

UniPort Weekly

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More NUC Accreditation Teams Praise



UniPort, Chart Ways Forward

As the University hosted more accreditation teams constituted by the National Universities Commission to the University, last week, Management has continued to receive more accolades on the quality of programmes and service delivery in the various departments evaluated, reports Obinna Nwodin.

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Side Bar Registry Day

The 5th Registry Day Celebration holds tomorrow at the Ebifimi Banigo Auditorium. Details next week
~Editor



ISCST Inducts V-C Into Fellowship

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INRES, Powell Chair End Scoping Workshop

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V-C Fetes Staff Children At 2016 Christmas Party

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We Improved Research Ethics Quality

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I'll Not Fail UniPort As IAUoE V-C, Ndimele Pledges

By Orikor Samuel

Following his recent appointment as second Vice-Chancellor of Ignatius Ajuru University of Education (IAUoE), Rumuolumeni, Professor Ozoemekuri Ndimele, paid a courtesy visit on his counterpart, Professor Ndowa Lale to officially intimate the Vice-Chancellor of his new position and forward a letter requesting to be allowed to proceed on his Leave of Absence from the University for the next five years.

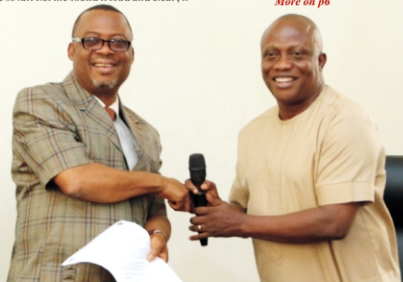
Speaking at the Governing Council Chambers which served as the venue of the reception, last Monday, the new Vice-Chancellor of IAUoE promised to tap from the experience he garnered over the years as a staff of the University of Port Harcourt to transform the State-owned University of Education.

"I am here to tell you that I want to leave the University for five years. I am going there as a proud Alumnus and Staff of the University of Port Harcourt. I promise never to fail my *alma mater* in my new

place of assignment and I will require all the assistance you can offer me to succeed on the most important assignment of my life so far. Let me sound it loud and clear; if

IAUoE fails to grow, then UniPort should be held accountable. This is because most of the key officers, ranging from the Acting Registrar, Deans and others are proud products of Unique UniPort. I, therefore, don't expect anything less from them but to deliver on the task before us which is to

More on p6



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ISCEST Inducts V-C Into Fellowship At International Confab

By Williams Wodi

The already over-crowded cup of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, was further enriched last Wednesday, with yet another Fellowship Investiture by the International Society of Comparative Science and Technology (ISCEST), an affiliate of the World Council of Comparative Education Societies.

The investiture took place at the Third Annual International Conference to be held in Nigeria and the very first in the Garden City of Port Harcourt which opened at the Hotel Presidential last Monday. The Vice-Chancellor was conferred with the prestigious Fellowship of ISCEST for what the organisers described as "his numerous contributions to science education and administrative acumen." Science teachers from the United Kingdom, America, Ukraine, Nigeria and other African countries, were also on hand to receive the prestigious Fellowship Award.

Professor Lale, who chaired the opening ceremony, extolled the group for recognising the power of science and technology in the education of Nigerian youths. He urged ISCEST to further spread the message to all nooks and crannies of the country for more people to identify with it.

"Education is a potent force that can advance science and technology and an elite society such as ISCEST has a major role to play in sensitising policy-makers on the gains of investing in science education. It is even more important that you are doing a comparative analysis of the Nigerian situation with what obtains elsewhere. I join the organisers to welcome distinguished science educators from all over the world at this important conference and it is my hope that your deliberations would advance the study of science and technology in our schools," the Vice-Chancellor said in his opening remarks.

President of the World Council of Comparative Education Societies, Professor N'Dri Assie-Lumumba, who spoke through Professor Hilary English, announced the official recognition of ISCEST Nigeria as a full member of WCCES. "We are very pleased to welcome the society to the WCCES and very much look forward to learning from its work. The Council



Prof. Kobayashi, English, Hilton, Lale (V-C) and Charl Wollhauser after receiving Fellowship Awards

will very much appreciate the various contributions that your society can make," Professor Lumumba said in the address.

In a goodwill message read on his behalf by former Secretary to the Bayelsa State Government, Professor Allison Ogura, immediate past President of the Federal Republic, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, described education as the most important task that life could offer humanity, saying that it enabled man to dominate his environment and make positive impact in society.

Decrying the numerous vices that had plagued Nigeria's educational sector in recent times, Dr. Jonathan submitted that "education must develop character and improve the human value system if it is to record measurable impact. A functional and qualitative educational system will always impact positively on its beneficiaries. Like the Chinese did, our educational system must be in tune with our culture and tradition if we must identify with it as an instrument of national transformation," he said, charging the conference participants to proffer functional solutions to Nigeria's parlous educational system.

