

# UniPort Weekly

Vol. 33, Edition 321 | April 17 - April 24, 2017

For information and enlightenment

ISSN: 1522-2225

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



## American Scholar Examines 2015 Presidential Elections At Public Lecture

While the two major parties in Nigeria campaigned basically on economic and corruption related issues, low priority was given to social issues during the 2015 presidential elections, reports *Obinna Nwodin*.

*More on p3*

## Side Bar 38<sup>TH</sup> MATRICULATION

The 38<sup>TH</sup> Matriculation Ceremony for First Year Students in the 2016/2017 Session holds at the Convocation Arena, University Park, at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 20, 2017. Details next week.  
~Editor

### SONTA To Honour Late



Story on p2

### FBMS Holds One-Day Training Workshop



Story on p3

### Engineering Faculty Gets COREN Accreditation



Story on p4

### NCC Trains 138 UniPort Staff On ICT



Story on p5

# CIL To Become Operational With IAEA Funding

By Humphrey Ogu and Williams Wodi

Cheering news came the way of the dormant Central Instruments Laboratory on Friday, April 7, 2017, following an eagerly anticipated pledge of huge financial infusion by the leader of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Technical Cooperation Expert Mission to the University,

Professor Aboubaka Ramadan.

Also to benefit from the IAEA largesse is the Department of Physics, which will receive the necessary accessories that would make the existing Gama-Spec equipment functional to facilitate quality research, especially for graduate students, who currently travel far distances to carry out such experiments. Additionally, the Acting Head of the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Dr. Aline Noutcha, will benefit from a project on

Insect Sterilisation to be facilitated by the IAEA Technical Expert Mission.

Breaking the good news at a well-attended farewell dinner given by the University in their honour at Helena Hotel, opposite the Institute of Petroleum Studies Park, Head of Mission and Director of Siting and Environmental Department at the National Centre for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Control, Egypt, Professor Ramadan, pledged a whopping 880,000 Euros towards resuscitating the Central Instruments Laboratory (CIL) aimed at lifting research in the Faculty of Science.

*More on p6*



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

# V-C Commends Registry Dept

By Mercy Adeniji

**V**ice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, has commended the Registry Department of the University for organising an in-house training for all Clerical Officers and Computer Operators aimed at sharpening their skills on the job.

Declaring open the two-day training, held on Tuesday, 28 and Wednesday, 29 March, 2017, respectively, at Lecture Hall 1 of the School of Basic Studies, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Anthony Ibe, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lale, commended the Registrar, Dorcas Otto, for initiating periodic training programmes for staff to enhance their productivity on the job.

"We are happy that the Registry Department decided to equip these categories of staff with requisite communication skills that would enable them function effectively on their day-to-day job performance which was part of the Registrar's vision for the Registry on her assumption of office," Professor Ibe observed at the opening ceremony.

"This training is very crucial, no matter your position in this University, we all need some form of communication skills that would enable us relate effectively and efficiently with our superiors and subordinates in the line of duty. If you are a messenger and you have to need to enter a document, before it is moved from your office to the next one, you also need to communicate with people when you get to that next office. Effective communication in English is an indispensable tool as long as you are working, and I urge you to take all that would be taught here seriously. I am certain that at the end of this workshop, you would discover something you did not know," the Deputy Vice-Chancellor told the participants.

Earlier, the Registrar, Mrs Dorcas Otto, who was represented by the Director of Personnel Affairs, Dr. Dakora Charles-Granville, expressed gratitude to Management for supporting her vision of regular training for staff, charging them to take the training seriously to ensure that they delivered on their job schedules.

Presenting a paper entitled: "Communication in English: Tackling Errors in ESL," a Lecturer in the Department of English Studies, Mr. Ikekwe Eze, described grammar as a set of rules in a language that enables the user to change



A cross-section of staff during the training. Inset: DV-C (Admin), Prof. Ibe (2<sup>nd</sup> right) flanked by Resource Person, Mr. Ikekwe (right), Drs. Charles-Granville and Chris Agwu

the form or structure of words and join them into phrases, clauses and sentences. "Grammar is concerned with the rules that govern the way we speak and write and the English Language, just like any other Language is rule-governed. You think your use of English does not matter, but one day it would. English as a Second Language is a term used to refer to a language that is consciously learned and extensively used in a country alongside the first languages or the mother tongue," he told the participants, disclosing that ESL has a variety of functions. "It is used as a medium of formal education, government administration and legal processes; it can be used as language of inter-ethnic communication and also as a second and official language," he said.

