

Mgt Commissions Education Faculty ICTC Lab



Management of the University has commended the Dean, Professor Tammy Orunaboka and staff of the Faculty of Education for exposing students to Information and Communication Technology in a conducive learning environment, reports *Mercy Adeniji*.

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Side Bar 2019/2020 POST-UTME SCREENING

Prospective candidates for the 2019/2020 Post-UTME and Direct Entry Admissions are directed to visit the University website at: www.uniport.edu.ng to commence online registration from Monday, July 1 to Tuesday, August 20, 2019

Registrar

The Federal Government has been strongly advised to commence full implementation of the Basic Health Services Provision Fund contained in the National Health Act of 2014, which provided for a minimum 15 per cent of the country's national budget as recommended by the 2001 *Abuja Declaration* under the auspices of the African Union.

The National Assembly should also amend the necessary laws to pave the way for recognition and support of teaching and specialist hospitals as tertiary health institutions. This recognition and support, when fully operational would further improve funding for the acquisition of equipment and relevant infrastructure for specialist health manpower training and effective service delivery.

This was the submission of Professor Aaron Ojule of the Department of Chemical Pathology in the College of Health Sciences, while delivering the 160th Inaugural Lecture entitled, *Life as a Chemical Reaction: The Clinical Laboratory and the Battles for Life*. The lecture which attracted a large audience, held at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium last Thursday.

"Life is 'sweet' and however 'tough' life might be; nobody is in a hurry to go to the paradise of heaven. The medical and health professions are engaged in the constant battle for life, with the clinical laboratory and the Chemical Pathologist at the centre of the battle because life is nothing but a chemical reaction," the 160th Inaugural Lecturer stated. He, however, regretted that life has constantly been threatened by disease and death.

Professor Ojule explained that a "Pathologist is a physician who studies body fluids and tissues in order to help your primary care doctor make a diagnosis about your health or any medical



160th Inaugural

Ojule Tasks FG On Basic Health Services Fund Implementation

By Otiakor Samuel

problems you may have, and uses laboratory tests to monitor the health of patients with chronic conditions." Professor Ojule added that the Pathologist is usually busy behind the scenes,

studying body fluids and tissues of patients and providing relevant information that a doctor would rely upon to make accurate diagnoses, monitor the progression of existing medical

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Mgt Trains 126 Drivers



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SGS Dean Warns Against Plagiarism



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We Will Deepen Academic Culture ~Yekinni



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HoD To Design Result Computation Software For UniPort



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No man (woman) will make a great leader who wants to do it all himself, or to get all the credit for doing it
DAVID MINSKER

Junius, an anonymous publicist and social reformer who lived between 1769 and 1772, once declared that the integrity of men (and women please) is to be measured by their conduct, and not by their profession. But professional affiliation is very important because it helps us to classify the service roles of people around us and what they can offer their communities and the larger society. The irony is that you never know what people can accomplish until you put them to test with a big responsibility. A call to duty reveals character and capacity to perform great feats even under the most daunting of circumstances.

The modern medical profession made famous by Greek doctor, Hippocrates, occupies a central position as the critical glue that holds total patient care together. Modern medical practice basically consists of diagnosing, treating and preventing disease. Medicine is often used interchangeably with the substance or preparation used for the treatment of disease in a complementary role.

While comedians take the sting out of our anger, the doctor helps to delay death through diverse palliative interventions. Anybody who is ravaged by bodily deterioration will attest to the soothing and healing hand of a caring and dedicated physician. Doctors placed in administrative positions either display their competence or reveal their crass mediocrity in the line of duty. The combined roles of doctor and administrator could sink a faint-hearted medical practitioner with average capacity to deliver on his or her core mandate of saving lives and keeping hope alive.

There is an unfathomable air of mystery that surrounds Dr Chinwe Ezirim who has been at the helm of affairs of the University's Health Services Department since Professor Ken Anagwe voluntarily turned his attention to sports science and administration. Since she mounted the saddle in acting capacity, Dr Ezirim has ploughed on with the force of energy without giving in to cynicism or the daunting odds on her way to professional fulfilment. Dr Ezirim's success story is mainly built on her refusal to be haughty, arrogant or insolent in her engagement with patients and colleagues. She has admirably and deftly navigated around the notorious professional rivalry that has undermined effective healthcare delivery elsewhere.

STAFF OF THE MONTH (June-July, 2019)

Dr Chinwe Ezirim



Dr Ezirim

On first encounter, Dr Ezirim may exude a fragile look on the outside, but on closer encounter, what emerges is a woman of iron will and complete self-organisation that produces results in whatever direction she turns her attention as the officer-in-charge at the expansive O. B. Lulu-Briggs Health Centre. Apart from prompt service delivery to staff and students that patronise the Health Centre, Dr Ezirim has methodically presided over a comprehensive rehabilitation of the facility under the new TISHIP system. She has periodically repainted the building and ensured a fully-stocked pharmacy that efficiently dispenses drugs under the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS). Under the new dispensation,

the facility is usually filled to the brim as early as 6.30am each day, while patients are guaranteed call doctors on weekends. Laboratory and other para-medical services almost run on auto-pilot on Dr Ezirim's watch.

Under her close supervision, the Health Centre now carries out ECG examination and other complex diagnosis expected of a functional Primary Healthcare facility in the University. Apart from routine attendance to staff and students who arrive with diverse health complications, the dedicated personnel at the Health Centre creditably handle the mandatory annual medical examination of fresh students. Under Dr Ezirim's watch, the compulsory routine medical check-up prescribed by Management for staff on their birthday has received more impetus. The entire compound is pin-clean and better lit at night; while hygiene and noise pollution are strictly enforced to ensure the safety of patients and visitors to the Health Centre. She has ensured that blind loyalty does not count more than professional competence amongst her staff on the understanding that only dedicated service, compassion and discipline result in improved health outcome.

