

# UniPort Weekly

Vol. 31, Edition 303 November 14 - November 21, 2016

For Information and Enlightenment

ISSN: 1522-2325

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

## Int'l College Of Surgeons Elects Ndu Eke V-P, As Urology Unit Honours Him



**T**hursday, November 3, 2016, was a day of celebration in the Urology Unit of the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH). On that grisly morning, Professor Eke, his younger colleagues and students gathered at the Unit's Seminar Room for what was to be their routine meeting at 9.00am. The mastermind of the coup d'état, Dr. Ngozi Ekeke, called the Editor of UniPort Weekly to secretly unfold how the 'coup' would be executed, reports *Humphrey Ogu*. *More on p3*

## Side Bar **DIABETES DAY**

The Diabetes Association of Nigeria (DAN), in conjunction with the Senator Lee Maeba Foundation and University of Port Harcourt marks the 2016 World Diabetes Day today.

Details Next Week

~Editor

### UPTH Marks Int'l Radiology Day



Story on p2

### Dean Commissions Utility Vehicle For LCS Dept



Story on p3

### CGA Trains 250 UniPort Students



Story on p4

### INSOLITO Class Ends Medical Outreach



Story on p5

## URAP Ranks UniPort 3<sup>rd</sup> In Nigeria, 50<sup>th</sup> In Africa

By Williams Wodi

**T**here was palpable excitement on campus last week following the top ranking of the University of Port Harcourt by an independent academic rating agency. In its latest performance evaluation of higher institutions around the world, the University Ranking for Academic Performance (URAP), rated the University of Port Harcourt 3<sup>rd</sup> in Nigeria and 50<sup>th</sup> on the African continent in its 2015/2016 exercise. Also, the University is currently ranked 1,749<sup>th</sup> in the world. The URAP, which published the latest rankings on its website at: [www.urapcentre.com](http://www.urapcentre.com), based its rating on the available 6,751 internationally verifiable research publications by staff of the University of Port Harcourt based on a special 803 webpages for researchers in the institution developed by the Academic Planning, Research and Control Unit of the Vice-Chancellor's Office. Acting Director of Academic Planning, Dr. Peter Kpolovie, who made the information available to a UniPort Weekly

Correspondent, disclosed that the URAP World Ranking was based on seven research productivity indicators. He named the indicators to include: presence on the web, impact, openness, excellence, visibility, scholarly publications online and citations per faculty. In his own

words: "Any ranking of universities henceforth, particularly in 2017 that uses the same parameters, will certainly rank the University of Port Harcourt much better."

Describing URAP as an academic performance-based ranking exercise, Dr. Kpolovie said that publications constituted the basis for the ranking methodology used in arriving at the latest ranking of universities around the world. "The rankings take into account both the quality and quantity of publications by scholars in universities and international research

*More on p6*



Prof Lale,  
V-C



Adamu Adamu,  
Education Minister

Read UniPort Weekly online @ [www.uniport.edu.ng](http://www.uniport.edu.ng)

# Kenyan AIESEC Intern Commends UniPort Students On Teamwork

By Otiakor Samuel

**K**enyan Intern, Miss Doreen Jeptoo Rotich, who arrived two weeks ago to participate in a six-week exchange programme of the student organisation, AIESEC, has commended what she described as a strong harmonious relationship among students of the University which results in significant advantages in the accelerated growth of the University of Port Harcourt.

The Intern, who made the observation when UniPort President of AIESEC, Miss Vivian Atuchukwu, led her on a familiarisation visit to the UniPort Weekly office last Friday, stated that her interaction with students so far revealed that they were diligent, hospitable and friendly.

"I am here for six-week visit that would enable me participate in *Project Pink*. I arrived on Wednesday, November 2, 2016 and I am quite impressed with what I have seen so far. Nigeria is a beautiful country with nice people and diverse cultures. The country has nice food; I like the *pepper soup* and *hale*—roasted plantain. It was my first time of tasting them and I like them. They are sweet, but I was not comfortable with much pepper. I like the unity that exists among students as I stay with them," the Intern said.

Also, on the *Project Pink* which brought her from the Cicely McDonnell School of Nursing, Nairobi, Kenya to the University of Port Harcourt, Miss Rotich said the

ongoing project centres around creating awareness on breast cancer and sustaining advocacy on knowledge of the deadly ailment.

"Breast cancer which affects the breast tissue could be treated at the early stages. So, we want to continue to engage the local community people on the need to go for regular check-ups, at least, twice a year to ascertain their health status. It is not easily detectable at the early stages. There is a need to repeat the check-ups more than once in a year," the Intern said.

"For women who are tied to their religion or traditional belief systems and would not want male caregivers to do the check-ups, they have the right to demand to be seen by female doctors and nurses to attend to them. The important thing is that they should do the check-ups," she advised.