Keynote Speaker and former President of WCCES, Emeritus Professor Nobuo Kobayashi, decried the level of biodegradation that had put the world in great peril, charging science educationists to rally to the

trenches to save the environment. "It is very difficult for people to control the environment, despite their best efforts to deploy science and technology to remedy what has been destroyed. I am very pleased to return to my ancestral roots in Africa which is the origin of all humanity. It simply means that the battle to save the environment must begin on this continent," he told the gathering.

The Hawaii-born Japanese American urged participants to use their knowledge of science and technology to make a difference, promising that the WCCES would assist ISCEST Nigeria to stand on firm footing in the crusade to save the world.

Earlier in his welcome address, President of ISCEST Nigeria, Professor Steve Azaili, had expressed gratitude to all the partner organisations that had continued to encourage the advancement of comparative education through science and technology.

"We must continue to stress the importance of science education and the need for comparative analysis of nations are doing to advance science and technology. A comparative analysis shows that Nigeria remains far behind in the application of science and technology in her educational system and ISCEST Nigeria is on the frontline to reverse this unacceptable trend," Professor Azaili told the gathering.

As the discourse unfolded, it was obvious that failed states are the products of scandalous knowledge gaps in the application of science and technology to their educational systems. Failed states are marked by poor healthcare, outdated educational curricular, epileptic municipal services, heightened insecurity, high impunity quotient, unbridled corruption and inefficient civil service, amongst other national malaises.

While self-serving politicians wield power as ciphers in which government is impotent to rectify the rot that has accumulated over the years, their ululative screams and self-congratulatory posturing continue to undermine popular confidence in participatory democracy and the educational system. A proper comparative educational system that is rooted in diligent application of science and technology will give Nigeria the much-awaited quantum leap in her national development. Is anybody listening to the message from ISCEST?

YFC Marks World AIDS Day With Screening, Rally

By Humphrey Ogu

The Youth-Friendly Centre in the University joined other institutions and organisations around the world to mark the 2016 edition of World AIDS Day. The event, which had "Towards Achieving an HIV-Free Generation" as its theme in Rivers State, commenced with a three-day testing of students for HIV and staff of tertiary institutions in the State on Monday, November 28, 2016.



Some students waiting to be screened during the rally

In UniPort, the three-day HIV testing took place at the Youth-Friendly Centre located in Delta Park for students and in front of the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park for staff.

Briefing UniPort Weekly, Senior Medical Officer at the O. B. Lule-Briggs Health Centre and Coordinator of YFC, Dr. Olayinka Oluwunmi and Assistant Registrar at the Health Centre, Mrs. Ifeoma Ofurum, noted that the campaign, which was sponsored by the State HIV Control Programme in the Rivers State Ministry of Health, came to a climax on December 1, 2016 with a youth awareness rally at the Elechi Amadi Polytechnic, Rumuola, with over 80 UniPort students in attendance.

It was recalled that December 1, is set aside each year by the World Health Organisation (WHO), to mark the World AIDS Day, as well as to create awareness about the dangers posed by the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and global spread of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

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Programmes that were assessed in the latest round of accreditation exercises were: Microbiology, Biochemistry, Plant Science and Biotechnology (Botany), Computer Science, Geology,

More NUC Accreditation Teams Praise UniPort Programmes



Some members of the accreditation teams at the Senate Chambers

Maths/Statistics, Science Laboratory Technology, Agriculture, including the Industrial Chemistry component of the Department of Chemistry, which the accreditation team insisted should, henceforth, run for five years in line with the NUC B-MASS standard.

In their separate reports, leaders of the various accreditation teams gave positive recommendations about what they saw on ground in the programmes evaluated, urging Management to rectify some observed lapses aimed at enhancing service delivery to stakeholders. At various Exit Meetings with Management, the accreditation teams agreed with the philosophy and objectives of each programme,

curriculum, admission requirements, academic regulations, courses, external examiners' report, quality of technical and administrative support staff, staff development programmes, library as well as physical infrastructure, amongst others.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, expressed gratitude to the various teams and the NUC for their positive comments on programmes presented by the University for accreditation. He assured them of the resolve of his administration to implement the recommendations they made to improve the quality of teaching and research in the University.

"I can assure you that we will do our best to implement your recommendations so that our

programmes can be strengthened to enable us move the University forward. I wish to reiterate, once more, that accreditation exercises are very necessary as quality assurance measures in the university system. I can assure you that without such periodic exercises, the universities would have further degenerated far beyond what we are currently complaining about. Apart from rigorously scrutinising our programmes, the NUC should also recommend to government, the need for better funding that would enable us discharge our core mandate of teaching, research and community service," the Vice-Chancellor told the accreditation teams.



INRES, Powell Chair End Scoping Workshop On Niger Delta Mangroves

INRES Director, Prof Ndokuwu (arrowed) flanked to the right by Powell Chair Occupant, Prof Hart and other participants after the workshop

By Ethel Tini-Johnson

In advancement of its advocacy initiative, the Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainable Development (INRES) in partnership with the Bruce Powell Chair of Hydrobiology/Fisheries in the University, have ended a Scoping Workshop on the Niger Delta Mangroves and Coastal Zones.

