



Lale Promises Fair Deal To Omuoko Community

In continuation of his familiarization tour of the University's host communities, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, has restated the resolve of his new administration to be fair to Omuoko community in Aluu Clan in the distribution of opportunities, reports *Otiakor Samuel*.

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Side Bar

The University of Port Harcourt Chapter of the Nigeria Union of Journalists holds its maiden Conference between Wednesday 26 and Thursday, August 27 at the Amara Bridge Lecture Theatre.

Details next week.

—Editor



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Don't Allow Anybody To Incite You Against Mgt, V-C Advises Students

By Humphrey Ogu

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, has charged students to get their priorities right by focusing on their studies and desisting from dabbling in matters that are the exclusive preserve of Management of the University. They have also been admonished to resist the antics of individuals or groups that are bent on inciting them against the administration.

Professor Lale reminded them that refusing to be used to achieve sinister motives would pave the way for them to achieve their primary goal of engaging in their studies and graduating within the

stipulated timeframe to become responsible citizens.

Addressing the leadership of the Students Union which called on him to get firsthand information on the redeployment of the former Dean of Student Affairs, Professor Andrew Efemini, at the Chancellor's Committee Room, last Tuesday, a visibly disappointed Vice-Chancellor reminded the students that their primary concern should be how to get the best education

from the University and use the knowledge acquired to contribute to societal growth and their personal advancement.

"As is the case in every other academic institution, there are rules of engagements in this University which staff and students can flout to their own detriment. The right to hire and fire is statutorily vested in the relevant authorities of the University. The Management of the University which I am

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New Policy On Charges Coming



CDRM&D Director Tasks FG On Flood Control



Gladys Cookey Centre Gets Face Lift



NYSC Officials Brief Intending Corps Members



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New Policy On Charges Coming

By Obinna Nwodin

In an effort to enhance the collection of statutory charges in the University of Port Harcourt, the authorities have resolved to introduce an online payment system that would provide hitch-free payment of charges, course registration and electronic access to results by students beginning from the 2015/2016 academic session.

This cheering news was the outcome of an Emergency Meeting between the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale and College Provosts, Deans of Faculty and Heads of Department at the Senate Chambers, last Monday.

In his opening remarks, a visibly worried Professor Lale declared a situation in which students only paid fees in their first year, only to continue studying free of charge until their final year, when they manipulate the system to obtain Statements of Result and degree Certificates at a later date, warning that such an untenable situation would no longer be allowed to continue.

"The new policy has become necessary to ensure a more efficient means of collecting approved charges that would enable the University meet its numerous statutory obligations in the students and other stakeholders in the affairs of the Institution," the Vice-Chancellor told the gathering, directing schedule officers to be abreast of the latest position of the University Management, which would commence from the next academic session.

The Vice-Chancellor, who noted that every staff must be involved in the process to enable the University get it right once and for all, said that with the latest development, Heads of Department were going to come under additional pressure as they migrate to the new template. He advised them to interface with staff charged with the responsibility of handling the uploading of results in order to ensure prompt action at every stage of implementation of the new guideline.

"Under the new policy, students who fail to register their courses at the beginning of a new semester would be treated like those who have not paid their charges. Non-compliance would simply mean that such students can no longer proceed with their Course Registration. We can no longer tolerate a situation in which some students fleecing the University through lapses that we must now take care of. Under this new policy, students who fail to pay their charges after collecting money from their parents and guardians will lose an academic session," Professor Lale

disclosed, acknowledging that full implementation of the new policy would require full Internet access. He advised Provosts, Deans and Departmental Heads to interface with students on the emergent development, stressing the importance of sensitizing students on the need for them to comply with the new policy.

He also noted that as a way of sensitizing stakeholders, a meeting of University of Port Harcourt Parents' (UPHP) would be convened in the middle of next month to further deliberate on the contentious issue of prompt payment of all approved charges by students. Professor Lale noted that the policy would in no way affect the existing process that required results to pass through the various Departmental, Faculty, College Boards and the Senate Business Committee before being brought to the whole Senate for approval.

Contributors to the discussion drew attention to poor Internet access and epileptic eccentricity that they feared could undermine migration to the online payment system, calling on the University Management to initiate proactive measures to improve the bandwidth to check Internet Gateway timeout that could disrupt upload.