On patients who were already diagnosed with breast cancer, she suggested surgical procedures that could address their situation. "There are also drugs that are toxic to the cancerous cells that can kill the cancerous cells, but with side effects on the patients. Patients should not engage in traditional method of cure that may worsen their condition. They should eat healthy food; not processed food that could predispose them to cancer. Personal hygiene such as avoiding bra with metals should be observed," Rotich said.

Also speaking, UniPort AIESEC President, Miss Atuchukwu, said the organisation would sustain advocacy in the communities within and outside the

University environment to create impact. "We feel that the best way to go is to carry out projects where we can transport and secure our team and then follow them up to create impact. That is basically why we run projects in a particular location for a long time," the President said.



Rotich

## UPTH Marks International Radiology Day

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

**T**he Department of Radiology at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH) joined its counterparts across the globe to celebrate the 2016 International Day of Radiology (IDoR) at the UPTH Auditorium, last Tuesday.

Delivering a Lecture on the theme: *Breast Imaging: Screening and Beyond*, a Radiologist at the UPTH, Professor Nelson Nwankwo, represented by Dr. Enighe Ughoma, stressed the need for a Private Public Partnership (PPP) initiative as a means of sustaining Radiology Departments in Nigeria. He called for privatization of Radiology Departments and institution of a functional social welfare system that would accommodate patients who cannot afford to pay for radiological investigations.

"In Nigeria, patients run away for fear of the unknown, but it is advisable that women present early for routine investigation of the breast to avoid being caught up with preventable ailments such as breast cancer," he stated, disclosing that 12 out of 25 women were at risk of coming down with breast cancer in their lifetime.

Speaking on the sub-theme: *Challenges of Mammography in Nigeria*, Professor of Medical/Nuclear Physics from the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Naele Campus in Anambra State, Christian Nzotta, categorized the challenges of mammography as specific and general.

"In Nigeria, our challenges include, but is not limited to poor maintenance of equipment, poor retraining of relevant personnel, high tube temperature, amongst others," he stated, advocating that Radiology Departments should employ Quality Control Officers who would ensure full compliance to globally-recommended protocols in the practice of Radiology.

In his contribution, Chairman of the Rivers State Chapter of the Association of Radiologists in West Africa (ARAWA), Dr. Adenike Abubuwa, noted that the Day was set aside to create greater awareness on the role of Radiology and Radiologists in the world, including their contributions to safe patient care and the healthcare delivery system.

"This year's theme on *Breast Imaging: Screening and Beyond*, has been chosen to highlight the role of medical imaging in the detection, diagnosis and management of breast diseases. It aims to raise the level of awareness on new developments in breast imaging and to also provide an overview of the modalities and technologies used for breast imaging," she stated, advising full implementation of the recommendations by the Guest Lecturers for better radiological outcomes.

Representative of the Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic matters, Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, expressed delight at the Lecture organized by the Radiology Department to commemorate the Day, describing the theme as apt, in view of the alarming increase in cases of

breast cancer in the country and the benefits of early detection and treatment. "I wish to congratulate the Head of Department of Radiology and his team for celebrating IDoR and hosting the lecture which is part of the core mandate of the University," Professor Fawehinmi said.

In his remarks, Acting Head of the Department of Radiology at the UPTH, Dr. Cecil Maduforo, commended his colleagues for joining hands to ensure successful celebration of the International Day of Radiology for 2016. The two-day event also featured a Continuous Medical Evaluation exercise (CME) which held at the Rivers State Secretariat of the Nigeria Medical Association (NMA).

## PASSAGE

### UGWECHI WORUKA

**T**he death has been announced of Late Mr. Ugwechi Woruka, who was murdered along Aluu/Alport

Road on November 18, 2015. Until his death, Mr. Woruka was a Contract Staff with the Sports Institute. His remains were laid to rest at his hometown, Isiodu-E mohua in Emodua Local Government Area of Rivers State, last Saturday.



Late Woruka

## EDITORIAL BOARD

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Prof Ndowu E. S. Late | - Publisher            |
| Prof Emu Ekakwe       | - Editorial Chair      |
| Dr. Austen Sado       | - Editorial Adviser    |
| Williams Wodi         | - Editor               |
| Obinna Nwodin         | - Associate Editor     |
| Correspondents        | Secretariat            |
| Mary Adeniji          | Chika Nwadike (Mrs)    |
| Otiakor Samuel        | Graphic                |
| Humphrey Ogu          | Chika King-James (Mrs) |
| Ethel Timi-Johnson    | Photography            |
|                       | Mitchell Ekyor         |