In a presentation at the workshop which held at the Bruce Powell Animal and Environmental Biology Building, University Park, on Tuesday, December 6, 2016, Director of INRES, Professor Benjamin Ndokuwu, described the University of Port Harcourt as a leading institution in the Niger Delta and among the first to address issues affecting the

mangroves and coastal zone resources of the region. He described the workshop as part of his institute's effort towards sustaining the rising profile of the University in the study of wetlands, including a paradigm shift towards fishing and other renewable resources that abound in the region with its fragile ecosystem.

"We are looking forward to a time when the current pains and travails of the Niger Delta would be transformed through a well-articulated ecotourism initiative in which waterfronts would become beaches for relaxation and not refuse dumps and dens of criminality, while coastal communities would correspondingly become great cities as against the current designation of the Niger Delta as a region riddled with the adverse effects of oil and

gas exploration activities, pipeline vandalism, alien invasive species, amongst others," Professor Ndokuwu said. He commended the pioneering effort of the Bruce Powell Chair in attracting global attention to issues affecting the Niger Delta in partnership with critical stakeholders that included INRES.

In her contribution, Chair Occupant, Professor Aduabobo Hart lauded the achievements of the late Powell in Hydrobiology/Fisheries, expressing delight at the emergent partnership with INRES in the preservation and documentation of the fragile flora and fauna of the Niger Delta.

"The late Bruce Powell was very interested in the ecosystem of the Niger Delta. He put in his best to place the Niger Delta on the international map. Powell also discovered a lot of rare species and was the first person to scientifically describe the diverse organisms. We will continue to further the research works of C.B Powell, a Canadian who trained many of the experts in the Department today. This workshop and future conferences on the mangroves and coastal resources of the Niger Delta would help us better understand the environment. With the knowledge gained, we can also contain the problems that affect the environment such as climate change," she said.

In his address, Dean of the Faculty of Science, Professor Gordian Obute, described scoping as one of the most critical and neglected aspects of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). "This workshop is essential to the preservation of the fragile ecosystem of the Niger Delta, especially for researchers undertaking a study in this subject area as it would provide them with hands-on training from experts. It is, therefore, important for participants to learn as much as they can from this very important workshop on Niger Delta mangroves and coastal zone resources," he stressed.

V-C Restates Commitment To Staff Welfare At Congregation Meeting

...To Deliver 32 Housing Units Soon

By Obinna Nwodin

In the face of many daunting challenges facing the University, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, has reassured staff of the resolve of his administration to secure their welfare on his watch. Professor Lale gave the reassurance while addressing the 62nd Meeting of the University Congregation at the Ebitimi Banjo Auditorium, last Tuesday.

"I let me restate that nobody will do anything to stop you from getting what you deserve in the line of duty. I would appeal to you not to rely on the rumour mill for information about the real state of affairs in this University where we are all stakeholders. I have always tried to be honest and open with all staff in the discharge of my duties since the onset of my administration," he told members of Congregation, assuring them that Management would take a critical look at the suggestions made by staff with a view to working out strategies to implement them.

Speaking on the implementation of the contentious Christmas Package for 2016, Professor Lale, recalled that on assumption of office, he ensured that staff promptly received their End-of-Year package that was initiated by his predecessor in office without making excuses. He further stated that several things had changed since the Federal Government introduced the Treasury Single Account, disclosing that Vice-Chancellors who inadvertently circumvented the new fiscal rules were currently facing scrutiny at appropriate levels of government.

"Those who started an 'Arab Spring' last April to undermine my administration and get me out of office, did not remotely envisage that their ill-advised action was going to lead to the dissolution of the Governing Council they conspired with to remove me from office. That is the main reason we are currently facing this dilemma over who would authorise the Christmas Package today. In the absence of Council, Management is constrained to act unilaterally, because the money involved in executing the Christmas Package is far beyond the approval limit of the Vice-Chancellor.

The same people now agitating that I should approve the money by whatever means, will readily celebrate if I sign myself into trouble, which is what they have been working

for all along. Management held several meetings with the various Unions with a view to finding a way out of the contentious issue, but after those marathon meetings, it became obvious that the package may not be feasible without a Governing Council in place to authorise and sign the mandate," the Vice-Chancellor told Congregation.

He, however, assured members of Congregation that once the Federal Government constituted a new Governing Council for the University, he would put the matter before them and hope that the yearly Christmas Package would thereafter be institutionalised to run in perpetuity. After an animated debate on the issue, Congregation decided that the issue of Christmas Package be handled by the administration to the best interest of all staff.

The Vice-Chancellor used the occasion to announce the intention of the administration to deliver 32 units of residential houses to cushion the effect of inadequate Campus accommodation. Acknowledging that while the move may not be enough to assuage the acute housing shortage in the University, there was hope that more housing units would be delivered in due course to meet the needs of more staff who now crave to reside on Campus.