Mr. Ikekwe noted that error in spoken or written English was systematic and recurrent. "It is an unconscious violation of the rules generating grammatical or well-formed words and sentences in the target language," he disclosed, listing the categories of errors to include

addition, substitution, omission and ordering, amongst others.

In another presentation entitled: "Practical English for Junior Administrative and Technical Staff," a Lecturer in the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Dr. Charles Jenebani, described English as a second language in Nigeria that could be learned and used as a lingua franca. He also described English as a medium of instruction in the educational system or as a facilitator of international communication.

Dr. Jenebani said that as a Registry staff, there was need for them to know how to spell and also communicate effectively in good handwriting that can quicken understanding in the process of interacting with other staff.

Participants were subjected to a test aimed at evaluating how they handled some common errors in the use of English Language.

In recognition of his immense contribution to the development of Theatre Arts, the Society for Nigeria Theatre Artists (SONTA) is to confer on Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, the prestigious Leadership Award of the Association on the Vice-Chancellor.

This development was made known when the National Executive Committee of the Association led by its National President, Professor Sunday Ododo, paid a Courtesy Visit on the Vice-Chancellor at the Vice-Chancellor's Committee Room, last Wednesday.

## SONTA To Honour Lale At 35<sup>th</sup> Conference

By Obinna Nwodin

by Professor Lale as an alumnus of the University of Maiduguri. He said that the Conference which would hold on November 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 had the theme: *Theatre and Economic Recession and the Quest for Survival*.

assuring them of necessary support, within the limits of the resources of Management, towards a successful

Conference. He said that Management attaches importance to the arts which necessitates the enormous support the Administration has given to the Faculty over the years.

In his remarks, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor Femi Shaka, who thanked the authorities for their support to the Faculty, expressed hope of a successful hosting of the Conference.



SONTA President, Prof. Ododo (6<sup>th</sup> left), Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Prof. Shaka (6<sup>th</sup> right), LOC Chairman, Prof. Umukoro, other SONTA EXCO and LOC members

Ododo, who said that the Award was the highest honour conferred on non-members of the Association for the promotion of Theatre Arts, said that they were in the University to ascertain the level of preparedness for the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Association to be hosted by the University on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2017. He commended Management of the University for the support given to the Department of Theatre Arts, noting that it tells how important the authorities attached to creativity and cultural diversity. Professor Ododo who is from the University of Maiduguri said that he was not surprised of the giant strides recorded

appealing to Management for support in hosting a successful conference.

Ododo said that the Association believed that at the end of the Conference, they would be able to proffer some solutions on the economic problems of Nigeria. The National President who disclosed that Nobel Laureate, Professor Wole Soyinka would deliver a Keynote Address, adding that at 35, the Association would showcase its historical antecedents at the Conference.

In his response, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, who was represented by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, commended the Association for choosing the University as host,

### EDITORIAL BOARD

Prof Ndowa E. S. Lale	- Publisher	
Prof Eme Ekavue	- Editorial Chair	
Williams Wodi	- Editor	
Obinna Nwodim	- Associate Editor	
<b>Correspondents</b>	<b>Secretariat</b>	<b>Photography</b>
Mercy Adeniji	Gladys Anadi (Nm)	Headman Abu
Okoro Samuel		Mitchell Ekoyor
Humphrey Ogu	<b>Statistics</b>	
Ethel Timi-Johnson	Olise King-James (Nm)	

Call: 08033093371



# Engineering Faculty Secures COREN Accreditation

By Otokor Samuel

The Faculty of Engineering has survived the first hurdle in securing full accreditation for its programmes as the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN), has finally granted full accreditation to both Undergraduate and Graduate programmes which had only interim accreditation during the last exercise. With the outcome of the latest exercise in its

favour, the Faculty of Engineering now has the nod of COREN to run its courses for the next five years.