Call: 08033093371



Participants in a group photograph after the ceremony

Cont'd from Page 1

## Colleagues Honour Ndu Eke At Urology Unit

Phase 1: Professor Eke would walk into the Seminar Room to discuss routine urological matters and review cases with his younger colleagues. Phase 11: Quite unknown to him, the coup plotters had stationed their snipers at strategic locations leading into the venue to ensure that the target did not get as much as passing knowledge of the raucous reception that awaited him that morning. After all, it is common knowledge that all coups unfold just like that. The renowned surgeon promptly arrived to commence a routine meeting, only to be 'accosted' by faces laced with 'mischievous smiles' and intent. Once the formalities were done with, Professor Eke got the shock of his life, as it became obvious that he was not part of Phase II of the gathering. Overwhelmed by their mentor's evident accomplishments in the academy and medical profession, younger colleagues in the Urology Unit literally rolled out the 'red carpet' for their *Oga* to stroke on. They had a good reason to honour their boss. Professor Eke had recently emerged as First Vice-President of the International College of Surgeons in an election held in Kyoto, Japan on October 23, 2016. The great surgeon was also feted for a successful stint and return from secondment to the Federal Medical Centre (FMC) Owerri, after a 10-month sojourn as Head of the Interim Management Committee in that health facility. Highlights of the event were outpouring of encomiums on Professor Eke by colleagues, former and current students, including some of his mentees. Provost, College of Health Sciences, Professor Christie Mato, Dean of the Faculty of Clinical Sciences, Professor Samuel Uzoigwe, Head of the Department of Surgery, Professor Nze Jebbini, Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Professor Henry

Ugboma, one-time Chief Medical Director of UPTH, Dr. Uriah Etawo, UPTH Director of Administration, Mrs. Boma Amaomo-Jumbo and Assistant Director of Nursing Services, UPTH Mrs. Maggie Well Orianwo, were amongst those that eulogised Professor Eke's qualities as a teacher, administrator and medical educator.

Others included Professors Kanu Nkagime of the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Jacob Adotey and Patrick Eghwudjakpor of the Department of Surgery. Professor Eke's younger colleagues and ex-students, who also eulogised their mentor were Head of the Department of Surgery and Head of Urology Unit, Braithwaite Memorial Specialist Hospital (BMSH), Dr. Ovundu Omodu, Consultant Urologist, Federal Medical Centre (FMC) Yenagoa, Dr. Azibaalanar Ikobuo, Dr. Fyacefa Ogan of the Department of Anaesthesiology, UPTH, Dr. Ngozi Ekeke of the Urology Unit.

Also, Dr. John Raphael, was celebrated following his recognition as a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Responding, a visibly enthused Professor Eke expressed gratitude to the Urology Unit for organising the reception, and colleagues from other units, departments and health facilities for honouring him with their words and presence at the occasion.

"There is a lot we can do to put this hospital on the world map. One good thing about my election as First Vice-President of the International College of Surgeons is that I used UPTH as my affiliation, even though I was on secondment to FMC, Owerri. That is a measure of my commitment to the future of UPTH. The world has moved beyond tribal affiliations and ethnic sentiments. We must stop tribal profiling if we hope to catch up with the rest of the world. I have always believed that UPTH, BMSH and FMC Okolobiri should collaborate on a number of programmes to bring out the very best in each of them. Those days when professionals work in a silo are far behind us; these days, people must collaborate to solve problems in any field and society is better for it," he advised his younger colleagues, who showered him with gift items.



Prof Eke (arrowed) flanked by Provost, CHS, Prof Mato (right), other senior academics, progenies and well-wishers of Prof Eke

## Dean Commissions Utility Vehicle For LCS Dept

By Otor Samuel

Pursuant to his dynamic vision of transforming the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies (LCS) in what could now be described as *One Month One New Project* initiative, another project embarked upon by the Acting Head of Department, Dr. Baridisi Isaac has been commissioned by Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor Femi Shaka.

This time, the Dean unveiled a Toyota Sienna bus that would serve as an operational vehicle for the Department last Tuesday. Commissioning the utility vehicle, Professor Shaka again praised the Acting Head of Department for delivering on his promise to leave the Department far better than he met it. He showered praises on Dr. Isaac for transforming the Department since he assumed office last December.

"I wish to renew my call on other Departments and administrators to borrow a leaf from Dr. Isaac to grow

the University to become the envy of other institutions in the country and even beyond. Dr. Isaac has demonstrated total commitment to the provision of basic infrastructure in the Department which has immensely impacted on how lecturers and students teach and study here. I wish to encourage him to continue along these lines and also commend his colleagues for identifying with his vision of transforming the Department," the Dean said at the commissioning ceremony.

Briefing the Dean, Dr. Isaac reiterated his commitment to deliver on his vision of driving development in the Department with minimal dependence on statutory allocations, which he said were not forthcoming as expected due to paucity of funds from the Federal Government in this season of economic recession.