Professor Lale also frowned at a situation where some senior colleagues who have statutorily retired from the University refused to vacate their official quarters, regretting that the practice did not augur well for the system. "In some cases, the retiring staff would refuse to vacate their official quarters until an alternative accommodation was allocated to their spouses, some of who may be junior staff," he lamented, disclosing that Management would soon tackle such cases within the rules governing the allocation of accommodation on Campus. On the epileptic electricity supply, the Vice-Chancellor regretted that TOTAL SUPPORT, the company responsible for generating and distributing power on Campus was facing serious challenges in sourcing gas from the Shell Petroleum Development Company. He further regretted that the University was also not up to speed with payment to the company due to paucity of funds.

The Vice-Chancellor addressed issues bordering on the repair of damaged property during the April 11, 2016 students' protest, alleged poor supervision of on-going projects by the Department of Physical Planning, difficulties encountered by students in the process of

paying their charges and registration, as well as payment of arrears to staff promoted since 2011.

Earlier, Professor Lale had announced the promotion of over 40 academic staff to either the professoriate or readership cadre, as well as successfully hosting 35 accreditation teams from the National Universities Commission that evaluated the academic programmes of various departments across seven faculties. He also announced the regrettable deaths of some administrative and academic staff, including Professors Edith Elenwo and Elijah Iyagbo, following which a Minute Session was observed in their honour.



Prof Lale, V-C

V-C Fetes Staff Children At 2016 Christmas Party

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

It was an atmosphere of fun, excitement and relaxation as the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, was heartily joined by other Principal Officers to celebrate with the children at the 2016 edition of Staff Children Christmas Party which held at the Vice-Chancellor's Lodge, Delta Park on Saturday, December 3, 2016 under the auspices of the University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA).

The children turned out in their best colours from every corner of the neighbourhood to celebrate a day solely dedicated to their pleasure after a rigorous academic year. The expensive Vice-Chancellor's Lodge was bedecked with canopies, chairs and colourful

decorations that rekindled the spirit of Christmas. Each of the canopies was manned by a staff parent, who did everything possible to lift the spirit of the children who milled about the premises in eager anticipation of that momentous encounter with the mythical Santa Claus who visits only once in a year.

Commending the UPWA members for ensuring that this year's party held, despite the present economic situation of the country, the Vice-Chancellor promised that his administration would sustain the established tradition of feting the children at the end of each year. He disclosed that staff and their children eagerly looked forward to the event which has become an essential part of the annual calendar of the University.

"I am delighted to welcome the children to this year's

Vice-Chancellor's Children Party. We thank God for giving us another year to celebrate and keep us alive and well. The children have been invited here to enjoy themselves and today is basically for them to unwind and meet their friends. We are praying for the children and their parents and wishing them more years in good health, knowledge to pass their examinations and become useful members of society as tomorrow's leaders," the Vice-Chancellor said, lauding UPWA for putting the event together each year.

In her address, Wife of the Vice-Chancellor and UPWA President, Mrs. Joy Lale, who expressed gratitude to the children for gracing the occasion, commended them for being well behaved throughout the duration of the party. She also urged the children to take their studies very seriously, obey their parents and refrain from joining bad company.

"We are looking forward to hosting our children again next year, all things being equal and we are excited to be spending the day with them at this year's party. We wish our dear children well and wish them a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in advance. We hope this event will grow bigger and better next year," Mrs. Lale remarked.

Highpoint of the event was the cutting of the Christmas Party Cake by the Vice-Chancellor and the children. This year's Vice-Chancellor's Children Party also featured dance competition and presentation of gifts to the children by the Wife of the Vice-Chancellor assisted by Santa Claus who was flown in from a fairy land.



V-C, Prof Lale assisted by his wife, Mrs. Lale, DV-C (Acad), Prof Hakeem Fawehinmi and some of the children cutting the Christmas Party Cake

Elechi Amadi

Master Craftsman, His Workshop, His Apprentice

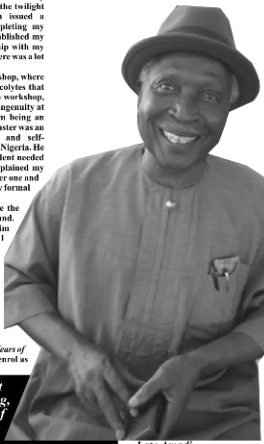
By Humphrey Ogu

As an undisputed master craftsman, Dr. Elechi Amadi had a thriving workshop and many apprentices in his lifetime. I commenced my formal apprenticeship in his workshop in the twilight of the 1990s. Ordinarily, having been issued a certificate of merit as evidence of completing my apprenticeship in 1999, I should have established my own workshop and severed my relationship with my master. But as his protégé, I realised that there was a lot more to learn from the master of the muse.

His was not a carpentry or mechanic workshop, where mere manipulative skills were taught to acolytes that were eager to make a living. It was a literary workshop, where the intellect was put to task; where ingenuity at its highest level came to play. Apart from being an expert in the art and craft of writing, my master was an epitome of virtues—honesty, humility and self-discipline that have sadly taken flight from Nigeria. He was an encyclopaedia that every good student needed to consult on the creative canvas. This explained my continual affiliation to his workshop for over one and a half decades, despite having completed my formal apprenticeship.

