conduct of Students in Academic Matters by the Principal Assistant Registrar in the Academic Office, Mrs. Mammy Otonnah, Bursary Service and Students' Insurance Scheme by the Management Sciences Faculty Finance Officer, Mrs. Rose Chris-Ugari, while Acting Head of the Department of Management, Dr. Edwinah Amah spoke on the Role of Students in Cleanliness.

In a related development, the Coordinator of the ACIB/B.Sc Linkage Programme, Dr. Ifionu have donated iron reading desks, multi-purpose tables for the girls' hostel and iron hangers for spreading clothes for use in both the girls' and boys' hostels in the University of Port Harcourt Demonstration Secondary School (UDSS) as part of the ACIB programme community service outreach. Receiving the donation, UDSS Principal, Ogechi Anele, commended Dr. Ifionu for setting a record in the school and showing kindness to the pupils of the school through her donation.



Dean, Prof. Nwince (arrowed) flanked by ACIB UniPort Coordinator, Dr. Ifionu (left), Zonal Coordinator, Mrs. Nwagboso-Kalu, other staff and students

**DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
WEATHER OBSERVATORY  
WEATHER FORECAST FOR PORT HARCOURT AND SURROUNDING AREAS  
FOR SUNDAY NOVEMBER, 06 – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2016.**

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY 06 NOVEMBER 2016	33.0 23.0	64	WSW	28.1	6:18 4:14	Thunderstorms with a partly sunny outlook.
MONDAY 07 NOVEMBER 2016	34.0 24.0	67	SW	47.9	6:18 4:13	Thunderstorms with a partly sunny outlook.
TUESDAY 08 NOVEMBER 2016	33.0 24.0	67	SW	4.1	6:18 4:13	Widely scattered thunder storms with a mostly cloudy disposition.
WEDNESDAY 09 NOVEMBER 2016	34.0 24.0	48	SW	-	6:18 4:13	More clouds than sun expected.
THURSDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2016	34.0 24.0	52	SW	-	6:18 4:13	Mostly cloudy day predicted.
FRIDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2016	35.0 24.0	52	SW	2.2	6:19 4:13	Thunderstorms late accompanied with a mostly cloudy day.
SATURDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2016	34.0 24.0	55	SW	2	6:19 4:13	Thunderstorms late accompanied with more clouds than sun.

DR. V.E. WELI

AG. HEAD

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY &amp; ENV. MGT.

DR. PRINCE C. MMOM

AG. DIRECTOR

(CDRMDS)

## ELTAN National Conference

The English Language Teachers Association of Nigeria (ELTAN) held its 9<sup>th</sup> National Conference at the Ken Saro-Wiwa English House Auditorium from Monday, August 29 to Thursday, September 1, 2016, with *Multilingualism in Nigeria: Prospects and Challenges in Teaching and Learning of English Language and Literature in English in L<sub>2</sub> Context* as its theme. Our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU**, captured highlights of the conference:



DV-C (Admin), Prof. Anthony Ibe  
declaring the conference open



Dignitaries at the conference  
rise for UniPort Anthem



Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Prof Femi Shaka  
welcoming guests



ELTAN President, Prof Ozo-mekuri Ndimele,  
making a speech



Prof Nkem Okoh delivering the  
keynote speech



Prof Daniel Ogum delivering  
the lead paper



L-R: Profs Shaka, Ibe, Chairman, Local Organising  
Committee, Dr Margaret Nwankpa, Profs Ndimele,  
and Onyemaechi Uduakwu



V-C, Prof Nwosa Late, 3<sup>rd</sup> from Left) Principal Officers  
and members of LOC, during a courtesy visit



Dr Ikenna Kamulu making a contribution



Another participant asking a question



Prof Ogum responding to questions



A cross-section of participants



Students thrilling participants with songs