"We purchased the vehicle from financial contributions by Lecturers in the Department, including some of our students who willingly identified with the project as part of their Community Service programme. We don't want to fold our arms and wait for the Management of the University to do everything for us. We want to contribute our own quota in growing the system and lessen dependence on Management by the various Faculties, Departments, Institutes, Centres and Units," Dr. Isaac said.

"I am convinced that the best way to go now is to look inward to drive development activities in the University. That is the philosophy that underlies what we are doing and we will continue along this path without compromising quality services delivery to our students and other stakeholders in the affairs of our Department," the Acting HoD assured the Dean and his colleagues.



Dean, Humanities, Prof Shaka cutting tape to commission the vehicle, while Ag. HoD, Dr. Isaac, senior academics, other Lecturers and students of the Dept. watch in admiration

No fewer than 250 students and athletes from the University of Port Harcourt have benefitted from a training programme on various entrepreneurship skills organised by the Nigerian office of the Commonwealth Games Association in concert with UniPort and an NGO known as Youth Project Nigeria.

The programme which took place at the UniPort Gymnasium from Thursday, October 20 to Saturday, October 22, 2016, featured training on web and graphic design, social media and digital marketing, cinematography, professional make-up, catering and bread-making, amongst others.

Speaking on the topic: *The Benefits of Sports to the Nigerian Youth*, Director of the Sports Institute, Professor Ken Anagweje, described sports as those physical activities organised and played according to extant laws, rules and regulations that are already in operation as prescribed by national and international sporting federations.

Describing the youthful stage as a very critical period in the human evolutionary process, Professor Anagweje called on government to encourage greater participation of Nigerian youths in sporting activities and also provide more sporting facilities in the country to enable youth channel their abundant energies to productive uses.

"Youth is the period during which people succumb to peer-pressures, acquire certain behavioural traits and get exposed to alcohol, drugs and sexual activities. It is also a sensitive phase when they are vulnerable to joining fraternities and religious groups, because for most of them, it is their first time of leaving their homes. More importantly, it is the age when people acquire education that sees them through the rest of their lives and the period when endowment of strength and vigour are most advanced. Before that age, you are not very strong, after that age, you start slowing down. This is why it is the period most people engage in sporting activities," Professor Anagweje said.

The Director listed a general sense of well-being, self-esteem, healthy physical development, improved muscle and bone strength, mobility, balanced and better weight control, reduction of risk of obesity, prevention of diabetes and cardiovascular diseases such as hypertension and stroke, improvement in academic performance, social advancement,

## CGA Trains 250 UniPort Students, Athletes On Entrepreneurship Skills

By Humphrey Ogu

development of life skills, character building and leadership qualities, including development of the spirit of sportsmanship as some of the benefits of sports.

On his part, the Administrative Officer in the Commonwealth Games Association Office in Lagos, Francis Labi, gave a brief history of the Commonwealth Games Federation, during which he also highlighted previous and forthcoming games.

Other topics covered in the programme included: *Arts, Culture and Tourism as a Vehicle for Wealth Creation*, by the President of the Nigeria Arts and Patkaron Groups, Mr. Patrick Okpah, *Staying Ahead of the Curve—Industry Skills and Experience*, by the Chief Executive Officer of Slatecube, Mr. Chris Kwekwe, amongst other presentations.

Speaking in representative capacity at the closing ceremony, President of the Nigeria Olympic Committee, Habu Ahmed Gumei, described the programme as very beneficial to the participants,

expressing optimism that it would help broaden their understanding of the techniques of becoming self-reliant after graduation.

"The major challenges undermining national development in Nigeria are mainly poverty and unemployment. This programme organised under the auspices of the Commonwealth Games Equip programme is designed to enable students explore their entrepreneurial skills and become employers of labour, instead of chasing after non-existent jobs on graduation. Government is also trying to refocus the youths on how to effectively acquire and utilize entrepreneurial skills that would enable them run businesses, irrespective of the challenges they may face in the process," he said.

"The Nigeria Olympic Committee and Commonwealth Games Association chose University of Port Harcourt as a centre for the Equip programme, because of the excellent bilateral relationship existing between the NOC and the University, which is one of the institutions selected in Africa for the Equip programme," he added.



A cross-section of the trainees

## Fawehinmi Assures Anatomy Dept Of More Support

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, has assured his colleagues in the Department of Human Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences of his continued support for them at all times.

Professor Fawehinmi gave the assurance when the Acting Head of Department, Dr. Michael Onyiahire and Associate Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Gabriel Oladipo led other staff to pay him a courtesy visit at

the Senate Chambers, last Wednesday. He commended the staff for their team spirit and the Department for the achievements it has recorded within a short timeframe.