It took me a couple of years to even have the privilege of shaking his famous creative hand. After many years of interacting with him through his works, it was only in 1997 that I was privileged to meet him in person for the first time. It was at an event organised by the Rivers State Branch of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) which held at the Conference Hall of the Rivers State College of Arts and Science (RivCAS, now appropriately renamed Elechi Amadi Polytechnic). I wanted much more than a mere handshake though. A conversation with my poetry teacher, late Dr. Ibikunle Ikiriko of the *Odu* Teyars of the Delta fame, opened the door for me to enrol as

"Apart from being an expert in the art and craft of writing, my master was an epitome of virtues—honesty, humility and self-discipline"



Late Amadi

an apprentice in the workshop of the master craftsman. I lacked the wherewithal to actualise that dream. As a diehard believer in my own dreams I held on to it. Two years later, I went back to Dr. Ikiriko, who had earlier taught me poetry in the Advanced Level course of the Interim Joint Matriculation Board (IJMB) programme of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria at the defunct RivCAS.

I was a freshman in the university, taking a degree course in English then. Defying all odds and financial constraints, I commenced my registration formalities and managed to pay the first instalment of my registration fee and began my apprenticeship in earnest. Again, Dr. Ibikunle Ikiriko became one of my tutors in the workshop. Although he was designated to handle *Use of English*, he could not just do without saying something about poetry whenever his class held. "Poetry good of Jee... Yanno ebi!" He would say in a very funny way, mixing Pidgin English and Okrika (his dialect) to create a comic effect.

There was the famous literary critic, Professor Charles Nwadin, who came to give us a talk on *Trends in African Fiction*. He began his lecture with a joke about his diminutive stature. I was almost distracted by his weird mannerisms. I kept wondering if all professors were a similar comic look. He was the first professor in whose class I was opportune to sit and learn. Three memorable months later, I was issued a certificate of merit following the completion of my apprenticeship. And ideas began to hit me like raindrops.

I can't remember the names of all my course mates now; I also can't remember Tini Ovuara and Charles Alfred. On a certain evening, one of my teachers in the

undergraduate programme, Daniel Ogun, who is now a Professor of Language Education at the Ignatius Ajuru University, Port Harcourt, was on *Point-Counter-Point*, a famous discussion programme on Radio Rivers 99.1 FM Stereo, Port Harcourt, where the panel discussed the essence of literature. Listening to my teacher on the radio programme motivated me to also feature on the programme. I simply went to the radio station and inquired about the moderator of *Point-Counter-Point*. I met Dickson Jamabo. A brief discussion ensued and I became a regular guest on the programme for a while. I persuaded Tini to follow me to the studio. We had a deal.

My formal apprenticeship ended in December 1999, following which I joined the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) in 2001. That was shortly after the celebration of Dr. Gabriel Okara at 80 in August and before the 2001 Convention hosted by the Rivers State Branch of ANA in October. The End-of-Year Literary Evening which held at a certain hotel in the Borikiri axis of Port Harcourt was memorable. For Dr. Ibikunle Ikiriko, it was the last supper. Sadly, he passed on in January, 2002. He was the Secretary of ANA Rivers, with Dr. Elechi Amadi as Chairman, Mr. William Nimeibin as Treasurer and Mr. Chris Akani (as he then was) as Public Relations Officer. Following the passage of the hard (Ikiriko), who undoubtedly was a candidate for poetic greatness, I was unanimously nominated as acting Secretary of the Association. That was how I stepped into the big shoes of my poetry teacher. I served in that capacity for a while before Mr.

Misaeluma Minima was elected as substantive Secretary. That was then.

On Sunday, May 22, 2016, the Rivers State Branch of ANA visited its patron and former Chairman, the great Elechi Amadi at his country home in Mbodo-Aluu. The visit was aimed at presenting a new leadership of the Association, which was elected on Sunday, April 3, 2016 to him and to also wish him a Happy Birthday having turned 82 ten days earlier. On that occasion, we declared our intention to return to our host for a reading session. There was unmistakable enthusiasm in his voice as he said: "I look forward to that day!" Sadly, I learnt of the deterioration in his health a few weeks later.

My last encounter with my master was on his sickbed. The immediate past Chairman of the Rivers State Branch of ANA, Mr. Obinna Nwodin, the Legal Adviser, Mr. Chitri Ogbumgba and I, the Secretary, visited him in a hospital in Rukpokwa Town on Friday, June 24, 2016. "Obinna, how're you? How's ANA? Humphrey, how're you? How's the outside world?" he greeted us as we arrived. "I was feeling somehow, so I decided to come and relax here," he said with a tinge of dry humour. Jovial as he tried to sound, there were ominous signs in his voice. He was having difficulty with breathing. We expressed the concerns of other members of ANA and decided to leave at once to allow him to relax without further stressing him up. "Una do well," the author of *Ishura*, *The Woman of Calabar*, and other very compelling African plays said, bidding us goodbye. We stood a few seconds outside the hospital before struggling into the car in very low spirits.