Not concerned with accolades or self-glorification, Dr Ezirim carries out her functions with missionary zeal and an unusual personal touch to the admiration of many. Even in the daunting of circumstances, Dr Ezirim has the installed capacity to turn potential fiascos into impressive victories by giving her job schedule everything she's got during each performance. Dr Ezirim is truly a transformational leader who has left an easily verifiable signature of excellence at her duty post and richly deserves to be celebrated for deftly micromanaging the chaos of delivering quality clinical and counselling services at the University's Health Centre.

In recognition of her acclaimed managerial acumen, quality leadership, purpose, drive and for totally repositioning the O. B. Lulu-Briggs Health Centre, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa E. S. Lale, declares **DR CHINWE EZIRIM AS STAFF OF THE MONTHS OF JUNE-JULY, 2019**. Congratulations to this Angel of Mercy and consummate leader of a result-oriented medical team!

COURTESY: IPPR UNIT

APOLOGY TO DR CHINWE EZIRIM

In our Vol. 34, Edition 369 of *UniPort News* (June 17-July 1, 2019), we inadvertently published the photograph of another staff of the Health Services Department, mistaking it to be the authentic photograph of the Acting Director of the Department, Dr Chinwe Ezirim. There is no doubt that this unpardonable error has seriously embarrassed Dr Ezirim and we wish to tender an unreserved apology to her for this inexplicable error that has undoubtedly diluted Dr Ezirim's well-deserved nomination as **STAFF OF THE MONTHS OF JUNE-JULY, 2019**. This blunder is highly regretted.

Editor

JEF Donates Books To Donald Ekong Library

By Otokor Samuel

Lecturers in the Communication Studies component of the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies in the Faculty of Humanities have donated some of their publications to the Donald Ekong Central Library. The books were handed over to the University Librarian, Dr Susan Umeozor under the aegis of Journalist Educators' Foundation (JEF) on Thursday, June 20, 2019.

Speaking before the presentation, Convener of JEF, Dr Anielok Udoado, disclosed that the publications were products of previous conferences organised by the body.

"We have organised three conferences and published some journals from papers presented in our bid to advance scholarship. We hope to sustain the series in line with our primary objective of promoting

scholarship through quality research and publications. We thought it wise to donate some copies of our publications to the Library. It is our hope that library users in our field will find the publications useful," Dr Udoado told the University Librarian before handing over the publications.

Responding to the gesture, Dr Umeozor heaped praises on the Lecturers for the donation. She expressed delight that the publications would add to the resources in journalism and related disciplines for library users.

"On behalf of the Library, I welcome and thank you for this kind gesture. The donation will certainly contribute to scholarship in the field of mass communication, and we hope to receive more of such publications to enrich our library stock," the University Librarian said. She directed the Acquisition Librarian to purchase more copies of the books and journals from the Foundation.



University Librarian, Dr Umeozor (centre) flanked by JEF Convener, Dr Udoado (right) and members of the Foundation. Inset: Dr Umeozor receiving copies of the publications

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FAD Students Mount Art Exhibition

By Letom Nnen

As part of efforts aimed at matching theory with practice, the Department of Fine Arts and Design in the Faculty of Humanities, organised an Art and Fashion Show which featured exhibition of casual, ceremonial, carnival, sport, beach, corporate and children's wears entirely produced by the students.

Declaring open the event at the Convocation Arena on Wednesday, June 19, 2019, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor Femi Shaka, congratulated the staff and students of Department for sustaining the annual event. "I'm happy to once again see what students of this Department have been doing to advance creativity in the Faculty of Humanities. We are always amazed at the capacity of these student artists to transform ordinary fabrics into admirable textile designs," the Dean said. In her remarks, the Head of Department of Fine Arts and Design, Professor Florence Nduka, commended the students for their creativity and team spirit. "What we are witnessing here today is the combined efforts of our students as part of the practical aspects of transforming fabrics into different fashion designs. Our purpose is to prepare our students to become professional fashion designers and budding entrepreneurs with requisite skills to hit the fashion runway in graduation," Professor Nduka said.

In her contribution, one of the facilitators of the textile and fashion show, Dr Pamela Ekwere, praised the students for exhibiting the spirit of enterprise, urging the public to patronise their products at moderate charges. "The exhibition forms 20 per cent of the students' examination score in Fashion and Design, Textile and Fashion Unit. What we have on display are designs done by our students, either as their class work or actual examination," she said.

The exhibition was graced by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Regina Ogali, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, senior academic and administrative staff, including art and fashion lovers.



DVC (Admin), Prof Ogali (middle) flanked by DVC (Acad), Prof Fawehinmi (right), Dean, Fac of Humanities, Prof Shaka (left), Head, Fine Arts and Design, Prof Nduka, lecturers and students during the exhibition



DVC (Acad), Prof Fawehinmi (arrowed) flanked by Prof Orunaboka (left) and other staff of the Faculty after the commissioning ceremony

Mgt Commissions Education Faculty ICTC Lab

Cont'd from Page 1

Speaking during the commissioning of an ICT laboratory, a lecture auditorium and classroom facilities, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, who stood in for the Vice Chancellor, commended the leadership of the Faculty for ensuring that the TETFund-assisted ICT laboratory and the lecture auditorium are put to proper use for the benefit of the students.

"We are happy that TETFund intervention has made the realisation of this facility possible. As we all know, ICT has become a veritable tool for effective education in Nigeria and it is important that staff and students must be conversant with this new interactive process of teaching and learning," Professor Fawehinmi said. Despite the weak signals reported by the Dean, the Deputy Vice Chancellor described the ICT laboratory as a

good start. He also promised that Management would address the problem to enable the Faculty engage in effective learning.

Earlier, the Dean, Professor Orunaboka, commended Management of the University for supporting the project, expressing gratitude to his colleagues who were instrumental to the realisation of the projects and for supporting his leadership.

Professor Orunaboka recalled that TETFund donated the ICT laboratory, while the chairs were donated by Professor Peter Kpolovie. "We are grateful to Management for supporting our modest effort and for ensuring that these facilities and structure are put to proper use. We are still appealing to Management to facilitate access to the University Cloud to avail us strong Internet signal," Professor Orunaboka appealed.