V-C, Prof Lale (F' right on the podium) during the meeting with College Provosts, Deans and HODs at the Senate Chambers

V-C Charges Athletes Preparing For All Africa Games On Medal Prospects

By Otiok Samuel

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, has charged athletes camping at the High Performance Centre located in the Sports Complex of the University to fully utilize the opportunity of training in the Centre to bring laurels to the country at the 11th edition of the All Africa Games competition held in Brazzaville in the Republic of Congo next

month.

The Vice-Chancellor, who gave the charge when he paid an unscheduled visit to the athletes' camp last Tuesday, recalled that he had earlier visited some of them in the hostels to appraise their welfare, pledging his administration's commitment to providing the necessary support that would ensure their comfort while camping in the University.

"UniPort is a leading University in sports in



V-C, Prof Lale, addressing the athletes, while DV-C (Admin), Prof Anthony Ibe: Chairman, Sports Complex Mgt Cttee, Prof Wegwu and others look on

West Africa. This is because we combine sports science and athletic training under the watch of specialists. I am sure you will benefit from the cutting-edge sporting facilities at our High Performance Centre as you prepare for this important continental competition. The University can't wait to receive the good news of your exploits on the final medals table. So, I wish you well and pray God to guide you throughout your stay in the University and reward your effort with victory as you depart for the Games," the Vice-Chancellor told the excited athletes and their trainers.

Briefing the Vice-Chancellor on the ongoing training session, Chairman of the Sports Complex Management Committee, Professor Matthew Wegwu, disclosed that the University was hosting the athletes at the High Performance Centre in furtherance of its widely acknowledged exploits in national, regional and continental sporting activities, assuring him that the athletes were in high spirits in the camp.

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Lale Promises Fair Deal To Omuoko Community

Professor Lale also pledged to ensure that the host communities of the University would be empowered to grow alongside the University which they whole-heartedly welcomed in 1975.

The Vice-Chancellor, who made the pledge when he led some Principal and Senior Officers of the University to the Palace of the Nye Nye Ali of Omuoko, Chief Nimeon Ichebule, last Tuesday, praised the people of Omuoko on what he described as their peaceful disposition towards the University.

Professor Lale, who expressed gratitude to the Alau communities of Omuoko and Omuokiri for their magnanimity in donating large expanse of their lands for the establishment of the University, urged them to also count the positive impact that the University has made on their land. He further advised them to make good use of the University to educate their wards to become useful members of the society, reiterating his administration's commitment to partnering the host communities to grow alongside the University. "Not much is gained through confrontation, but much could be obtained from dialogue and partnership. So, I urge you to always toe the line of dialogue whenever contentious issues arise in our excellent relationship,

but I wish to be emphatic that under my watch, no host community will be marginalized," Professor Lale said, reminding them of some concessions to the host communities in terms of economic empowerment, admission and employment opportunities.

Speaking on behalf of the Nye Nye Ali and the Omuoko community, Chairman of the Community Development Committee, Mr. Collins Amadi, acknowledged the fact that the presence of the University on their land has attracted numerous benefits to them, but called on the new administration of Professor Lale to improve on efforts aimed at persuading the Federal Government to pay compensation for the land acquired for purposes of

establishing the University in 1975. He called for special treatment for the University's host communities as a way of maintaining the excellent relationship that currently exists between them.

Also speaking, an indigene of Alau and staff of the University, Dr. Jeremiah Mbadive, joined the Vice-Chancellor in stressing the need for his people to make good use of the proximity of the University to advance their educational aspiration with a view to becoming useful members of the society. Dr. Mbadive further praised the Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodin, for her effort in bridging the perceived gap between the University and host communities.



V-C, Prof Lale (Centre), Principal Officers, Nye Nye Ali Omuoko, Chief Ichebule (3rd right), his Council of Chiefs and some opinion leaders

ISP Team Trains Faculty Reps On Mentorship Scheme

By Mercy Adeniji

As part of the resolve of members to pass on the knowledge they acquired from an international training conference in Nairobi, Kenya and Johannesburg, South Africa, a group under the auspices of Institutional Strengthening Implementation (ISP) has ended a roundtable workshop with Faculty Representatives to deliberate on how the valuable experience would impact positively on younger academics. The continuity workshop held at the Virtual Library of the Faculty of Agriculture, Choba Park.