"This visit is a clear testimony of the good relationship we have enjoyed together as colleagues and friends in the Department. In recent times, we have celebrated Professor Blessing Dida's appointment as Vice-Chancellor of the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, and mine as Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic matters here in the University of Port Harcourt. This

shows that the Department is doing well and I am very happy that you have held the forte in our absence," he said, promising to lift the Department to greater heights in whatever capacity he may find himself.

Speaking earlier, the Acting Head of Department, Dr. Onyiahire who congratulated Professor Fawehinmi on his meritorious appointment as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), also commended him for his numerous contributions to the advancement of the Department as part of the pioneer staff.



Prof Fawehinmi (arrowed) and other staff of the Human Anatomy Dept after the visit

**A**s part of their Final Year Class (FYC) activities, the Medical and Dental Students of the University of Port Harcourt, also known as INSOLITO, embarked upon an outreach programme to the Port Harcourt Remand Home, Port Harcourt Children's Home and Cheshire Home for the Physically Challenged on Friday, November 4, 2016.

Briefing a UniPort Weekly Correspondent on the outcome of the outreach programme, Chairman of Final Year Medical/Dental Class of 2016, Ibe Chiemezie, said: "As part of our Final Year Class activities for 2016, we decided to give back to the society before our final graduation. The outreach focused on a segment of society that is very vulnerable and somewhat abandoned in the scheme of things. That is why we chose the Port Harcourt Remand Home, Port Harcourt Children's Home and Cheshire Home for the Physically Challenged for our medical outreach this year."

The outreach programme which was coordinated by Godwin Oke, commenced at The Port Harcourt Remand Home located at No. 45 Nembe Street, Benikiri with health talks delivered by members of the INSOLITO class—Aisita Ejiofor, Chiemezie, Uzoehukwu Ndudi and Prince Ozuu. The health talks focused on educating the children and correcting some common misconceptions on topical health and public issues such as HIV/AIDS, self-worth and value system, cultism and drug abuse, respectively.

The Vice-Chairperson of FYC activity 2016, Chika Onyeaso, also gave a talk to the children on the importance of living a Christian life, following which gifts were presented to them.

Receiving the items on behalf of the children, head of the Home, Mr. Wosu Prince, commended the medical and dental students for their kind and thoughtful gesture, urging them to continue to render such humanitarian services even when they become full doctors.

"We also visited the Children's Home which has two divisions with the first part housing the younger children and the second part housing the older

## INSOLITO Class Ends Medical Outreach For Less Privileged Children

By Humphrey Ogu

children, most of who had congenital anomalies and terminal ailments. The second part of the Children's Home was in a sorry state and in desperate need of rehabilitation which was evidently due to insufficient funding. The head of the Home used the opportunity to enlighten us on the role the public can play in providing assistance for the welfare of the children and upkeep of the Home. The INSOLITO class spent some time hugging and playing with the children

which put smiles on their faces and we also left them with gift items," Chiemezie told our Correspondent. According to Chiemezie, the group also visited the Cheshire Home for the Physically Challenged built by the late Amanyanabo of Nembe Kingdom, Justice Ambrose Alagoa in 1973. It is currently being managed by a Matron, Mrs. Philomena Iroegbu. She said that gift items were also presented to the inhabitants of the Home, expressing gratitude to the INSOLITO class for remembering the Home which mostly depended on charity to stay afloat.



Head of Remand Home, Mr Wosu (arrowed), receiving the gift items from the students

## Social Science Faculty Presents Book On Post-Amnesty Conflict Mgt In Yenagoa

By Obinna Nwodin

**A**s part of its core mandate of embarking on teaching, research and community service, the Faculty of Social Sciences has presented a book on Post-Amnesty Conflict Management Framework in the Niger Delta. It also unfolded a policy brief on research in collaboration with the Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme (NSRP).

The event which took place in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State on Wednesday, November 2, 2016, attracted academics, government officials, captains of industry, Non-governmental organisations, students groups and other stakeholders in the affairs of the Niger Delta.

Speaking at the presentation ceremony, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Okey Onuchuku, stated that the ground-breaking research work comprised high impact studies in the core Niger Delta states of Rivers, Bayelsa, Delta, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Edo and Ondo States. He further explained that the research team made far-reaching recommendations, which if implemented, would go a long way to addressing the knotty problem of armed conflict and underdevelopment in the region.

"The research findings indicate that government needs to approach the amnesty programme in such a manner as to permanently address the real issues that resulted in the conflict. Government should urgently embark upon proper NEEDS Assessment of the entire Niger Delta region before initiating programmes

aimed at addressing the root causes of the conflict, if it wants to usher in enduring peace to the crises-prone region," Professor Onuchuku said at the occasion.