Conveying the approval for Engineering programmes in a letter dated March 20, 2017, which was addressed to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, a copy of which was obtained by *UniPort Weekly*, Registrar of COREN, Engineer Wopa Kamila Malik, disclosed that the approval which took effect from February 2, 2017 would last until February 2022. He further revealed that Petroleum and Gas, Civil, Electrical/Electronics, Chemical and Mechanical Engineering secured full accreditation for their Undergraduate programmes, while Petroleum and Gas, Chemical and Mechanical Engineering also secured full accreditation to mount Graduate programmes for the next five years.

"I write to convey the approval of the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN), on the accreditation visitation to the Undergraduate and Postgraduate Diploma Engineering programmes of your institution from 29<sup>th</sup> January to 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2017.

"The effective date of the accreditation is 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2017.

It is necessary to point out that Full Accreditation is valid for (5) five years," part of the letter read, pointing out that the Council would embark on random visits to the University within the validity period of the accreditation to assess the level of compliance to set standards.

Responding to the development, a visibly elated Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Professor Maureen Etebu, disclosed that the news of securing full accreditation status was well-received by staff and students of the Faculty. "The Faculty is rejoicing that it has secured accreditation from the apex regulatory body of our profession. At the last exercise, we secured interim accreditation, so what we needed was the full accreditation that we have just secured and we are very happy at this development that would now motivate staff and students to concentrate on academic excellence. This is a clean bill that would enable us continue in our mandate of teaching, carrying out research and community service in the various fields of Engineering in this University," Professor Etebu stated. She praised the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lale for creating an enabling environment that brought the success story to her Faculty, promising to justify the support from the Management of the University.



Prof Etebu

Immediate past Head of the Department of Economics in the Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Ijeoma Kalu, has outlined the achievements he recorded in the four years he served as Head of Department. Kalu, who tabled his report card while handing over to his successor, Dr. Godly Otto at the Departmental Office, on Tuesday, April 4, 2017, showered praises on his colleagues, the administrative staff and students for their total cooperation that enabled him succeed in office. The former Head of Department, who assumed office on April 2, 2014, told our Correspondent that apart from initiating regular interactive sessions with students at all levels, he ensured that most of their genuine complaints were handled expeditiously to avert crisis. Professor Kalu said that "under his watch, the Department secured scholarship awards for both undergraduate and graduate students and also ensured that colleagues carried out their statutory obligations in a dutiful manner."

Professor Kalu also disclosed that the National Economic Students Association (NESA) was supported to successfully organize two conferences that culminated in the publication of two editions of the Association's journal. He also said that he "presided over well-attended and effective Departmental Graduate Board, Results/Examination, Welfare and Time-Table Committees," while a very distinguished alumnus from the Department, Dr. Alex Otti, restated his interest in endowing a Professorial Chair in honour of the only expatriate Dean of the Faculty and Togolese-born Development Economist, the late Professor Edem Kodjo, who planted most of the fruits on campus. Professor Kalu also disclosed that "between April 2015 and March 2017, he graduated 8 doctoral candidates, 139 Masters students, 119 postgraduate Diplomans, while some staff of the Department were appointed to serve in higher offices," adding that "within the period Professor Okey Onuchuku was appointed Director, University of Port Harcourt Business School (UPBS), Dr Monday Robinson appointed Member Rivers State Independent Electoral Commission (RSIEC), Dr Simeon Neme, appointed Faculty Coordinator, College of Continuing Education (CCE), while Professor Ijeoma

## Kalu Rolls Out Achievements As Erstwhile HoD Economics

By Obinna Nwodin

Kalu elected Associate Dean."

Professor Kalu, who was recently elected as Associate Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, also said that his colleagues were encouraged and supported to attend conferences and workshops, both within and outside Nigeria, while attendance at the Nigeria Economic Society (NES) conferences improved greatly under his watch. He said he was able to give the Departmental Office a face-lift, while staff welfare was accorded priority during his tenure. Professor Kalu also purchased additional office equipment, furniture and fittings. The erstwhile HoD disclosed

that he donated 22 book volumes, while an elder of the Department, Professor Tamunopreye Agiohenbo, who served as Economic Adviser to the Vice-President under the Goodluck Jonathan administration, also donated two three-seater chairs to the Department. Thanking all those who gave him unfettered support while he piloted the affairs of the Department, Professor Kalu stressed the need for the Department of Economics to maintain its premier position in the Faculty. The former HoD also pleaded with his successor to resuscitate the popular *African Journal of Applied and Theoretical Economics*, which was hitherto published by the Department, amongst other issues that required urgent attention.