Speaking on the outcome of the workshop with ProfPort Hekky, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Dr. Olufermi Adepoju, disclosed that the Climate Impact Research Capacity and Leadership Enhancement in sub-Saharan Africa (CIRCLE) programme 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 field of climate change and its local impact on development. "The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) in United Kingdom through the Climate

Platform in a bid to establish a mentorship scheme in Universities in Africa, trained over 60 representatives from across Africa between February and May, 2015. Two staff of the University, Professor Samuel Arokoyu of the Department of Geography and Environmental Management and myself, were among those trained for this purpose in Nairobi, Kenya and Johannesburg, South Africa, respectively," Dr. Adepoju told our Correspondent.

He disclosed that "The Faculty Representatives would be required to train others, network and communicate effectively with professionals and academic staff, manage people, write proposals, build and develop institutional mentoring structures, as well as work within the researchers' Development Framework to promote structured career development.

"The next phase of the programme would be a face-to-face training session to be done by Professor Arokoyu and myself to empower the representatives to carry the message to other Faculties and Departments. We also hope to extend it to Graduate Students, who may wish to learn time and research management, including grant writing methodologies," he added.

Stop Press

FG EXEMPTS FEDERAL VARSITY COUNCILS FROM DISSOLUTION

Vice-Chancellors of Federal Universities have been notified that the directive on the dissolution of Boards of Federal Government Parastatals, Agencies, Institutions and Government-owned companies did not affect the Governing Councils of Federal Universities.

The latest development is contrary to an earlier Circular issued by the National Universities Commission (NUC) dated July 29, 2015, which indicated that all such Boards have been summarily dissolved.

The Federal Ministry of Education in a statement dated July 31, 2015 and signed by the Permanent Secretary, Dr. MacJohn Nwaobiala, stated that President Mohammed Buhari has approved the exemption of the Governing Councils of Federal Universities from dissolution 'for the time being,' pending further directives. "You will accordingly, draw the attention of the affected Universities to the contents of the Circular for immediate compliance," the statement further directed Federal University Managements.



Prof Arokoyu (5th from left) and Dr Adepoju (7th from right) in a group photograph with Faculty Representatives after the briefing in Choba Park

Okodudu Unveils Vision For Anikpo Chair



Chair Occupant, Prof Okodudu and his Teacher, Prof Anikpo

By Humphrey Ogu

Pioneer Occupant of the Professor Mark Anikpo Chair in Sociology of Developing Society, Professor Steve Okodudu, has disclosed plans to hold the Professor Anikpo Legacy Lecture series annually and also publish monographs as part of the activities of the Chair to immortalise the distinguished scholar, who left giant footprints on the discipline. Exchanging views on his vision for the Chair with *UniPort Weekly* last Monday, Professor Okodudu, who decried the crisis of leadership in Nigeria decades after the publication of Chinua Achebe's polemical essay on the subject entitled: *The Trouble with Nigeria*, said: "One of the critical missing links in our development model in this country today is bad leadership. We need to develop credible academic programmes that would address the leadership crisis we face in this country. I incidentally share the same academic specialisation with Professor Anikpo—Developmental Sociology and I

hope to leverage on this common platform to establish a programme in Leadership and Development Studies." The new Chair Occupant disclosed that plans were afoot to harmonise resources and start a leadership and development studies programme at the graduate level in the form of Executive Master of Business Administration or Master of Public Administration to be domiciled at the Centre for Ethnic and Conflict Studies (CENTECS) or the new Claude Ake School of Government. "It would be a flexible programme for people who are already in leadership positions in society," Professor Okodudu added, expressing delight at his appointment as pioneer Chair Occupant. The immediate past Director of the College of Continuing Education (CCE), who revealed that he felt exceedingly fulfilled to be one of those Professor Anikpo built from the scratch right from his Undergraduate days, recalled that his current office, which still has some old photographs to refresh the memory of the past, was the Departmental office in those days, adding that

"I am part of the Anikpo protégé and I happen to be one of those students, who drank from his wealth of knowledge and experience and the feeling I have of that privileged encounter is that of total fulfillment. I felt really taken aback to be saddled with the onerous responsibility and a sense of gratitude for the opportunity to occupy a Chair in honour of my academic mentor."

The Chair Occupant, who observed that Anikpo's family saw it as a duty to honour their patriarch, said his protégé also felt the same way, pointed out that "like all other academic Chairs, the Professor Mark Anikpo Chair in Sociology of Developing Society was established to immortalise the role of Professor Anikpo in building the Department of Sociology from the scratch to what it was at the time of his retirement and in recognition of his pioneering role in the establishment of the flagship Centre for Ethnic and Conflict Studies in the University."