Mgt Trains 126 Drivers On Modern Safety Skills

By Letom Nnen

In keeping with Management's resolve to expose all categories of staff to continuous professional development, the Staff Training and Development Unit (STADU) teamed up with the Centre for Logistics and Transport Studies (CELTRAS), mounted a two-day intensive training for drivers on strategic driving techniques.

Declaring the workshop open, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, who stood in for the Vice Chancellor, congratulated the Registrar, Mrs Dorcas Otto, STADU Officer, Mr Fidelis Jahka and Acting Director of CELTRAS, Dr Gladys Emenike, for joining forces to organise the important workshop. Professor Fawehinmi urged the drivers to show that they deserved the certificates of participation awarded to them at the end of the training.

"This workshop is very dear to the heart of the Vice Chancellor because drivers are very important components of the University and the society at large. A lot of lives depend on your care and safety skills on the

steering. This workshop was organised to improve your skills, competence and professional judgment. I urge you to take this workshop seriously," he charged.

Presenting a paper on *Defensive Driving Techniques* at the two-day workshop which kicked off at the IPS auditorium on Monday, June 17, 2019, Mr John Michael of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), advised drivers to always carry out routine checks to ensure that their vehicles were in good condition before embarking on any journey. "You need to be considerate to other road users as distraction and over-speeding are major causes of road accidents," the Route Commander said, warning them against driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol. In her address, the Registrar, Mrs Otto, commended the Vice Chancellor for supporting her staff capacity building effort. She also commended the STADU, CELTRAS and all the Resource Persons for their valuable input. "This intensive training will afford you the opportunity to improve and do your work more effectively. The workshop is in furtherance of the Registry's vision to expose staff to periodic training that would equip them to give their best to the system," the Registrar said.

In their contributions, Zonal Commanding Officer of the Federal Road Safety Corps, Zone 6, Port Harcourt, Mr Kingsley Ogomoh and the State Transport Officer, Rivers State Command, Mr Osaro Ailfuwa, commended Management of the University for organising the workshop. They appealed that Management should not just train the drivers, but also measure their competence and tie it to their annual appraisal exercise.

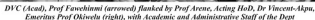
In their separate addresses, the STADU Officer, Mr Jahka and Acting CELTRAS Director, Dr Emenike, urged the drivers to take the training seriously, noting that the theoretical aspects of the training would afford them an opportunity to learn road signs and markings, route discipline, safety guidelines, as well as how to share the road with other users.

Other papers presented at the workshop included, *Life Has No Duplicate* by Mr Bido Owatunmbi, *Basic Training for Professional Drivers* by Mr Okey Wonukwu, *Driving and Health Management* by Dr Bunmi Onyagbodur and *Work Ethics and Professional Attitude* by Dr Omoanhan Akhighe.



DVC (Acad), Professor Fawehinmi (arrowed) flanked by Registrar, Mrs Otto (right), IPS Director, Prof Appah (left), resource persons and the drivers

the best of his ability. They separately commended him for mentoring younger academics in the Department and Faculty of Science.



Staff, students and alumni of the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology (AEB) gathered at the auditorium to honour their former colleague and teacher, Professor Felix Arene, who recently retired from the services of the University. The brief, but colourful send-forth ceremony took place on Friday, May 24, 2019.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, who represented the Vice Chancellor at the occasion, commended the Department for honouring Professor Arene for his services. "I am happy to be part of this ceremony because Professor Arene was my first Head of Department at the then Department of Zoology. There is no doubt that Professor Arene has paid his dues and I am glad that he is retiring in good health, leaving behind a record of performance that should be emulated by younger academics. We wish Professor Arene well and hope that he would avail us the opportunity to tap from his wealth of experience whenever the need may arise," he said.

In their separate goodwill messages, Emeritus Professor Samuel Okiwelu, erstwhile Dean of the School of Science Laboratory Technology (SSLT), Professor Grace Awiwandu, Dean of the Faculty of Science, Professor

Ephraim Chukwuocha, Head of Department of Fine Arts and Design, Professor Florence Nduka, Professor Ibitamuno Amingo of the Department of Educational Foundations, Acting Head of the Department of AEB, Dr Ijeoma Vincent-Akpu and Acting Director of Central Community Service, Dr Helen Imasfidor, all took turns to eulogise Professor Arene for serving the Department to

challenging journey on a successful note. I urge you all to continue to work together as a team and ensure that you give the students the necessary attention they need to succeed." Professor Arene charged his colleagues.

A former student of the honoree, Professor Joseph Asor of the University of Calabar delivered a lecture entitled: *Urban Schistosomiasis Transmission in the Niger Delta Area, Nigeria* to mark the send-forth ceremony.

This is to urgently notify the University Community that two fake "journalists" have been going round the campus, claiming to be representing the Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit. These dubiously motivated "reporters" attend virtually every event on campus and pretend to conduct interviews with their victims, following which they demand various sums of money that would enable them facilitate publication of such events in *UnioPort* News bulletin. These fraudsters, one claiming to be a reporter with a port Harcourt-based newspaper, while the other who claims to be a graduate student of the University of Lagos, are using the name of the Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit to influence publication of stories in the University's official bulletin.

The two fraudsters have done incalculable damage to the reputation of the IPPR Unit, as some unsuspecting members of the University community now believe that the proceeds of such sleaze are shared with authentic *UniPort* News staff writers. Following preliminary investigations, one of such fake 'journalists' has already been apprehended and handed over to the Security Unit, while the other is now keeping a low profile. Please report any fake reporter submitting to publish your story in *UniPort* News for a fee to the Security Unit. Beware of these two fraudsters!!

Editor

SGS Dean Warns Students Against Plagiarism

As part of efforts aimed at exposing newly-admitted graduate students to the rules and regulations governing their study, the Centre for Logistics and Transport Studies (CELTRAS) has organised a one-day orientation exercise for 69 new intakes admitted into various programmes in the 2018/2019 academic session.