My master was billed to speak to a very enthusiastic audience at the 2016 Book Reading of Total E&P Nigeria Limited on Wednesday, June 29. On my arrival at the venue, a staff of the company, Mr. Charles Nwosu exchanged pleasantries with me and said in a nervous voice: "Humphrey, what of Elechi Amadi?" He looked worried as he asked the question. "He won't be able to make it, he is critically ill," I told him. He asked for his wife's phone number, which I gave to him. The wife, Dr. Priye Iyalla-Amadi, arrived later and addressed the expectant audience on his behalf. Her address was lively, moving and very inspiring. It was a very successful event, a nice day for literature. But that was a couple of hours before the sad news of the sudden passage of my master filtered in. He passed on a few hours after the event, I learnt. A phone call from Ogbumgba broke the sad news to me; another phone conversation with Mr. Nwodin confirmed the news which spread like wild harrattian fire. The news broke my heart and left me with excruciating emotional pain that has refused to leave me.

This is the story of an apprentice in the workshop known as *Elechi Amadi School of Creative Writing* and winner of Elechi Amadi Poetry Prize 2014. This is a testimony of my association with the literary giant, the author of the trilogy: *The Concubine*, *The Great Ponds*

"This is the story of an apprentice in the workshop known as Elechi Amadi School of Creative Writing and winner of Elechi Amadi Poetry Prize 2014."

and *The Slave*. This is a tale about the creator of *When God Came*—the first science fiction published in Nigeria, as told by one of his protégés. This is my tribute to my master, teacher, mentor and older friend; Elechi Amadi, the undisputed captain of the muse; to whom I ever say goodbye to this enigmatic force that inscribed the literary world like a colossus! Goodnight, Sir!

I'll Not Fail UniPort As IAUoE V-C



V-C, Prof Lale (6' left) flanked by his IAUoE counterpart, Prof Ndimele, UniPort Registrar, Mrs Dorcas Otto, DV-C (Admin), Prof Anthony the (left), IAUoE Registrar, Mrs. Kue-Ikoro, DV-C, (Acad), Prof Favehinni and other Principal and Senior Officers of both universities

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accelerate the growth of academic and infrastructural development of that fledgling University," Professor Ndimele told his counterpart. He further disclosed that the assignment before him was so enormous that it would require support from all stakeholders to enable him place the University on a strong footing. "As I speak, the rot I met on ground is very frightening and seemingly daunting. I, therefore, want to adopt the Vice-Chancellor of UniPort as my informal consultant on issues of university administration. You know better than I do on this job schedule; so, I would request you to kindly leave your doors open for us because we will be coming from time to time to tap from your wealth of experience," the new IAUoE Vice-Chancellor appealed to his host.

Responding, Professor Lale, who was visibly enthused by the appointment of Professor Ndimele as the Vice-Chancellor of IAUoE, commended him for his decision to visit his alma mater.

"Let me thank the new Vice-Chancellor of Ignatius Ajuru University of Education for paying me a courtesy call. I ran against him for the position of Vice-Chancellor of UniPort last year. I am happy that he is the second person who ran against me to become Vice-

Chancellor within this short period. The first was Professor Blessing Didia who was appointed Vice-Chancellor of the Rivers State University of Science and Technology. The lesson for us here is that we should not just dash our hopes when things do not work the way we initially want them to work. God always has His divine plans for every one of us in the scheme of things."

"Today, the three of us leading these universities contested the position for the job I am holding today, but God spread us round for a purpose. Let me point out that one of the most stressful jobs in Nigeria today is the position of Vice-Chancellor. I am hoping to convene a meeting of my brother Vice-Chancellors in universities in Rivers State for the stated purpose of sharing our experience on how to grow our institutions," Professor Lale told his visiting counterpart.

He further expressed confidence in Professor Ndimele's capacity to leave excellent legacies at the end of his five-year tenure at IAUoE, assuring other members of the delegation that Professor Ndimele would be a good administrator to their University.

"Your University has a vibrant new Vice-Chancellor. Let me assure you that Professor Ndimele is a go-getter, very accommodating, but firm. He is a no-nonsense man. I have no fear that he would succeed in this onerous assignment," Professor Lale told members of

the delegation, charging them to discharge their responsibilities dutifully for the University to witness rapid transformation.

In their separate farewell messages to Professor Ndimele, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor Femi Shaka and Acting Head of the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Dr. Baridisi Isaac, extolled the qualities of Professor Ndimele as a frontline scholar and administrator, expressing confidence in his ability to carry out his assignment with utmost sense of probity.

Principal and Senior Officers of the IAUoE on the delegation included the Acting Registrar, Mrs. Hope Kue-Ikoro, Acting Bursar, Mr. Karibi Kiriko, Acting University Librarian, Dr. Boma Ohi, Acting Director of Works, Architect Darago Lawson, Heads of Ndele and St. John's Campuses, Dr. Thank God Ojimba and Dr. Reginald Amadi, respectively. Also on the entourage were the Chief Security Officer, Mr. Nwida Nwihari, Head of the Legal Unit, Chris Didia, PAR (Legal), Gogo Batubo and Special Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor, Mrs. Eucharis Somiekar-Pepple. Others were the Dean of the Faculty of Education, Professor Charles Iwundu and Professor Daniel Ogun.