Immediate past HoD of Economics, Prof Kalu (left) handing over to his successor, Dr. Otto

## NCC Trains 138 UniPort Staff On ICT

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

A series of efforts aimed at building capacity in information technology, the training arm of the Nigerian Communication Commission (NCC), Digital Bridge Institute, has ended a five-day training for teaching and non-teaching staff on Information and Communication Technology (ICT). The Advanced Digital Appreciation Programme for Tertiary Institutions (Adapti) covered 5 modules, comprising

Computer Fundamentals, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Power Point, Introduction to Intranet and the Use of Internet.

Speaking at the training which held from Monday, March 27 to Friday, March 31, 2017 at the ICT Centre, University Park, representative of the Vice-Chancellor and Deans of the School of Graduate Studies, Professor Regina Ogal, commended NCC for undertaking the training programme in the University, noting that the use

of ICT provides a faster and more efficient way of doing things. "I hope that we make good use of this opportunity and let it reflect in the way we do things in a less stressful and more effective way. I want to encourage you to be attentive so that you can in turn train your colleagues when you get back to your various offices," she told the participants.

Disclosing that the training would enable staff improve teaching and learning and administrative skills for teaching and non-teaching staff respectively, Acting Director of the Information and Communication Technology Centre (ICTC), Dr. Chidubere Ekwu, noted that the training programme was a ten-year contract between the University and the NCC. "Recently the Commission donated about 110 laptops to support the training. It is usually done once in a year, but another one has been scheduled to hold this August based on our performance," he said.

The Coordinator of the Adapti Programme, Akin Ogunlade, noted that the programme which commenced in 2006 has witnessed the training of about 38, 136 participants drawn from various approved tertiary institutions. "The objectives of the programme, among others, are to facilitate ICT capacity-building needs of the nation through training of lecturers and other staff of Nigerian tertiary institutions, and creating skilled ICT professionals in Nigerian institutions and consequently create an ICT proficient workshop," Ogunlade added.

Addressing participants at the end of the training, Deputy Director, New Media and Information Security of the NCC, Davis Someari, noted that the training was basically for building capacity among staff of tertiary institutions. Highlight of the training was issuance of certificates to participants by representative of the Registrar, Dr. Dakora Charles-Granville, who charged them to put the knowledge acquired at the training to practice.



Coordinator of the Adapti Programme, Ogunlade and the trainees

Ace dramatist and producer in the Department of Theatre and Film Studies, Mr. Adiele Onyedibia, has stressed the importance of sustaining live theatre culture in Nigeria, describing theatre as the heartbeat and soul of humanity.

Mr. Onyedibia made the observation while delivering a lecture entitled, "The Performance and the Performer in a Dwindling Culture of Live Theatre: A Nigerian Perspective," in commemoration of World Theatre Day 2017 organised by the Rivers State Branch of the National Association of Nigerian Theatre Arts Practitioners (NANTAP) at the UniPort Arts Theatre—The CRAB on Monday, March 27, 2017.

"When we finally and fully understand and appreciate the purposes and sagacity of theatre in the progress and development of humanity, then theatre will awaken in us, the propensities of our culture and rekindle them so that they never go into extinction," he submitted, adding that the unity, development and greatness of Nigeria require all the sensibilities of a dynamic and pragmatic purposeful theatre to achieve.

Identifying elitism, diversity of language and cultures, misplaced use of technology, lack of appropriate theatre education and proper orientation of the masses, television, radio and film, as some of the factors responsible for dwindling live theatre culture in Nigeria, Onyedibia stressed the need to understand the purpose and message of a particular play when performance. He stressed the need for performance to be convincing, defining total performance as a combination of all activities of all performers on and behind the stage.