Addressing the students on the regulations governing graduate programmes in the University, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, Professor Antonia Okerengwo, warned them against plagiarism and abandoning their programmes. She assured them that programmes offered by Centres and Institutes in the University would not be affected by strike actions declared by the Unions. "If you work hard, pass your examinations and complete your thesis diligently, you will graduate within your residency period. Note that we will not allow any student to do harm to our reputation through submission of fraudulently prepared work. So begin your work from the onset," Professor Okerengwo advised them.

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, who represented the Vice Chancellor at the event which held at the NIM

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

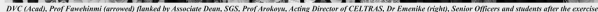
Lounger, Ebbini Bangio Auditorium on Friday, June 23, 2019, emphasised the critical role of the transportation sector in national development. Your decision to choose the University of Port Harcourt to study this important speciality that plays a major role in the movement of goods and services is the right one. An efficient transportation system is central to accelerated economic development and social interaction. This critical subsector is in dire need of experts to plan and manage an efficient transportation system, and I hope you would seize the opportunity to equip yourself to meet the ever-changing career. Your duty is to provide you an enabling environment to graduate in record time.”

Prof. Fawehinmi said

In her address, Acting Director of the Centre, Dr Gladys Emenike, disclosed that the Centre was established to produce qualified professionals in

logistics and transport who have broad knowledge and practical skills to understand and solve the peculiar logistics and transportation problems facing Nigeria. "Academic programmes offered by the Centre include Postgraduate Diploma, Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Logistics and Transportation. These programmes provide students with sound intellectual knowledge and skills to function competently in diverse logistics and transport planning and management positions in the public and private sectors," she said.

Other presentations included: *Modified Standardisation of Thesis/Dissertation Report Approved at the 246th Meeting of the School of Graduate Students and Rooting out Plagiarism from Postgraduate Education: Issues, Problems and Way Out*, by Associate Dean of the School, Professor Samuel Arakoyu and Acting Director of the Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office (IPTTO), Dr Roland Uhumwango, respectively.



My Vision Is To Deepen Academic Culture in HMT Dept ~ Yekinni

By Letom Nnen

Newly-appointed Acting Head of the Department of Hospitality Management and Tourism (HMT) in the Faculty of Management Sciences, Dr Bello Yekinni, has promised to transform the Department into a Centre of Excellence in hospitality and tourism studies and practice. Speaking during an interview with a UniPort News Correspondent in his office on Thursday, June 6, 2019, Dr Yekinni stated that his main focus is to deepen research and academic culture in the Department in line with the broader vision of the University.

"My main goal is to build Nigeria's foremost hospitality and tourism research Department in the South-South by producing highly innovative and entrepreneurship-driven graduates who can compete globally. To achieve this ambitious vision, we shall reposition our Department to produce qualified personnel that would oversee the hospitality management and tourism industry in Nigeria," he pledged.

Dr Yekinni further revealed that the Department has concluded plans with the Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) to convert the company's moribund tourism gallery to an e-tourism gallery to boost tourism in Rivers State. He also said that the Tourism Village in the Department would be developed into a mini zoo that would attract tourists to the University. He also disclosed plans to train the right personnel that would man the kitchen and restaurant, adding that the Department under his watch is working very hard to restructure the curriculum to include Industrial Training aimed at boosting students' hands-on skills.

He further disclosed that the Department is currently working on Volume III of its journal, stating also that plans are afoot for the training of staff on Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) aimed at enhancing quality supervision of graduate students.

Dr Yekinni told our Correspondent that the German Embassy has promised to donate a tourism van to the Department, while the Dutch Embassy has also agreed to donate 30 desktop computers with internet access to



Dr. Yekinni

facilitate research in the Department. "We recently reached an understanding with *Arik Airline* for onboard training of our students, while Lagos-based *Nex Bakery* has agreed to build a Bakery for the Department," he further revealed.

MILDRED NWOKANMA, Valedictorian

For a long time to come, I will hold dear fond memories of these five years of reading, praying and playing together. I am so excited and grateful to God that we all made it this far, despite the daunting challenges.



I will not forget the period before our qualifying exams when we were all scared, but such fear spurred us to burn our midnight candles, sacrificing our comfort in pursuit of the success story we are telling today. We will not forget the efforts of our teachers and parents in bringing us

up to this level of academic accomplishment. Even if we have graduated, we will continue to fly the flag as good ambassadors of the Department and University of Port Harcourt. The future has just been opened to us like a new book and it is left for us to open the next chapter of our lives, but we should be allowed to celebrate today's induction as a major landmark event. I can only implore our junior colleagues to do better than we did and learn from our mistakes to avoid repeating them.

TORNUBARI BIEH

I feel so excited and personally fulfilled today, because the journey was not so smooth. Despite the challenges, God made today a dream come true for all of us who are being inducted today. I am grateful to my lecturers for their patience and the mentorship roles they played in our lives. They meant everything to us as we struggled to make a success of our lives. My prayer is that God would continue to bless all those He used to accomplish this task in our lives. I am ready to



We Left Giant Footprints For Our Successors ~Nursing Inductees

A total of 24 newly trained nurses were inducted into the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria (NMCN), on Friday, June 7, 2019. Our Correspondent, MERCY ADENIJI spoke with some of the Inductees on their journey through Nursing Education in this University. Please read on:

take on the next phase of my life and I promise not to disappoint my family, friends, my teachers and the University of Port Harcourt.

JULET OMOSENI

It is a thing of joy to be inducted as a Nurse today. My journey through the University of Port Harcourt and Nursing School is a worthwhile experience and one that I will always remember. Yes, it was very tough, but we scaled through because of the enabling environment created by the University and excellent teachers that taught us. I wrote the examination in May, though I had to repeat, I was determined not to give up and that is why I am celebrating with my colleagues today. It goes to show that

determination and persistence pays in the end. To my junior colleagues, I encourage them to continue to work hard and aim for the best, no matter the challenges they may face on the way. I thank my wonderful lecturers and parents, because without them, I would not be here to celebrate my success story.