The programme which was chaired by first Military Governor of Rivers State, King Alfred Diye-Spiff (rtd.), also had the Presidential Adviser on Amnesty Programme, Brigadier-General Paul Boroh (rtd.) and former Permanent Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Power, Dr. Bolade Igali, in attendance, amongst other critical stakeholders that spoke on the way forward for the backward region that contributes over 80 per cent of the nation's revenue call. Presenting a policy brief on the research, Director of the Claude Ake School of Government, Professor Eme Ekekwue, said that the study was aimed at ascertaining how the implementation of the Presidential Amnesty Programme (PAP) introduced in 2009 by the Government of late President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, was perceived by the people and to what extent it had contributed to ushering in peace and stability in the Niger Delta region.

The book which was edited by Professors Henry Alapiki, Eme Ekekwue and Dr. Sefiri Joab-Peterside, recommended that government at all levels should urgently address issues such as provision of electricity, potable drinking water, healthcare, as well as road and marine transportation systems for the people. It also recommended that concerted efforts should be made to rejuvenate economic activities as a means of increasing employment opportunities for youths and income generation in the Niger Delta, amongst others.



Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Prof Onuchuku (standing) and others at the ceremony

URAP Rates UniPort 3<sup>rd</sup> In Nigeria, 50<sup>th</sup> In Africa

the Web of Science.

Cont'd from Page 1

collaboration criteria used to judge performance indicators," the Acting Director further explained. Further inquiries by our Correspondent indicated that URAP gathered data from 2,500 Higher Education Institutes based on which it ranked the affected universities on the basis of their academic performance, while the overall score of each institution was predicated on six academic performance indicators, namely: article, citations, total document, article impact total, citation impact total, including international collaborations.

Following the evaluation of data from 2,000 of the institutions that participated in the exercise, URAP rated UniPort 3<sup>rd</sup> in Nigeria with a total of 124.60 points, behind the Universities of Ibadan with 238.77 and University of Nigeria, Nsukka with 124.65 points, respectively.

Apart from the Cairo University that snatched 4<sup>th</sup> position, the latest rankings show that universities in South Africa continue to dominate the first three

positions on the academic league table. South African universities also took fifth, sixth, eighth, twelfth, thirteenth, eighteenth and twentieth positions, respectively. The six academic performance indicators are based on the criteria developed by the International Ranking Expert Group (IREG), which was multiplied by the number of publications in each field and then summed up across the 41 fields evaluated by URAP. The indicators were aimed at balancing each institution's scientific productivity with the 'field normalised impact' generated by those publications in each field. For the 2016/2017 exercise, URAP World Ranking bibliometric data was obtained through the Thomson Reuters' InCites research analytics service, which provided an interface to the Web of Science database.

The 41 subject areas used in the rankings were based on the discipline classification matrix developed by the Australian Research Council for journals indexed in



Prof Rasheed, NUC Scribe

## Revisiting 2013 NEEDS Tenders Opening Exercise

By Obinna Nwodin

The authorities of the University of Port Harcourt recently opened Tenders for rehabilitations of projects under the 2013 NEEDS Assessment Intervention Fund on Tuesday and Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2016. The projects broadly comprised hostel rehabilitation in the three campuses, as well as some residential quarters, were bided for by Contractors who came from all over the country.

The well-attended exercise which was chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, had representatives of the Federal Ministry of Education, as well as the National Universities Commission (NUC), including Project Consultants that observed the exercise. The focus of this piece is not that Tenders were opened in the University; the significance was that the exercise was a marked departure from what had been the practice in the past. To get it right, painstaking efforts were made to ensure a free, fair and transparent exercise to the satisfaction of all bidders. There is no doubt that the process of bidding for any contract in any organisation is a highly competitive exercise which made it imperative for the outcome to be seen to be transparent.

What made the exercise special this time was that the renovation of hostels had lingered on for too long on account of institutional obstacles placed on the way of the administration by the defunct Governing Council. While the situation lingered on, students were left to inhabit dilapidated hostels that robbed off negatively on the image of the University and heightened their capacity for agitation.

It was the case of a willing spirit and a weak body as the *Car and Mouse* game continued unabated until the Federal Government sent the Council parking on Thursday, May 30, 2016. The rehabilitation job had to be given executive approval to enable Contractors mobilise to site. Crucially, the University would need standard hostels to enable it host a memorable West Africa University Games.

The contract bidding process began with a relieved Vice-Chancellor commending the Contractors for their interest in the development of the University. He urged successful bidders to execute quality jobs that would recommend them for new jobs in future. On their part, the Project Consultants outlined the criteria for the pre-qualification exercise, assuring the Contractors that due process was followed in line with the provisions of the Public Procurement Act. The Consultants not only showed professionalism in interpreting the rules of

engagement, but they also applied intrepid human and public relations in dealing with Contractors who were not pre-qualified for the jobs.