"Professor Anikpo was a one-time Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of academic affairs in this University. He also made robust contributions to the social sciences discipline and rose to become a Fellow of the Academy of Social Science. It, thus, becomes a matter of logical imperative to find a way to immortalise such an academic giant who bestrode the hallowed corridors of the academia like a fabled colossus. While it is true that he has retired gracefully from formal academic activities, I see him as a great scholar who is not tired and, therefore, cannot just retire from the academy. He is one person the University should show interest in," he explained, expressing gratitude to the immediate past Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka for appointing him to occupy the Chair.

On his part, Professor Anikpo, who noted that he was very glad when the immediate past Vice-Chancellor announced that his family and friends have endowed a Chair in Sociology of Development in his honour, recalled his excitement on learning of the endowment.

"If your family, friends and associates decide to immortalise you, especially while you are still alive and in good health then you have every reason to be grateful, fulfilled and happy. They think that I have made significant contributions to the development of the discipline and they want people to continue to see what I have done before leaving the system," Professor Anikpo told our Correspondent.

Sequel to the notification of impending release of water from Lagdo Dam in Cameroon, Acting Director of the Centre for Disaster Risk Management and Development Studies (CDRM&D), Dr. Prince Mmom, has advised the Federal Government and its relevant agencies to take proactive steps aimed at mitigating the negative impact associated with the anticipated flash flood that could inundate coastal areas of Nigeria.

Dr. Mmom, who made the urgent appeal in an interview with a *UniPort Weekly* Correspondent, last Wednesday, said that the experience of the 2012 flood in Nigeria showed that both the government and affected individuals were complacent when a similar notice was given by the Cameroonian authorities then, warning that a repeat performance would be viewed as an act of criminal negligence. According to him, relevant policy-makers got it totally wrong by not paying serious attention to the warning by both the Nigeria Meteorological Agency (NIMET) and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in 2012, adding that while natural disasters cannot be prevented, their devastating effects could be minimised with appropriate contingency measures. "Disaster management has gone beyond reactive measures as it appears to be the case in Nigeria. The global trend today is Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), which involves proactive measures aimed at mitigating the effects of flood and other natural disasters that dislocate the lives of ordinary people," Dr. Mmom stated, adding that "if proactive measures were taken prior to the 2012 flood, the devastating effects of the incident would have been vastly reduced on the impacted areas."

The Acting Director, who noted that when natural disasters occur, women, children, elderly people and the disabled were more vulnerable, said that it

CDRM&D Director Tasks FG On Flood Control

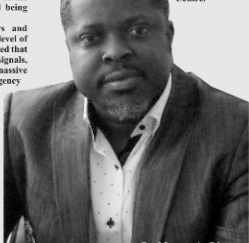
By Obinna Nwodin

was important for policy-makers to learn from the mistakes of the 2012 flood. He stated that "in the wake of the impending release of water from the Lagdo Dam, the means of communication to residents in the flood-prone areas was not effective. I, therefore, urge relevant agencies to go beyond radio and television announcements to embark on massive advocacy campaigns in churches, market places and other population concentrations to sensitise the people in their local languages on the need to take proactive measures to avoid being caught up by the impending flood."

Dr. Mmom, who blamed policy-makers and relevant government agencies for the high level of casualty recorded during the 2012 flood, stated that it was not enough to give early warning signals, advising relevant agencies to engage in massive sensitization of people and make contingency plans against impending disaster. He advised relevant government agencies to set up camps, for persons that are likely to be displaced, with adequate facilities put in place, as well as rescue and evacuation facilities to promptly respond to any emergency that may arise, assuring stakeholders that when the recommended measures were put in place and test run, disaster risk would be drastically reduced in Nigeria.

The Director disclosed that the Centre which offers graduate programmes in Disaster Risk Management has concluded arrangements to organize a workshop aimed at reducing vulnerability and

enhancing resilience to disasters in September. "What we do is part of training and research in natural disaster management," Dr. Mmom said, adding that as a way of achieving its mandate, the Centre recently organized a two-day proposal writing and research workshop for graduate students in the Faculty of Social Science. He also noted that consultancy services and advocacy programmes were part of the activities of the Centre.



Dr. Mmom, Ag Director

New UPWA President Gives Resource Centre Face Lift

By Otiokor Samuel

Barely a month after assuming office as new President of the University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA), Wife of the Vice-Chancellor, Mrs. Joy Lale, has hit the ground running with total transformation of existing facilities at the Gladys Cooke Resource Centre.