DAMAIN OKWUENNA

It is a special thing to be a male and a Nurse. The journey through Nursing School wasn't easy at all. I thank my colleagues and hard working lecturers for encouraging me to aim for the stars. They gave us the academic wings to fly and achieve our dreams as



Registered Nurses. I appreciate Management of the University for supporting and giving us the enabling environment to learn. My advice to our younger colleagues is to work hard and always involve God in all they do to be successful like us.

KINGSLEY OBILO

I can say that I dreamt and prepared for this moment. It was never an easy journey from our first year on this programme. We all struggled to be successful and it came to pass. This is the dream of every student of Nursing Science. As a male in a profession dominated by females, I blended in and there was no preferential treatment for any student. I am in this noble profession to prove a point and it is left for society to evaluate my performance on the job. I urge our upcoming colleagues to work hard because only hard work pays in the end. I appreciate Management and our lecturers for their dedication and support in ensuring that we come out as properly-trained Nurses, who can add value to the medical profession.



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conditions and provide the best patient care possible.

"Pathology plays a vital role across all facets and specialties of medicine throughout our lives, from the stage of conception to the post-mortem period. In fact, it has been said that 'pathology is medicine.' Unfortunately, many people still erroneously associate Pathologists with only dead bodies and post-mortem examinations. The truth is that Pathologists deal more and are busy in hospital laboratories helping to improve the health of living people.

"All the doctors that see patients in the clinics/hospitals depend on the knowledge, diagnostic skills and advice of Pathologists. Whether it is a general practitioner requesting for blood or urine test or a surgeon seeking to know the nature of a lump removed at operation, the definitive answer is usually provided by a Pathologist." Professor Ojule, who was the immediate past Chief Medical Officer of the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital further explained.

He further explained that "the battle between life and death is life-long and starts from the moment of conception. The medical and health professions prosecute this war for the preservation of life and to delay death as long as it is possible. Let me, once more, reiterate that life is nothing other than the complex chemical reactions of intermediary metabolism that sustain homeostasis. Any serious embarrassment to metabolism by disease would eventually lead to cell and organ injury and loss of homeostasis, eventually leading to death.

"All causes of cell injury and loss of homeostasis occur at the cellular and sub-cellular levels and cannot be assessed physically with the naked eyes. Only the clinical laboratory and Pathologists, through their laboratory tests, can interface between the doctor and his patient, to guide him in the assessment of the state of the battle at the cellular and sub-cellular levels, thus helping him to make correct diagnosis and to administer correct treatment. The clinical laboratory and Chemical Pathologists participate in these battles for life by monitoring changes in various biochemical parameters in body fluids and tissues that occur with disease, including electrolytes, urea and creatinine, proteins and enzymes, hormones, tumour markers, infectious agents, etc," he explained.

The 160th Inaugural Lecturer pointed out that the medical and health professions evolved in order to protect life and health of the citizens, noting that developed countries place much premium on human lives to the extent that they record loss of communicable diseases, whereas developing nations such as Nigeria record a higher percentage of communicable diseases as cause of deaths due to poor facilities to tackle illness.



160th Inaugural Lecturer (4th left) flanked by Registrar, Mrs Dorcas Otu (left), V.C. Prof Lale (right) and some Professors before the Lecture

Ojule Tasks FG On Fund Implementation

Professor Ojule lamented that Nigeria's three-tier health system (primary, secondary and tertiary) was still bogged down by gross underfunding, poor infrastructure, inadequate manpower, lack of modern diagnostic equipment, poor equipment maintenance and lacking capacity, drugs and other medical supplies. He also listed high prevalence of fake drugs and poor quality medical consumables, lack of health insurance with huge out-of-pocket payment system, very weak referral system, poor capacity for quick response to sanitary emergencies or mass casualties, high level of inter-professional rivalry and attendant frequent industrial disputes/strike actions, as some of the reasons for poor healthcare delivery to citizens.

"This general healthcare scenario impacts adversely on the clinical laboratory because it is a critical and indispensable component of the national health system. It is a known fact that any healthcare system can only be as good as its diagnostic services. All the general challenges associated with the Nigerian healthcare system are replicated in our clinical laboratories," he further lamented.

"Clinical laboratories should provide information and services that contribute to optimising the effective delivery of care in our clinics and hospitals by ensuring that the correct test is performed on the right patient, at the right time, producing accurate test results that would enable clinicians to make the right diagnostic and therapeutic decisions," he stated.

At the World Conference on Research Integrity in Hong Kong from 2 to 5 June, Grey's team described its years-long efforts to clean up Sato's literature, and presented its analysis of the inquiries conducted by four universities in Japan and the United States ensnared in the scandal (the team published its analysis of three investigations in a paper in February). Grey says their findings provide evidence to support a growing view in the academic community: those university investigations into research misconduct are often inadequate, opaque and poorly conducted. They challenge the idea that institutions can police themselves on research integrity and propose that there should be independent organizations to evaluate allegations of research fraud.

The checklist questions an investigation's scope, reliability and impact. For instance, whether the investigating committee included external members and whether evidence could have been tampered with. The team independently assessed each investigation report using the checklist: one report had addressed none of the points adequately and two others properly addressed only two or three points. "Overall, each report was considered unacceptable," say Grey and colleagues. Alarm bells: Sato, who died in 1966, studied and ran clinical trials of drugs and supplements that might help to prevent bone fracture. Researchers in the field began raising concerns about Sato's work in the mid-2000s, when some questioned the speed

improved legislation for oversight and regulation of clinical laboratory practice as other urgent steps that would improve access and quality healthcare for Nigerians.

On his contributions to knowledge, Professor Ojule disclosed that he and other colleagues embarked on a study on health and safety in clinical laboratories and found gross deficiencies in the knowledge, attitudes and practice of laboratory safety by clinical laboratory staff in the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), specimen collection and processing, centrifuge-related hazards, infectious waste disposal and provision and use of first aid kits.

In his remarks, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndawa Lale, agreed with the Inaugural Lecturer on the precarious state of the Nigerian healthcare system which encourages medical tourism abroad. "In saner climates, the patient is given diagnostic results immediately they are concluded in the laboratory. It is sad that our healthcare delivery system is ranked 187th out of 190 countries surveyed by global rating agencies. It means that we are still far from realising the quality health sector that meets international standards," the Vice Chancellor stated. He particularly frowned at inter-professional rivalries that have bogged down effective healthcare delivery in Nigeria.