This process was to ensure that the Contractors met the guidelines before doing business in the University as duly registered corporate entities, as well as ensure that they also fulfilled the stipulated financial obligations in terms of payment of taxes and remittance of one per cent of their workers' total annual emolument to the Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF). Company profile and capacity to execute the jobs, including bank references, as well as verifiable evidence of financial capacity to undertake the jobs, were among other criteria scrutinized for eligibility by each Contracting firm.

The exercise was free and fair to the extent that Contractors who were not represented during the exercise, but met the stipulated criteria were also declared as pre-qualified in line with rules of equity. Those who did not meet the criteria were politely told why they were not pre-qualified and from all indications, it was obvious that such category of Contractors were satisfied with the reasons adduced for their disqualification. They were politely advised to do better documentation during the next bidding exercise. At the end of the day, serious-minded Contractors with capacity to deliver would most certainly be given the jobs in the various lots. We do not expect the authorities of the University to chase after incompetent Contractors who melt away or give untenable excuses after collecting huge mobilization fees.

With the successful conclusion of the Tender opening, the Professor Lale-led administration should be applauded for taking this bold initiative that is bound to ensure quality in service delivery from Contractors that may eventually win the bids.

The efforts of the Acting Director of the Department of Physical Planning and Development, Mr. Michael Ubom, also ought to be commended, as he insisted on due process in the opening of Tenders. Indeed, the lesson from the exercise is that with commitment and willpower, the best can be achieved in any organization, including the public service from which nothing good was usually expected. Indeed, the Lale administration has shown the will to get the best for the system. It is our hope that we all will begin to do things the right way, no matter how tedious the process of getting there might be.



Principal Officers, NUC Representative, Consultant and bidders at the last Tenders Opening

## GUIDE POST

## APPOINTMENT

**Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs**, reappointed **Chairman, Governing Board of the University of Port Harcourt Sports Institute**. Other members of the Board are: **Professor Mark Anikpo (Co-Chairman)**, **Professors Joseph Ajlenka, Bene Willie-Abby, Matthew Wegu** and representative of **IAAF, Dr. Solomon Ogba**.

**Dr. Lois Abraham**, **Department of Curriculum Studies and Educational Technology, Faculty of Education**, appointed **Quality Assurance Officer**, effective October 28, 2016.

**Dr. John Eze**, **Quality Assurance and Quality Control/SERVICOM Unit, Office of the Vice-Chancellor**, appointed **SERVICOM Customer Relations/Complaint Desk Officer**, effective October 28, 2016.

**Dr. Ejike Ugwu**, **Department of Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering**, appointed **Coordinator of Department**, effective November 1, 2016.

**Mr. Princewill Josiah**, **Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering**, appointed **Coordinator of Post-HND Programme**, effective October 7, 2016.

**Dr. Akuro Big-Alabo**, **Department of Mechatronic Engineering, Faculty of Engineering**, appointed **Coordinator, Science and Engineering Workshop**, effective October 17, 2016.

**Dr. Bruno Onyekuru**, **Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education**, appointed **Quality Assurance Officer**, effective October 17, 2016.

## RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

**Mombe Ngonah**, **Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Faculty of Humanities**, granted **Renewal of Expatriate Contract Appointment**, effective November 17, 2016.

## DEFERMENT OF SABBATICAL LEAVE

**Dr. Golda Ekenedo**, **Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education, Faculty of Education**, granted **Deferment of Sabbatical Leave** to **Madonna University, Elele, Rivers State** till further notice.

**Professor Augusta Eneh**, **Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences**, granted **Deferment of Sabbatical Leave** to **Madonna University, Elele, Rivers State** till further notice.

## STUDY LEAVE

**Miss Beauty Ben-Wali**, **Department of Crop and Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture**, granted **Study Leave with Pay** to enable her undertake a **Confidential Secretary Course** at the **Rivers State Development Training School**, effective November 14, 2016.

**Mrs. Celine Monday**, **Department of Pharmacognosy and Phytotherapy, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences**, granted **Study Leave with Pay** to enable her undertake a **Confidential Secretary Course** at the **Rivers State Development Training School**, effective November 14, 2016.

**Miss Victoria Wali**, **Junior Staff Office, Registry Department**, granted **Study Leave with Pay** to enable her undertake a **Confidential Secretary Course** at the **Rivers State Development Training School**, effective November 14, 2016.

**Miss Joy Wosa**, **Staff Development Unit, Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)**, granted **Study Leave with Pay** to enable her undertake a **Confidential Secretary Course** at the **Rivers State Development Training School**, effective November 14, 2016.

**Mr. Grant Zeteh**, **School of Graduate Studies**, granted **Study Leave with Pay** to enable him undertake a **Confidential Secretary Course** at the **Rivers State Development Training School**, effective November 14, 2016.