"There is some deliberate improvement in the total performance, in the Nigerian live theatre performance today, but most of the time, there are serious lapses in delivery, interpretation and misapprehensions of voice and body language," the theatre guru lamented, describing theatre as an art for continuous human discovery, rediscovery and ultimate galvanisation of human progress and identity.

In his address, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, who was represented by Professor Henry Bell-Gam, regretted that insecurity in the country has contributed a great deal to the dwindling culture of live theatre. He charged dramatists to churn out plays that will bring about peace in society as a way of keeping live theatre culture alive. As "World Theatre Day is a day that we, as Theatians, should give good account of ourselves as we mirror the society in our works and stage performances. On a day like this, we expect representatives from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Directors of the Council for Arts and Culture and other stakeholders to be present."

## We Need Live Theatre Culture In Nigeria, Onyedibia Insists At WTD

By Humphrey Ogu

The 2017 WTD Message written by a French Theatre and Cinema Actress, Isabelle Huppert, stated that "theatre has such a driving life that defies space and time; its most contemporary pieces are nourished by the achievements of the past centuries and even most classical repertoires become modern and vital each time they are played anew. Theatre is always reborn from its ashes, shedding only its previous conventions in its new-fangled forms; that is how theatre stays alive."

In his message to theatre artists, read by Dr. Onwudi Buwuni, Interim President of NANTAP, Israel Ebo said: "As we celebrate another World Theatre Day, we cannot but celebrate ourselves. We must, like the proverbial lizard, praise ourselves for overcoming the unfriendly and hostile environment in which we have operated where neither government nor corporate policies are our friends. Yet, we have never folded our hands in self-pity, because we do not have heroes to fight our battles. We have always been our own heroes and must continue to be so."

Welcoming guests to the lecture, Acting Head of Department of Theatre and Film Studies, Dr. John Yesibio, noted that WTD was created in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute (ITI). "It is dedicated to the performing arts, ITI is world's largest performing arts organization founded in 1948 by theatre and dance experts and

UNESCO."

On his part, acting patron and 7<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Joseph Ajienka, congratulated the Theatians on the WTD celebration, adding: "This University can turn Port Harcourt into an arts city. What we need to do is to think of how best we can get people interested in what we do. The plays produced here can be taken to town and a lot of people will be interested to watch them for leisure and instruction."

In her contribution, the Programme Coordinator, Professor Julie Unukors, noted that live theatre culture would change positively if there was improvement in the facilities at the arts theatre, adding that the Department had the capacity to generate funds for the University if given the necessary support. "We feel underused. The theatre should be the first port of call for official University guests to enable them relax and enjoy themselves as they watch our performances. This is the house of laughter and we promise to make the University proud," she said.

In their separate goodwill messages, Acting Head of Department of Music, Dr. AdeOlawa Okunade and Playwright, Missinoma Minima of the *Oduma Egege* fame, congratulated the Theatians on their celebration, paying tribute to Mr. Onyedibia for his well-diversified lecture. Programme Administrator, Mr. Joseph Osademe expressed appreciation to all who contributed in various ways to the success of the 2017 World Theatre Day celebration.



A group photograph of participants after the Lecture

Cont'd from Page 1

## CIL To Become Operational With IAEA Funding



Outgoing DV-C (Admin), Prof Ibe (arrowed), Principal and Senior officers of UniPort and members of IAEA Expert Mission

Not done yet, Professor Ramadan announced yet another 58,000 Euros investment at the Centre for Marine Pollution Monitoring and Seaford Safety headed by Professor Francis Sikoki to enable it expand the scope of its research activities. Also, the Managing Director of an indigenous research firm, Glose Global Resources, Mr. Lesi Maol, announced that students from the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology and Faculty of Science would be welcomed to make use of this company's laboratory located at No 18, Uyo Street, Rumomasi, Port Harcourt.

Accompanied by the Director of Nuclear Safety and Security Department at the National Centre for Nuclear Science and Technologies in Tunisia, Professor Nafaa Reguigul and Mr. Reouane Boujdjenou of the Centre for Nuclear Research in the Department of Atomic Energy in Algeria, the leader of the Expert Mission, expressed satisfaction with the reception and co-operation received from their UniPort counterparts during the working visit.