The Vice Chancellor announced that Professor John Ikimalo of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Faculty of Clinical Sciences in the College of Health Sciences, will deliver the 161st Inaugural Lecture entitled, *Searching for the 'Trail of the Wound': Science and Technology bridging the gap* on Thursday, July 25, 2019.

at which Sato had recruited and assessed participants for some of his studies. Sato later apologized for not disclosing all the hospitals from which he had recruited participants, and admitted a mistake in one paper. But more researchers flagged irregularities about his papers to journals, and in 2016, Grey and colleagues published an analysis in *Neurology* that raised concerns about 33 of Sato's studies. Sato admitted that three of these studies were fraudulent, asked for them to be retracted, and cleared his co-authors of any wrongdoing. Twenty-seven of those studies have not been retracted.

In 2017, Grey's team also flagged their concerns about hundreds of Sato's papers to four institutions that had co-authors on these studies: Kurume, Hirotsuki and Keio universities in Japan and New York University's Winthrop Hospital. Sato had been a researcher at Kurume and Hirotsuki universities. Two institutions had already launched investigations into some of the work when Grey contacted them, and the others began investigations. The researchers asked the institutions for the reports of their investigations to understand how they had responded to the allegations. None of the reports revealed exactly who or which papers had been investigated; one found that an unnamed researcher had committed misconduct, and two reports recommended that papers be retracted. Grey's team rated each report as inadequate overall. The researchers also suggested that the investigations focused too much on determining whether research misconduct had occurred, rather than on understanding the validity of the research in question and correcting or retracting unreliable articles. Grey and colleagues argue that protecting the integrity of the literature should be the priority of any investigation—because integrity can be compromised without evidence of misconduct. Grey says that his and his colleagues' motivation to pursue the case for so long is to correct the literature that clinicians and patients rely on. Academic institutions, publishers and journals have not been willing or able to do a comprehensive job, he says, so his team has persisted in raising concerns.

Nature 570, 287-288 (2019). Credit: Aescapac/Universal Image Group/Getty

What Universities Can Learn From One Of Science's Biggest Frauds

Detailed analysis of misconduct investigations into huge research fraud suggests institutional probes aren't rigorous enough. Experts recommend that institutions should review their processes for investigating research misconduct.

For a few years, he's developed another speciality: the case of one of science's most prolific fraudsters. From 1996 to 2013, Yoshihiro Sato, a Japanese bone-health researcher plagiarized work, fabricated data and forged authorships—



Prof Alice Nye, Director Centre for Research Mgt & Development CEREMAD

GUIDE POST

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT/ APPOINTMENT

Dr Dandadi Rado, Department of Pharmacognosy and Phytotherapy, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted a one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment as Adjunct Chief Technologist*, effective May 10, 2019 to May 9, 2020.

Dr Erzebete Didia, Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Management, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted final *Renewal of Contract Appointment as Senior Lecturer*, effective July 2, 2019 to July 1, 2020.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Dr Salem Ejeba, Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, proceeds on a three-month *Research Leave* at the Bayreuth Sprach- und Literaturwissenschaftliche Fakultät Lehrstuhl für Afrikanistik II, Germany, effective June 3, 2019 to August 31, 2019.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Mr Etem Eyo, Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted a one-year *Sabbatical Leave* to Great Wall Technology Nigeria Limited, Port Harcourt, effective July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

Dr Sunday Olutunde, Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted a one-year *Sabbatical Leave* at the Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Tai Solarin University of Education, Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo State, effective October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019.

STATUTORY RETIREMENT

Professor Nelson Braamhaffa, Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, proceeds on a three-month *Pre-Retirement Leave*, effective August 4, 2019, preparatory to his *Statutory Retirement from Service* on November 4, 2019.

Mr Felix Ezenachor, Department of Biochemistry, proceeds on *Statutory Retirement from Service*, effective May 25, 2019.

Mr Simeon Nwamaka, Health Services Department, proceeds on *Statutory Retirement from Service*, effective November 2, 2019.

Mr Raymond Nwuregba, Works and Services Department, proceeds on a three-month *Pre-Retirement Leave*, effective July 1, 2019, preparatory to his *Statutory Retirement from Service* on October 27, 2019.

Mr Eymike Ozi, Faculty of Education, proceeds on a three-month *Pre-Retirement Leave*, effective August 21, 2019, preparatory to his *Statutory Retirement from Service* on November 21, 2019.

Mr Benjamin Ordo, Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, proceeds on a three-month *Pre-Retirement Leave*, effective July 27, 2019, preparatory to his *Statutory Retirement from Service* on October 27, 2019.

Mr Ubohori Nigbo, Security Department, proceeds on a three-month *Pre-Retirement Leave*, effective September 30, 2019, preparatory to his *Retirement from Service* on December 30, 2019.

Mrs Florence Ogwo, Health Services Department, proceeds on a three-month *Pre-Retirement Leave*, effective September 21, 2019, preparatory to her *Statutory Retirement from Service* on December 21, 2019.

Mr Elliot Ogholagbo, Works and Services Department, proceeds on a three-month *Pre-Retirement Leave*, effective September 22, 2019, preparatory to his *Statutory Retirement from Service* on December 22, 2019.

Mrs Florence Anyanwu, Student Affairs Department, proceeds on *Statutory Retirement from Service* effective May 1, 2019.

CHANGE OF NAME

MRS BLESSING BENSON: Former Miss Blessing Syder of the Student Affairs Unit, now wishes to be known, called and addressed as Mrs Blessing Benson. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

MRS CHISA SANDRA GBULE: Former Miss Chisa Sandra Didia of the Department of Petroleum Engineering now wishes to be known, called and addressed as Mrs Chisa Sandra Gbule. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

We Are Designing Resilient Computation Software For UniPort ~HoD Computer Science

By Letom Nnen

Everything goes according to plan, the University of Port Harcourt would soon have a simpler and easy means of computing and storing students' results. This is because the new Acting Head of Department of Computer Science in the Faculty of Science, Dr Ogheneovo, has commenced the process of designing a highly secure result computation software for the University.