As at last Tuesday when the new UPWA President took a crew of *UniPort Weekly* led by the Editor, Williams Wodi round the Centre, all the classrooms in the various sections, from Crèche, Pre-Nursery, Nursery and Primary, wore a brand new look preparatory to resumption of the new academic session in September. The accelerated renovation of the School would rank as the ninth wonder in a little corner of the world within so short a timeframe.

Mrs. Lale, who lamented the deplorable state of the facilities she met on her assumption of the



UPWA President, Mrs. Lale (Middle); Treasurer, Mrs. Shaka and Editor, *UniPort Weekly*, Wodi inspecting facilities at the Crèche Section



Array of re-upholstered chairs and formica tables

leadership of the School, recalled how she promptly mobilized Contractors to embark on total rehabilitation of facilities to make it habitable for the pupils. "Once I inspected the facilities on assumption of office, I decided to commit myself to making the classrooms and the total School environment more pupil-friendly. The move was aimed at creating a conducive learning environment for the children. I also realized that a good environment would serve as a motivation to teachers to give of their best, and encourage more parents and guardians to bring their children and wards to the School. Luckily, the workers are moving far beyond my expectation. I just wanted to make the children happy when they resume School," Mrs. Lale told the Editorial team. When the Editor of *UniPort Weekly* visited the School, rehabilitation work was still ongoing, ranging from brand new Virony doors, louvers, window blinds and mosquito nets, re-upholstered chairs and formica tables, installation of whiteboards in classrooms, construction of new walkways and flooring of an adjoining section of classrooms to the Lady Mercy Alagea Children

Library, including re-tiling of parts of the complex. It was obvious that an angel of mercy had touched down on the School premises.

"I want a Centre that our pupils, their parents and visitors would be proud to be associated with and I believe we are moving in the right direction. We cannot continue to allow the children

to stay under the depressing situation I met on academic content, but to also provide a serene environment that would enable the pupils to explore their world. By the time we complete ongoing structural work, we will start reviewing our academic content by introducing the teaching of Music, foreign languages, cookery, including voluntary associations such as the Girls Guide and Boys Brigade. We also wish to

change the Summer School from pure academic matters to extra-curricular activities to reduce the burden on the children. We want to focus on the Children's Amusement Park for social events," Mrs. Lale disclosed, calling for support from public-spirited individuals and groups to reposition the elite School to achieve the dream of its founder, late Mrs. Gladys Cooke.

Accompanied on the facility tour by the Treasurer, Mrs. Esther Shaka, the UPWA President disclosed plans to resize the number of pupils in a class to a maximum of 30 to enable each teacher comfortably attend to them. She also disclosed plans to relocate the Computer Laboratory to a more spacious accommodation for easy access by the pupils and their instructors.

The new UPWA President expressed gratitude to God for the opportunity given to her to serve in her present position, promising to do all that is within her powers to improve on the commendable legacies bequeathed by her predecessors in office.



More refurbished chairs and baby cots



Baby cots covered with mosquito-treated nets



A view of repainted structure

Don't Allow Anybody To Incite You To Wrong Action

Cont'd from p6

privileged to currently head neither suspended nor sacked the leadership of the Students' Union. To the best of my knowledge, Management has done nothing that adversely affected the interest or welfare of students of this University on my watch. We only redeployed an officer that was appointed by us to another office in the same University. When the Executive begins to dabble in matters that are statutorily outside the jurisdiction of the Students' Union, then you are complicating issues that may affect your studies," the Vice-Chancellor warned them, advising the students to tread with utmost caution as they go about the affairs of the Union.

"Let me inform you that the Dean of Student Affairs is an Ombudsman, who is appointed by the Vice-Chancellor to interface between the Management and Students on matters pertaining to their welfare. The Dean is, therefore, an appointee of the Vice-Chancellor, who is there to represent Management on issues pertaining to the welfare of students. He is not there on a

self-serving mission as the action of a few students tends to portray him in bad light. The fact that some student leaders may prefer to work with a particular Dean does not confer on them the right to dictate to Management who to appoint to that position and how long he or she may be allowed to serve in that capacity," he said.

"Professor Efemini is not the first Dean of Student Affairs to be redeployed to another Unit of the University before the expiration of his tenure. Students must note that every appointee of the Vice-Chancellor holds such office at his behest and may be relieved of such position if and when the need arises. The decision to redeploy or remove any appointee from office is the prerogative of the appointing authority and no amount of incitement or agitation by a few students can influence such a decision that is usually made in the best interest of the University. The hastily-organised protest to the Senate building for the reinstatement of the former Dean was based on wrong information and obvious incitement" he told the Union leaders, assuring them that his new appointee, Dr. Otu Ekpemogbo has the

capacity to run the Student Affairs Department as Acting Dean, having served as Associate Dean of the same Department in the recent past.