"We have travelled to 22 different countries on the African continent on this type of mission and I want to confess that we have not seen such level of support and enthusiasm among our various hosts. It shows that scholars in this University take scientific research very seriously and I can assure you of our support to enable you succeed in safeguarding marine and seaford

resources in Nigeria," Professor Reguigul said at the dinner reception.

The three-member team had conducted training workshops for staff of the Centre and also participated in the Faculty of Science Research Seminar Series that took place on Wednesday, April 5, 2017.

Earlier at a courtesy visit on the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, at the Committee Room, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, who stood in for him, said: "As a University, we are going to do everything within our capacity to make the National Co-ordinating Centre for the IAEA-FGN Technical cooperation projects on Marine Pollution Monitoring and Seaford Safety in the University a Centre of Excellence as envisaged." He noted that Nigeria was looking forward to embracing Nuclear Energy as a source of power-generation, expressing hope that research at the Centre would be vital in that regard.

On his part, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, expressed joy that UniPort was chosen for the important research projects, pledging the support of the University in ensuring the fulfilment of the goals of the partnership.

Also speaking, Centre Director, Professor Sikoki, explained that the University of Port Harcourt was the National Co-ordinating Centre for the IAEA-FGN Technical cooperation projects on Marine Pollution

Monitoring and Seaford Safety, citing RAF/7014-Monitoring and Management of Harmful Algal Blooms in the context of Climate Change and Ocean Acidification; RAF/7015-Strengthening Regional Capacity for Marine Risk Assessment, using Nuclear and related techniques and RAF/7017-Promoting Technical Co-operation among Radio-Analytical Laboratories for the measurement of Environmental Radioactivity, as some of the projects being executed under the co-operation arrangement.

Professor Sikoki, who noted that the Expert Mission to the University was in respect of RAF/7015, explained that its purpose was to: "Examine the National Strategy for marine environment bio-monitoring, propose possible improvements for national consideration, and assist our team in fine-tuning our radiochemistry laboratory."

"I consider this mission very timely as it fits perfectly into our vision to make the Centre a National Centre of Excellence in Marine Studies and Research. Already, the Federal Ministry of Environment has initiated the process of making us such a Centre," he said. The Director further disclosed that plans are on with the IAEA for the establishment of a Postgraduate Training Centre in the University of Port Harcourt to service the Africa region, which is the only one of its kind on the continent.

## CEREMAD Ends Career Mentorship Workshop

By Mercy Adeniji

The Centre for Research Management and Development (CEREMAD) organised a career mentorship workshop for early career researchers in the University on Thursday, April 6, 2017 at the Faculty of Agriculture Board room, University Park.

Declaring the Workshop open, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, commended CEREMAD for living up to its mandate, observing that there was remarkable improvement in the Centre. Speaking through the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, the Vice-Chancellor commended the Centre and facilitators of the Workshop, advising the participants to make the best use of the opportunities afforded them by the workshop to move forward in their career.

In a Goodwill Message, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Professor Eberondu, expressed satisfaction with the Centre, adding that, "It is a special privilege to use this Faculty for this workshop. We welcome you all. We are happy that you are here. We also congratulate the Director, Professor Nte and her Assistant, Professor Adeboye, for the work they are doing and the capacity building, ours is to encourage them and tap into the opportunity they have given to prove ourselves so that the University can move forward".

Also speaking, Director of the Centre, Professor Ailee Nte, who commended the participants, stressed the need for researchers to publish the outcome of their research and add value to the society. "Spend time on things that can develop you, be focused, set goals for yourself and establish linkages. You also need to form research teams, get mentors to mentor you. Be ready to respect them and work with them," she advised participants at

the Workshop.

Speaking earlier, Assistant Director of the Centre, Professor Olufemi Adeboye, expressed gratitude to Management of the University for supporting the centre, stating that the workshop was a continuous process to know what researchers are doing. "Climate Impact Research Capacity and Leadership Enhancement in Sub-Saharan African (CIRCLE) is a five-year programme. CIRCLE is an initiative of the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom aimed at developing the skills and research output of early career African researchers in the fields of Climate Change and its local impact on development."

In their separate presentations, Drs. Zeldia Ejum and Clara Heany-Obi of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, who

were beneficiaries of the grants from CIRCLE platform, relived their experiences on the mentorship training.