Making the disclosure during an interview with a UniPort News



Dr Ogheneovo

Correspondent in his office on Wednesday, June 19, 2019, Dr Ogheneovo disclosed that when fully developed and made operational, the package would be deployed to compute students' results. "Because we now submit results online, we hope to develop appropriate software that would automatically compute students' results with accuracy and efficiency. When we put it to use, I will ensure that this special software is secure in such a way that it cannot be hacked into or accessed by unauthorised persons," he said.

The Acting Head of Department also revealed plans to train personnel to man the hard and software laboratories for effective training of students on practical courses. Dr Ogheneovo, however, regretted that the Department would require more computers to host practical sessions for students, appealing for more computers and an electricity generating set for the Department. He also promised to ensure that staff, who are due are promptly recommended for promotion.

Dr Ogheneovo also disclosed plans to initiate collaborations with institutions and other agencies to raise impactful research. "We hope to partner multinational companies to give our students the necessary industry experience they would require to be successful in a highly competitive job environment. We shall also reach out to the Department of Maths/Statistics and Electrical/Electronic Engineering in simulation and modelling," he disclosed. The Acting Head of Department promised to encourage robust research efforts and conference studies abroad during his tenure. He also stressed the need for staff in the Department to attend, at least, one international conference in a year and publish articles in indexed/google scholar journals that would enhance the visibility of the Department and the University.

Disclosing that the process of creating a new Department of Data Science from the existing Department of Computer Science is already in progress, Dr Ogheneovo promised that prompt attention would be given to students' results to enable the Department produce graduates who would compete favourably with their counterparts globally.

Tribute To Gabriel Okara, Poet Laureate

By Humphrey Ogu

My first encounter with the literary icon, Dr Gabriel Okara, was way back in my primary five in 1968, when I read his fascinating children's story book: *Little Snake and Little Frog*. It was Okara's *An Adventure to Juhu Island* that captivated me beyond description. I fell for the author's characterisation of *Okoko* and *Worla* in their make-believe universe.

I literally 'accompany' the two friends, who were my age-mates at the time, all through their adventures on the fictional Island. I lagged for the freedom of my newfound friends. If I had a gun, I would have shot Doc and his accomplices for abducting *Okoko* and *Worla*. Thanks to the creative imagination of Gabriel Okara, the duo regained their freedom before I closed the book.

It was at a mobile bookstore—*Doolas*—a ship that berthed at the Nigerian Ports Authorities wharf in Old Port Harcourt in 2002 that I finally met my literary idol. He was exactly like the iconic man in the picture I had seen.

In 2006, I took my poetry manuscript, *Rhythms of Love* to him to write a *Foreword*; the master craftsman quickly pointed out that readers would likely find a book of poem with a single theme boring. I promptly withdrew it.

I scheduled an interview with Okara in 2009. Fascinated by his energy and capacity to carry on with literary activities, I asked: "You are one of the oldest writers on the continent and you are still very strong and involved in the literary enterprise; what is the secret of your strength?" His response was as fascinating as it further revealed the spiritual side of the man. "I am an image of God. I have the attributes of God. Does God get old? Does God fall ill?"

His response compelled me to pry more into my host's religious life. "I am a member of First Church of Christ, Scientist." I didn't understand the relationship between Christianity and Science, "Pardon," I exclaimed, not sure of what I heard. Noticing that I was astounded by the name of the Church, he offered more explanation. "It is a Church for intellectuals," he added. Trust my curiosity. The next Sunday morning, I accompanied Okara to Church at Ramuho!

I was later to learn that the Church with headquarters in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, was founded by Mary Baker Eddy, who lived in the 19th Century. The Church service lasted exactly an hour. Pa Okara paid for and gave me a copy of *Science and Health with Key to Scriptures*, authored by the founder of the Church herself.

On this particular Sunday, the Organist was not available; Pa

Okara just walked to the organ and played. I realised that in spite of his age, the Octogenarian remained a devout worshipper of his Maker. His involvement in the Church went beyond Sunday rituals; he also participated in weekday activities and had done so for several decades.

When I got an unconditional offer to pursue postgraduate studies abroad in 2009, Okara made frantic efforts to take me to the literature-loving Governor of Rivers State, Chubuike Effotim Amaechi with a view to soliciting his sponsorship, an effort that was frustrated by the former Governor's overzealous aides.

"I was pleasantly surprised when I earned some money from the then Nigeria Broadcasting Corporation for my short story," he told me on one occasion, explaining that his writings were never motivated by expectation of monetary gains. In his magisterial opinion: "Those who write to make money are not likely to go far in their writing career."

In December 2011, the 7th Vice Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, Professor Joseph Ajienka, appointed Dr Okara and two other famous writers: Elchi Amadi and Ifeanyi Anioho as Writers-in-Residence. "In our days, we didn't get to meet any writer. We only saw them in their books as they were all foreign authors and most of them had died by the time I started writing. Your generation is very fortunate to have established writers like us to look up to," Okara told me in an interview. He was a bridge between past and younger generations of writer and was a great mentor to aspiring writers. He wrote blurbs and *Forewords* to books by emerging authors.

He wrote the *Foreword* to my second poetry collection, *Echoes of Neglect*, and was present at its public presentation. Pa Okara influenced my life positively and I am still learning from him because a true poet never rests. I am privileged to have personally encountered one of the authentic trailblazers of African Poetry who had a great influence on me. It was an awesomely rewarding experience! He said he would bid farewell to this master craftsman who cut across all ages of literary workers.

Late Dr Okara

Artsville, Humanities Celebrate Poet Laureate, Gabriel Okara

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

In recognition of his contributions as a Writer-in-Residence in the University of Port Harcourt, the Institute of Arts and Culture teamed up with the Faculty of Humanities to organise a Festival of Life in honour of the late Poet Laureate and Novelist, Dr Gabriel Okara, who was laid to rest in his country home, Bomoundi in Bayelsa State on Saturday, June 22, 2019.