Research Ethics Quality Improved In My Tenure ~Odia

By Otokor Samuel

After successfully completing two terms in office as Chairman of the Research Ethics Committee, renowned Consultant Cardiologist at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), Professor Oussein Odia, has described his four-year experience as impactful and very satisfactory.

Professor Odia who spoke to our Correspondent in his office at the UPTH on Wednesday, November 30, 2016, disclosed that the Committee raised awareness among researchers on appropriate procedures for research ethics and quality proposal writing in line with global best practices.

"At Inauguration, the Committee was statutorily mandated to maintain high ethical standards in scientific investigations involving people, promote the dignity, rights and safety of the individuals so involved, review all proposals for planned investigations involving people and to ensure that the proposed study is scientifically valid and justifiable and that the benefits outweigh any risk of inconvenience or harm," the erstwhile Chairman disclosed. He posited that the Committee went about its onerous task with vigorous advocacy and feedback channels that enriched its assignment.

"At the time we were inaugurated the idea of research ethics was new in the University. We were the pioneers in this regard and fortunately, I have had experience in research ethics at the UPTH for

about 14 years. Fortunately, other members of my Committee also had similar valuable experience that we tapped to advance our work. My Committee did

quite a bit to raise awareness on research ethics and with all sense of modesty, the quality of proposals and compliance to ethical standards in research improved overtime as we deployed the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) approved by Senate of the University to evaluate proposals," Professor Odia disclosed.

On the initial challenges the Committee faced in the discharge of its onerous assignment, the former Chairman lamented that it took his members more than a year to convince faculties to buy into the activities of the Committee which some of them misconstrued as intended to vet their research methodologies.

"It took us quite some time to convince them. Very slowly, however, they bought into the idea, but not before we started vigorous advocacy visits to advise the gains of the idea. Before we left office, all the faculties cooperated with us and I am pleased to say that we have improved tremendously today. Some of our colleagues that have research grants from donor agencies also brought their proposals to us for evaluation in line with global best practice," he pointed out, adding that activities of the Committee covered lecturers and postgraduate candidates, including researchers from outside the University.

He also listed funding, lack of office accommodation and space constraint for storage of materials as major challenges which he hoped the new

Chairman would take up with Management of the University for enhanced service delivery.

"As we quit office, I can say with every sense of modesty that we have laid a solid groundwork for research ethics in the University and I hope that my successor would take it to the next level to ensure that ethical standards are observed at all times. The gains are tremendous to the University as we now have a proper template for proposal writing and ethical research. The format is available to all the faculties on the UniPort website. With this standard template, it is now easy to evaluate research proposals once they are fed into the template," the Chairman further explained to our Correspondent.



Prof Odia

GUIDE POST

APPOINTMENT

Dr. Paul Tamuno, Department of Private Law, Faculty of Law, appointed *Acting Head of Department*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect terminates on November 28, 2018.

ADJUNCT APPOINTMENT

Professor Onyemachi Ogbulu, Department of Finance and Banking, Faculty of Management Sciences, granted *Renewal of Adjunct Appointment/Change of Status as Adjunct Professor*, effective October 31, 2016 to October 30, 2017.

Professor Ugwemurong Gabriel, Department of Animal Science and Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, ends *Visiting Appointment as Adjunct Professor*.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Professor Emmanuel Enaseulu, Department of Theatre Arts and Film Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted a one-year *Sabbatical Leave* to serve as *Public Information Officer* at the African Union/United Nations Mission, Darfur (UNAMID), effective December 5, 2016 to December 4, 2017.

Professor Victor Inoka, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, granted a one-year *Sabbatical Leave* to Akwa Ibom State University, Uyo, effective September 30, 2016 to September 29, 2017.

TRANSFER OF SERVICE

Dr. K.T. Wariso, Department of Medical Microbiology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, transferred as *Senior Lecturer* on full-time appointment to the Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science at no extra cost to the University.

Dr. A.T.O. Awogbeju, Department of Medical Microbiology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, transferred as *Senior Lecturer* on full-time appointment to the Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science at no extra cost to the University.

STUDY LEAVE

Dr. Josephine Agogbua, Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, Faculty of Science, granted a two-year *Study Leave with Pay* to enable her undertake a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ibadan, Nigeria.

CHANGE OF NAME

MRS. BLESSING CHINYERE KENNETH: Former Miss Blessing Chinyere Woke of the Student Account Unit, Bursary Department, now wishes to be known, called and addressed as Mrs. Blessing Chinyere Keaneth, effective December 2, 2016. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

Stop Press

DRVC WORKSHOP

The Degree Results Verification Committee is organising a one-day workshop for all Heads of Department and Line Officers in charge of results computation. A statement by the organisers disclosed that the workshop would hold at 10.00am on Wednesday, December 14, 2016. The title is: "Workshop on Computation of CGPA." All those affected are cordially invited to attend.