Speaking earlier on behalf of the students, President of the Students' Union, Endwell Chuku, said they were in the Vice-Chancellor's Office, to get firsthand information on the redeployment of Professor Efemini to another office, pointing out that the move was in line with the Vice-Chancellor's advice that students should always seek proper clarifications on official decisions before reacting to them.

"We decided to seek audience with you following a report that Professor Efemini was removed from office without being allowed to complete his tenure as Dean. We remember that on assumption of office, the Vice-Chancellor had assured us that he would always grant us audience on matters affecting student welfare. That is why we decided to ascertain the true position of things from the Management regarding the reported sack and to appeal that Professor Efemini should be allowed to

complete his tenure, if possible," Chuku said.

Following the clarifications made by the Vice-Chancellor, the President apologised on behalf of the students for the unnecessary demonstration, promising to convey the outcome of the meeting to the students. Others, who spoke at the meeting, included the immediate past Student Union President, Felix Nwizina, who promised to sensitise students on the need to refrain from frivolous protests, and Hall Representative, Samson Eruani, who also appealed for the reinstatement of Professor Efemini as Dean.



V-C, Prof Lule (3rd left, seated) flanked by DV-C (Admin) Prof Anthony Ibe, Student Union President, Chuku, Deputy Registrar (Information), Williams Wodi, John Oghonaya, SAV-C, Kingsley Wogwa (1st, 2nd and 3rd right standing and other student leaders)

NYSC Officials Brief Intending Corps Members

By Mercy Adeniji

In a bid to expose prospective Corps Members to issues bothering on the scheme and also intimate them on how to cope during the service year, officials of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Scheme have stressed the need for prospective Corps members to ensure that they do what is right before embarking on the scheme.

Speaking at a briefing session held at the Ebitimi Auditorium on Wednesday, August 12, 2015, NYSC Coordinator in Rivers State, Mrs. Josephine Okunogba, commended the University Management and Students for turning out *en masse* for the interaction, noting that the pre-mobilization briefing was a prelude for participation in the scheme.

Highlighting the objectives of the NYSC Scheme, Mrs. Okunogba, who was represented by Head of Deployment and Relocation, Mrs. Onio Agiolu, said the scheme was set up to inculcate discipline into youths by instilling in them the tradition of industry, patriotism and loyal service to Nigeria.

"The scheme seeks to raise the moral tone of Nigerian youths by affording them the opportunity to learn about higher ideals of national achievement, social and cultural improvement that would enable them contribute to nation-building through shared experience and promote national unity and integration," she told participants.

Elaborating on eligibility for the scheme, Mrs. Agiolu explained that graduates who are over thirty (30) years of age, those that have served the Nigerian Armed Forces, the Nigerian Police or National Security Agencies and persons conferred with National Honours were exempted from the scheme, while graduates of Part-Time, Sandwich, Long and Distance Learning programmes and holders of Diploma Certificates were also exempted from the scheme.

Mrs. Agiolu advised prospective Corps members to report to Camp with the originals of their School Identification Card, Statement of Results, Call-up Letters and a Green Card printout, stressing the need for participants to have a valid e-mail address and password that would enable them obtain relevant

information on the Scheme from the NYSC website. "From September 8, 2015 the portal will be opened for your registration till the October 9, 2015. You can also visit our website on www.portal.nysc.ng," she told the students.

Also speaking, Director of the Student Affairs Department which facilitated the interactive process, Mrs. Bridget Nziimu, disclosed that the reason why the Department included the present Final Year students was for them to avail themselves of the opportunity to be properly briefed about the scheme.

Highlight of the event was a question and answer session. Also present at the event were the NYSC Public Relations Officer, Mrs. Violet Appilo-Izibugbe, Mrs. Eneanya Nyenke, Mr. James and other staff of the Student Affairs Department.

In a related development, a Non-Governmental Organization known as Young Women's Leadership Initiative (YWLII) in conjunction with the Department of Students Affairs and NYSC joined their counterparts

in other parts of the world to mark this year's International Youth Day tagged: "Youth: Asset, not Liability".