**Mrs. Rose Ukp**, **Exams and Records, Registry Department**, granted **Study Leave with Pay** to enable her undertake a **Confidential Secretary Course** at the **Rivers State Development Training School**, effective November 14, 2016.

## SCIENCE AND INNOVATIONS

By Kaycer Deamer

**R**esearchers engineered a low-cost plastic material that could become the basis for clothing that cools the wearer.

A new type of fabric could keep people cool in hot climates and reduce the need for expensive and energy-consuming air conditioning, a new study finds.

A team of researchers has developed a low-cost, plastic-based textile that allows the body to release heat in a new way. Just as sweating is one way the body cools off, the new clothing could help people reduce body heat. This cooling clothing could allow for air-conditioning to be set to a lower output than usual while still ensuring people stay cool, the researchers noted.

Heating and cooling spaces contribute to 12.3 percent of total energy consumption in the U.S., according to the researchers. Efforts to reduce energy use have focused on improving building insulation and enabling "smart" temperature control. However, engineers studying "personal thermal management"

found that providing heating or cooling only to one person — rather than the power needed to cool an entire building — would result in far higher energy efficiency.

Credit: Stanford University/YouTube



Dr. Oghonnaya Onu, Minister of Science and Tech

## Study Links Constipation To Kidney Disease Risk

*In what may not make for the sexiest headline, a new study shows there's a link between constipation and kidney disease.*

**I**n the study, researchers examined health records from more than 3.5 million U.S. veterans, looking at whether they reported being constipated or had used laxatives over period of about seven years. They found that those who had experienced constipation had higher risks of developing chronic kidney disease and kidney failure than those who had not. They also found that the more severe the participant's constipation, the higher their risk of developing these kidney conditions. "We cannot really say that we were very surprised," said Dr. Csaba Pal Kovessy, chief of nephrology at the Memphis VA Medical Center and one of the study's co-authors. Previous studies have linked constipation to cardiovascular problems, and the researchers suspected that the same mechanisms through which constipation negatively affects the cardiovascular system would also negatively affect the kidneys.

The key to the link may lie in gut bacteria: Constipation may be a marker of an altered gut microbiome, Kovessy said. Changes in the community of microbes that live in people's guts have been linked to numerous metabolic changes, such as increased inflammation.

Although the researchers said they were not yet sure of the exact mechanism that

may connect constipation and kidney disease, they suggested that the changes in gut bacteria that cause constipation could also cause food to pass through the digestive system more slowly than usual. This slowdown may lead to chronic inflammation, which in turn may contribute to kidney disease.

Constipation affects about 30 percent of the general population at some point during their lifetime, and is "one of the most prevalent conditions encountered in primary care settings," the researchers wrote in the study, published on November 10, 2016 in the *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*. Elderly people and women are most heavily affected.

Constipation could be a cause of kidney disease, or it may be a sign of other factors that lead to kidney disease. Further research is still needed to determine whether treating constipation could help prevent chronic kidney disease or kidney failure, the researchers said.

The study is also observational, and so it is not possible to determine a cause-effect relationship between constipation and kidney disease from this data alone. Further studies should be done to pinpoint the exact mechanism that may link constipation and kidney disease, the researchers said.

Source: Crabgarden/Shutterstock.com. Originally published on LiveScience.



## NIAS/ASAN Induction

**T**he Nigerian Institute of Animal Science (NIAS) inducted a total of 520 Animal Scientists at its 8<sup>th</sup> Induction Ceremony which held alongside the 5<sup>th</sup> Joint Annual Meeting of the Animal Science Association of Nigeria (ASAN) at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park between Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2016. Our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU**, captured pictorial highlights of the event as shown below:



Chairman, LOC, Dr. Letorm Akinola, welcoming some Principal Officers to the venue of the Conference



NIAS President, Prof Israel Adu making his opening remarks



ASAN President, Mr. Taiwo Adeoye reading his address



L-R: DV-C (Admin), Prof Anthony Ibe, NIAS and ASAN Presidents, Prof Adu and Mr. Adeoye



Commissioner of Agriculture, Mrs. Onimim Jacks reading the goodwill message from R/S Governor, Chief Nyesom Wike



Keynote Speaker, Senator Adegbeniga Kaku delivering the Lecture



A cross-section of participants at the opening ceremony



Deputy Registrar, R/S High Court Registry, Sir Chakwuma Mark, administering the Oath of Allegiance on Fellows of the Institute



Swearing in of Registered Animal Scientists (RAS) Inductees



A cross-section of Associate and Graduate Animal Scientists



Professor Irene Willie Abbey being decorated as Fellow of the Institute



Some of the items at the Exhibition stand



A group photograph of Principal Officers of the University and officials of the Institute after a courtesy visit