In his prodigious keynote address entitled: *Playing Hierophant for Gabriel Okara* at the event which held at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Monday, June 17, 2019, Professor of English and Creative Writing from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Chimalum Nwankwo, said that the works of the late Poet Laureate reflected the major ingredients of universal humanism marked by temperance, tolerance, resilience, expansive love and perseverance.

"By and large, the whole range of Okara's work consistently covers a world always full of hope and of potential pleasure; everlasting happiness with the vein of possible failure and ubiquitous tragedy. Okara's works and life as reflected by much of his poetry is psycho-biographical to a point where we could describe him as one of those writers whose works walked their talks," Professor Nwankwo declared. He further added that the freshness of Okara's works from their so many tributaries constituted for the reader a junction or conjunction of very great minds from all around the world.

Representative of the Vice Chancellor and Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Regina Ogali, praised the Institute of Arts and Culture for honouring a great poet and novelist of global relevance. "The University of Port Harcourt immensely appreciated the



Dr VC (Admin), Prof Ogali (arrowed) flanked by son of late Okara, Dr Ebi, Emeritus Prof. Alagos (right), Mrs Ebi Okara, Prof Okoko (left), keynote speaker, Prof Nwankwo and others

role played by Dr Okara at the Institute as a Writer-in-Residence. Dr Okara's literary exploits spanned a long time and fed the imagination of older and younger readers, who were impressed by his style and simple lifestyle. We will support efforts aimed at immortalising this great poet and humanist who created and bequeathed an enduring literary corpus to us," Professor Ogali said.

Describing Dr Okara as a living legend of the Niger Delta who contributed immensely to the Institute, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor Femi Shaka, recalled that the Institute organised the first Gabriel Okara Literary Festival with a book edited by retired Professor Chidi Maduka in 2017. "Alongside two other Writers-in-Residence, late Elechi Amadi and Ifeanyi Anebo, Dr

Okara was always available to see anybody interested in literature and culture. These were great men who brought immense honour and pride to the University," he said.

Expressing the willingness of the Institute to sustain the festival and launch new programmes in honour of the late poet, Acting Director of the Institute, Dr Friday Swafar, called on public-spirited individuals and groups to support the Institute in its bid to immortalise Dr Okara who he described as one of the renowned Black African Modernist Writers in the English Language.

In his response, son of the late poet, Dr Ebi Okara, expressed gratitude to the University on behalf of the

family for honouring his late father, describing the late writer as a simple and humble man, who expressed hope and love for mankind.

Friends and associates of the late poet, including Emeritus Professor Ebiogberi Okoro, Professor Kinso Okoko and Seiyefa Koroye, took turns to eulogise late Dr Okara's literary exploits. The event also featured a reading of Gabriel Okara's iconic poem: *The Call of the River Nuan* by Nollywood star, Dr Sam Dede of the Department of Theatre and Film Studies, art exhibition and planting of a *Gabriel Okara Tree of Life*. The event was rounded off with an evening session of dramatic performances tagged: *Nine of Life* at the Crab Theatre, Delta Park.

Mgt, Union EXCOS Parley On IPPIS, Housing Scheme Coop Loan Scheme

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Management of the University met again with the Executives of the four Unions on Thursday, June 20, 2019, to iron out issues related to the impending deduction of dues from staff salaries in favour of the Federal Mortgage Bank. They also ventilated the issues of impending deductions for the National Housing Scheme and servicing of the contentious loan facility disbursed by the Cooperative Society.

Management had previously held exploratory meetings with the Unions on the knotty issues surrounding the deductions which are backed by an enabling legislation. The latest meeting which held at the NIM Lounge, Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium afforded the Vice Chancellor yet another opportunity to fine-tune the final details of the transaction with the Union Executives. "What is at stake here is not whether we would pay the approved percentage to the FMBN or not; this meeting is convened to work out final details before deductions can commence in line with extant legislation. There are

severe legal implications for agencies and institutions that may infringe on the payment schedule," Professor Lale told the Unions, some of which had expressed reluctance to tag along with the contributory housing scheme.

Announcing that the National Housing Fund Scheme was mandatory for all staff of the University, Professor Lale informed the Union Executives, comprising the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), National Association of Academic Technologists (NAAT) and Non-Academic Staff Union of Education and Associated Institutions (NASU), to direct their members to comply with the directive by filling out the necessary forms that would enable them to participate in the housing scheme.

On the Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPPIS), the Vice Chancellor informed the Union Executives that the Federal Government was working out modalities for a uniformed IPPIS that would ensure that academic staff who participate in extra teaching engagements in universities other than their original

places of employment are closely monitored and checkmated to halt the academic 'moonlighting' practice.

The Vice Chancellor also notified the Unions of Management's proposal to broaden the Internet bandwidth connectivity for the benefit of staff and students of the University. "I want to emphasise that the proposal to broaden the Internet bandwidth connectivity has been activated and final modalities are being worked out to ascertain the total number of staff and students that would benefit from the project. We are also working out the token subscription fee to be paid by users when the system is fully operational," Professor Lale said.

Corroborating the Vice Chancellor's brief on the proposal, Chairman of the Governing Council Committee on the Internet project and Director of the University of Port Harcourt Business School, Professor Okey Onuchukwu, read out a breakdown of the cost implication of installing and maintaining the facility in the University, including the end benefits to users.

The Vice Chancellor subsequently advised that the repayment schedule for the loan disbursed by the Cooperative Society would continue to be serviced with monthly deductions from beneficiaries of the loan facility. "I wish to state that it is wrong for staff affected by the deductions to pressure their Unions to confront Management on the matter, because the loan was obtained by individuals, not the Unions. A new harmonisation schedule is being considered by Management with a view to bringing all those who are found culpable in the loan scam to book," the Vice Chancellor told the gathering.



VC, Prof Lale (with mic) flanked by other Principal Officers addressing the Union leaders