Declaring open the event which was incorporated into the NYSC briefing session at the Ebitimi Banjo Auditorium, Deputy Governor of Rivers State, Dr. Ipalibo Harry-Banjo, who was represented by an official of the office, Mr. Christian Bugba, described the Government of Rivers State as a youth-friendly, promising to identify with programmes designed to uplift their status in society. "As the world celebrates the youths, the Government of Rivers State is also celebrating them, because no country can exist without the youths. We expect them to be orderly in their conduct by shunning social vices that some youths indulge in today so that they would be useful members of society," the Deputy Governor said.

Also speaking, founder of the organization, Mrs. Adeyinka Chukwemeka, recalled that the NGO was born out of her passion for youth development. Highlights of the event were presentations from a young Lecturer in the Department of Philosophy, Miss Nengi Greene and another by a Final Year Student of the same Department, Mr. Udiandeye Ojifo-Raphel.



A cross-section of prospective Corps Members

GUIDEPOST

Julia Finomo Awajiusuk A Tribute

APPOINTMENT

Dr. Kilipayo Aarun, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, appointed *Acting Director, College of Continuing Education*. The two-year appointment which took effect from August 15, 2015 terminates on August 14, 2017.

Dr. Adedapo Ayeloje, Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management, Faculty of Agriculture, appointed *Acting Director, Students' Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES)*. The two-year appointment which took effect from August 12, 2015 terminates on August 11, 2017.

ADJUNCT APPOINTMENT

Dr. D. I. Ekin, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, granted a one-year *Renewal of Adjunct Appointment* and change of status from *Adjunct Senior Lecturer to Adjunct Reader*, effective October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016.

REVIEW OF STATUS

Mr. Lambert Okwibia, Department of Pharmacognosy, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted review of status from *Assistant Lecturer to Lecturer II*, effective January 24, 2015.

REGULARISATION OF STATUS

Miss Chioma Okoro, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Chemical Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, granted Regularisation of Appointment as *Assistant Lecturer*, effective January 27, 2014.

Dr. Ihoma Aho, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Biological Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, granted Regularisation of Appointment as *Lecturer II*, effective March 3, 2014.

Mr. Samson Anuchi, Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Chemical Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, granted Regularisation of Appointment as *Assistant Lecturer*, effective February 13, 2014.

Mrs. Bridget Ogwa, Department of Microbiology, School of Science Laboratory Technology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, granted Regularisation of Appointment as *Graduate Assistant*, effective January 15, 2014.

Miss Cynthia Ayomwe, Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Chemical Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, granted Regularisation of Appointment as *Assistant Lecturer*, effective April 22, 2014.

Stop Press

PJC-GWDS Holds Gender W'Shop Thursday

The Patience Jonathan Centre for Gender and Women Development Studies (PJC-GWDS) has announced this year's National Workshop with the theme: *Gender, Women and Sustainable Human Development*, to be chaired by President of the Rivers Daughters, Dr. Patricia Ogburnanya. A statement signed by Director of the Centre, Professor Elizabeth Okeke and obtained by *UniPort Weekly*, revealed that the two-day workshop which is expected to be declared open by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Late on Thursday, August 27, 2015, will have Professor Mildred Amakiri of the Rivers State University of Science and Technology as keynote speaker, while Hon Justice Matilda Aiyemeye of the Ministry of Justice, Bayelsa State, Professor Anthony Okpani and Mrs. Chinwe Ezenwa, would serve as resource persons. The Director further disclosed that the workshop will feature recognition of patrons of the Centre, inviting the University Community and the general public to grace the event.

By Flora Iyagba

Late Dr. Julia Finomo Awajiusuk was born into the family of Madam Rosaline and late Awajiusuk Brown of Ikuru Town in Andoni Local Government Area of Rivers State. Her burning ambition for tertiary education led her to the then Rivers State College of Education, Rumolunmi, where she successfully completed the National Certificate of Education and also secured the Bachelor of Education in flying colours in Social and Religious Studies. Julia was the Best



Late Dr. Finomo

Graduating Student of her class, a feat that stimulated in her the keen desire for the bright prospects that lay further afield in tertiary education.

For about ten years, she engaged in a number of business ventures to raise fund to further her education, never losing sight of her long-term dream of improving herself academically in stark contrast to most of her contemporaries that revelled in the pursuit of easy city life.