Director of the School, Prof Ekeke (arrowed) flanked by Course Representative, Mrs Elechi (right), other MPA graduands and NIM Council Member, Mr. Orugban (left)

Students Donate Power Generating Set To Claude Ake School, As NIM Confers Fellowship On Director

By Humphrey Ogu

Pioneer students of the Claude Ake School of Government have donated a *Lufan LT 2500* model power-generating set to boost electricity supply and enhance academic and administrative activities in the School. Also, Director of the School, Professor Ekeke, has been conferred with the Fellowship of the Nigeria Institute of Management (NIM).

Receiving the donation in the School premises at No. 13 William Jumbo Street, Port Harcourt, on Wednesday, December 7, 2016, Professor Ekeke, who is pioneer Director of the School, lauded the students for deeming it fit to give back to the School, assuring them that it would be put to good use for the advancement of learning. The Director expressed delight that the donation will complement electricity supply in the School and facilitate its functions.

Presenting the power-generating set to the School on behalf of his colleagues, course representative of the Master of Public Administration programme, Mrs. Stella Elechi, said: "As students of the School, we are taught to identify gaps in society and find ways of filling such gaps. We have a serious challenge in terms of power supply which is affecting our studies. So, we decided to make this donation to the School to fill such identified gaps."

Mrs. Elechi noted that she was attracted to the School by its trademark name, saying: "I have been hearing the name of Claude Ake for a very long time and I knew that

anything associated with that name will be of high quality. So far, I have not been disappointed. The training provided in the School has been very comprehensive and enlightening. As Public Administrators, we are trained to become better administrators and make a difference in society," she said, adding that the School would do better with improved funding.

In another development, Professor Ekeke has been conferred with the Fellowship of the Nigerian Institute of Management (NIM), while Mrs. Elechi, Mr. Kingsley Anah, and Lomda Gbeteodor Bari have been admitted into membership of NIM.

Presenting the certificates of membership to the new inductees, a Member of NIM Council, Mr. Grant Orugban, described NIM as the foremost professional body in Nigeria. He noted that membership of NIM was drawn from various professions such as Engineering, Law, Medicine, amongst others, currently stood at over 780,000. He encouraged other students in the School to join the Institute, describing NIM as a high-level networking corporate body that would be very beneficial to members.

In his response, Professor Ekeke expressed gratitude to the students for the kind gesture, assuring them that the School would continue to uphold the great ideals which the late Professor Ake championed in his lifetime. He also thanked the Executive of NIM for conferring the fellowship on him, promising to identify with its vision and mission.

NOT A LAUGHING MATTER

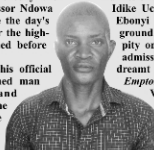
Instant Admission By Dobale

It was recorded in the *New Testament* that people in need prostrated before Jesus to change their situation for good. That was exactly the situation last Thursday when the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lafe, arrived to commence the day's job. He did not bargain for the high-tension drama that unfolded before him.

Just as he alighted from his official vehicle, a young determined man rushed towards him and prostrated full length on the floor. Reason: "Sir, I have written JAMB to study Civil Engineering in the University of Port Harcourt

in the last six years without success. Sir, please help me to gain admission this time." Admission by *Dobale*, you agree.

Idike Uchenna Joseph who hails from Ebonyi State remained rooted on the ground until the Vice-Chancellor took pity on him and offered him instant admission into the Department he had dreamt of all through his life. *Caveat Emptor*: don't try this technique at the Vice-Chancellor's Car Park in the next admission season! You may well fall into the hostile embrace of security operatives. Be warned!



Idike Uchenna

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NIGERIA CONFAB

The Historical Society of Nigeria (HSN) convened stakeholders from across the country at the University of Port Harcourt for its 61st Annual Conference which held between Monday, 10 and Thursday, 13 October, 2016 with the theme: "Nigeria Counts: Issues of National Rebirth." Our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU** captured highlights of the Conference as shown below:



Dean, Faculty of Humanities,
Prof Femi Shaka welcoming guests



Dignitaries rise for National
and UniPort Anthems



President of HSN,
Professor Christopher Ogbogbo



Keynote Speaker, Prof Sola Akinlade
delivering the Lecture



Chairman of the occasion,
Professor Godwin Tasi speaking



RS Commissioner of Education, Prof Kanyi Ebeku
conveying Goodwill Message from Governor Nyesom Wike



Deputy Governor of Imo State, Prince Eze
Madumere making his remarks



Amanyanabo of Opobo, King Dandison
Jaja addressing participants



Paramount Ruler of Alesa Elenne,
King Nkpe Nkpe II speaking



Prof Ebeku supported by President of HSN,
Prof Ogbogbo handing over a plaque to Prof Tasi



Prof Ogbogbo handing over a plaque to
Emeritus Prof Ebegberi Alagou



Dance Troupe from the Department of Theatre
and Film Studies entertaining guests



A cross-section of participants