Giving an overview and relevance of the Researchers Development Framework (RDF), Professor Samuel Arokeye said that RDF is software used for career development in the mentorship scheme. "The software helps you to plan your career in terms of timing and management. Mentoring has to do with training and gaining knowledge, and in doing this you are required to acquire some basic principles," he said.



DV-C (Academic), Prof Fawehinmi (seated 3rd left) flanked by Director, CEREMAD, Prof Nte (seated 2nd left), Dean, Faculty of Agric, Prof Erondu, Assistant Director of CEREMAD, Prof Adeboye (seated 3rd and 2nd right) and others

# CAA President Restates Commitment To Transform UniPort Sports Institute

By Otiok Samuel

In furtherance to the partnership existing between the University's Sports Institute and International and Confederation of African Athletics (CAA), Col. Hamad Kalkaba (td), has promised to support the Olympics UniPort Centre to serve as the best place for sports training in West Africa.

CAA President made the pledge when he paid a courtesy visit on the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, at the Conference Room on Tuesday, March 21, 2017, expressing commitment to sustain the partnership with the University to enhance sports development in Nigeria and West Africa.

"I believe that we will make the Olympiads Centre in this UniPort the best place for training in Africa without going abroad. Africa should play a major role in making it work. Your University has always come first in university games, so we want to organise ourselves here. We will provide the basic equipment to promote sports development. We will influence our friends from China and other countries to support us in providing sports equipment for the Centre. On our part, we are committed to supporting the Centre to grow, so the University should also support the Sports Institute to bring out the best athletes. We must also identify our needs before reaching out to donor agencies and countries for support," President of the Association said, commending Dr. Solomon Ogba for his commitment towards sports development in the country.

Also speaking, President of the Athletics Federation of Nigeria (AFN), Dr. Ogba praised the University of Port Harcourt for giving love to sports development in the country, restating that universities lead sports development all over the world. "UniPort started a revolution that is sustainable. The University conquered Nigeria and then the West Africa. We know that University of London is leading the sports revolution in the United Kingdom. University of Technology is leading in Japan. The same thing happens in Australia, United States and many other countries doing well in sports, it is the universities that lead their sports. Today, we talk about sports science and we will design an indigenous programme that is science-oriented," the AFN President said.

Responding, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, welcomed the delegation to the University. He showered praises on the

Confederation of Athletics Association, Athletics Federation of Nigeria and other sports bodies for their commitment to advancing the growth of sports in the University.

"We are going to do our best to ensure that the vision of establishing the Centre is realised. We have the manpower and with the equipment you are providing, the University of Port Harcourt will host the best Centre to train sports men and women in Nigeria and beyond," representative of the Vice-Chancellor said.

Earlier, Chairman of the Board of the Sports Institute and 5<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor of the University, Emeritus Professor

Nimi Briggs, had disclosed that the CAA President was impressed with the facilities on ground, promising that the Institute would continue to do more to advance sports development in the University.

"It has been well established that no university comes near UniPort in sporting activities. So if you want to develop sports in West Africa, the right place to be is UniPort. If we want to copy the American model of sports development, then we must equip the Sports Institute of the University of Port Harcourt to train our youths in all aspects sports. I want to thank this University for being in the forefront of sporting activities in Nigeria and West Africa," Emeritus Professor stated.

Director of Sports Institute, Professor Ken Anugweje, also spoke during the visit which had Chairman, Sports Complex Management Committee, Professor Matthew Wegwa, his predecessor, Professor Mark Anikpa, Members of the Board, Professor Regina Ogali, Dr. Victor Oguniye and others in attendance.



DV-C (Admin), Prof Ibe (middle) flanked by CAA President, Col. Kalkaba, Dr. Ogba, Emeritus Prof Briggs, Prof Anugweje, Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Alig (right), other Principal, Senior Officers and members of the delegation

## Stop Press Int'l Chair In Bioethics

Professor Osaretin Odia of the Department of Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, has been appointed Chairman, Steering Committee for Nigeria (UniPort) Unit of the International Chair in Bioethics. The appointment which takes immediate effect will last until further notice. Other members of the Committee are: Professors Christie Mato, Iyepu Siminlali, Alice Nte, Rollings Jamabo, Olubusuyi Kilani, Walter Ihejirika and Dr. Charles Tobin-West. The Committee is to advise and serve as the primary advocate for the dissemination of Bioethics knowledge in the University, provide courses and seminar for the advancement of Bioethics, stimulate research in Bioethics and other areas of academic endeavours, encourage the production of newsletter, journals and books on Bioethics, organise local, national and regional Conferences on Bioethics, and submit an annual report on the activities and future plans of the Unit to the Vice-Chancellor for presentation to the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics.