To keep the flickering flame of her academic interest alive, late Finomo registered and successfully completed the Postgraduate Diploma in Management with the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi in 1999 and quickly followed it up with a Master of Business Administration of the same University in 2001. Her appetite for higher

degrees was by now properly wetted and she had by then secured a guaranteed source of funding that enabled her pull through the balance of her graduate programme.

Julia gained admission to study for the Master of Arts degree in Religious and Cultural Studies in the University of Port Harcourt in 2005 and completed the programme in 2005, following which she enrolled for the doctorate degree in the same Department in 2006. With encouragement from her insightful Supervisor, Professor Christopher Ejizu, she decided to specialise in Christian Religious Ethics, focusing on the topical subject of environmental pollution and degradation in the Niger Delta. Though registered for the doctorate degree at the University of Port Harcourt, Julia had the rare privilege of benefitting from the rich scholarly insight of the leading authority in religious ethics, Professor Akpenpau Dzurgha of the University of Ibadan. Julia spent a couple of months in Ibadan before returning to continue her field research in Port Harcourt.

She documented environmental degradation in some communities in Rivers and Bayelsa States and critically assessed the impact of oil and gas exploration on the ecosystem and people of the Niger Delta. Julia exhibited extraordinary skills and competence as a gifted researcher in the course of her field work for the terminal degree. She diligently collated the outcome of her research and ably produced an excellent Doctoral Thesis entitled: *Environmental Degradation in the Niger Delta* in 2011.

Late Dr. Finomo easily caught the attention of her lecturers in the Department as a brilliant and hardworking student. No wonder she was recommended for employment as an academic staff even as a postgraduate student. She characteristically endeared herself to students as a competent, mature and highly disciplined teacher and among colleagues as an avid, highly motivated and outstanding scholar with raucous laughter and smile that lit up her little corner of the world.

Barely one year into her job, Julia was appointed the Examination Officer of her Department (2009-2010). She also doubled as an Academic Staff Adviser to Students, Secretary of the Departmental Welfare Committee, and Business Manager of the Departmental Journal. She was also a member of the Postgraduate Silver Jubilee Celebration Committee of the School of Postgraduate Studies and expectedly excelled in all these assignments.

She was a very active member of the National Association for the Study of Religion (NASR) and always participated in the annual Conference/Meeting of the Association. She was equally an active member of the Nigerian Association for Biblical Studies and a distinguished member of the Nigerian Environmental Society. Her wonderful talent and zeal for academic work and exceptional skills in interpersonal relations caught the attention of officials of Christ's University, Bangalore, India who appointed her the Nigerian partner for their annual international conference in 2013. The role she played in that position led to the active participation of seven senior academics and staff of UniPort at the international conference organized by that University in 2014.

Late Dr. Julia Finomo was invited to deliver public lectures on the Niger Delta environment in some American universities in 2013. Late Dr. Finomo had a short but phenomenal record of outstanding academic career. She was until her death a great scholar in the making, but death knocked on her door too early.

Rest in perfect peace until we meet to part no more and fare thee well Julia! Additional information from HoD, Religious and Cultural Studies, Professor Christopher Ejizu

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT

WEATHER OBSERVATORY

FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 23 - SATURDAY AUGUST 29, 2015.

DATE	TEMPERATURE (°C)	LO	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (mm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 23 AUG, 2015	30.0	23.0	80	NE	6.7	6:27 18:42	A few thunder storms expected. Mostly cloudy day forecasted.
MONDAY, 24 AUG, 2015	28.0	24.0	86	NE	7.5	6:27 18:42	Widely scattered thunder storms expected. Mostly cloudy day forecasted.
TUESDAY, 25 AUG, 2015	31.0	24.0	72	NE	2.6	6:27 18:41	Widely scattered thunder storms expected. Breaks of sun expected late in the day.
WEDNESDAY 26 AUG, 2015	29.0	22.0	81	NE	17.5	6:27 18:41	Thunder storms expected early in the day. Mostly cloudy day anticipated.
THURSDAY, 27 AUG, 2015	28.0	22.0	77	NE	3.8	6:27 18:40	Showers expected early in the day. Mostly cloudy day forecasted.
FRIDAY, 28 AUG, 2015	29.0	22.0	81	NE	9.4	6:27 18:40	Passing showers expected. Mostly cloudy day anticipated.
SATURDAY, 29 AUG, 2015	28.0	22.0	81	NE	26.8	6:26 18:39	Heavy rain forecasted. Mostly cloudy day expected.

Dr. Gladys Emenike
Acting HoD

Dr. Prince Mmom
AG. Director, (CDRMDs)