## Breaking News!

## UniPort To Admit Law Students 2017/2018 Session

By Otiok Samuel

The long struggle by the University of Port Harcourt to establish a Faculty of Law has finally paid off as the Council of Legal Education recently approved admission of students into the Bachelor of Law (LL.B) degree programme. A statement by the Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, a copy of which was made available to UniPort Weekly, confirmed that: "The Faculty of Law of the University of Port Harcourt is now ready to admit students beginning with the 2017/2018 Academic Session," advising prospective candidates to select the University in the forthcoming Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board Examination.

Consequently, prospective candidates wishing to enroll into the Law Degree programme of the University are, therefore, advised to choose the Institution in the coming University Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME). Further details would be made available on the University's website at: [www.uniport.edu.ng](http://www.uniport.edu.ng). Candidates are also advised to listen to Radio UniPort 88.5 FM for more information on the new development.



Mrs. Otto, Registrar

## Gabriel Okara Literary Festival Starts April 25

The maiden edition of the eagerly-anticipated Gabriel Okara Festival kicks-off on Tuesday, April 25, 2017. Information made available to UniPort Weekly indicates that the Festival, organized by the Institute of Arts and Culture in partnership with the Celi and Joe Ajienka Professorial Chair for Institute of Arts and Culture, Faculty of Humanities, American Corner, Port Harcourt and the Institute of Niger Delta Studies, would have "Nigerian Literature Since Gabriel Okara: Continuities and Departures" as its theme. Winner of the 2010 Polun-Nichols Award, Odia Ofeimun, is expected to deliver the Keynote Speech, while Dr. Kudo Ezeala-Eke of the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) Limited, and Dr. Barclays Ayakornema of the National Institute of Culture and Orientation (NICO) would present the Lead Papers at the Festival, which would be chaired by the 5<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor of the University and current Pro-Chancellor of Federal University, Lokoja, Kogi State, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs.

Major highlights of the Festival would include award of the Gabriel Okara Literary Prize, Nigerian Young Writers' Literary Award, paper presentations, panel discussions, workshops, book exhibitions, readings and award dinner, amongst other relevant activities.

### 4<sup>TH</sup> CHANCELLOR'S DINNER

A total of 14 outstanding staff, distinguished alumni and friends of the University received awards for their individual contributions towards the growth of the University. The event was a major highlight of the 2017 Chancellor's Dinner which held at the expansive Sports Gymnasium, University Park on Friday, March 24, 2017. The University's Photographer, **HEADMAN ALU** captured highlights of the event as shown below:



Exit of Guests and Chancellor, His Majesty Muhammadu Ryusa Basha, flanked on the right by Pro-Chancellor, Prof. Mwanigye Jibo and his wife and on the left by Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ndaba Lale and his wife, Joy



His Majesty Muhammadu Ryusa Basha, addressing guests at the Dinner



Prof. Jibo addressing the gathering



Prof. Lale making a speech



Prof. Jibo (left) and the Emir of Gwandu



Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor in a chat



V-C, Prof. Joseph Ajienka, being welcomed to the Dinner



Some members of the Chancellor's entourage



The Emir's entourage entertaining the guests



V-C, Prof. Ajienka (2<sup>nd</sup> right), Dr. C (Admin) Prof. Anthony Ibe, University Bureau, Mr. Vitalis Allez and Wife



L-R: Dr. Kudo Eresio-Eke, Mr. Francis Fusiher and other guests



R-L: Dr. Baridini Isuwa, Mr. Ominigwe West, Dr. Agatha Ataga, Mr. Salibu Ozemoya, Mr. Peter Nwagwu displaying their awards



A group photograph of the awardees