

## UniPort Hosts Second SAFE Paediatric Training



**E**fforts aimed at promoting quality preoperative medicine, critical patient care and pain management, have received a major boost with a successful three-day intensive training of Paediatric Anaesthetists at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital, reports Mercy Adeniji.

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## Side Bar 161<sup>st</sup> Inaugural Lecture

Professor John Ikimalo of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology will deliver the 161<sup>st</sup> Inaugural Lecture entitled:

"Searching for the Fruit of the Womb: Science and Technology Bridging the Gap," on Thursday, July 25, 2019.

Time is 3:00pm

Details next Edition

## Chinese Confucius Teaching Point Berths In UniPort

By Mercy Adeniji

**P**reparatory to the commencement of lectures, the *Confucius Chinese Teaching Point* has been commissioned in the University of Port Harcourt. This welcome development would enable suitably qualified and interested candidates to apply for admission to study Chinese Mandarin. The Teaching Point was opened in Delta Park on Friday, June 28, 2019.

Speaking during the final inspection and commissioning of the new *Teaching Point*, Vice Chancellor of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Professor Charles Esimone, who was represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Carol Arinze-Umobi, expressed delight at the prompt transformation of the former administrative building in Delta Park customised to host the programme. The commissioning ceremony followed an earlier exploratory visit to the University by a combined team of Chinese personnel and officials of Nnamdi Azikiwe University which hosts

the main Confucius Chinese Language Institute in Nigeria.

"I am glad to formally inaugurate this building and rename it 'the origin,' being the first administrative building of the University of Port Harcourt. I am happy

you sent us back to the origin where the University commenced administrative activities. Early this year, when I came here on resource verification, I met it dilapidated and my impression of it was

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### VC Reassures NIAS On Facilities



### Mgt Suspends Efemini, Chinah



### NANS, UniPort Students, Honour Lale



### Music Dept Hosts Dor



# UniPort Mgt To Strengthen UMaT Partnership

By Letom Nnen

**T**he Management of University of Port Harcourt has assured staff and students of the University of Mines and Technology (UMaT), Tarkwa, Ghana, who are currently in the University on a two-week field trip aimed at acquiring hands-on skills on the operations of the oil and gas industry.

Speaking at a welcome cocktail organised for the visiting UMaT team at the Exchange and Linkage Programmes Unit on Monday, July 1, 2019, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, who stood in for the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, commended the students on their decision to partner UniPort on the hands-on skills programme. "I wish to urge you to make good use of the opportunity, while I congratulate the Management of UMaT for sustaining this important partnership for nine years running. Let me commend the Management of UMaT for entering the partnership with us, and to assure it that the Management of UniPort would continue to support this programme which is good for African cooperation, especially in the educational sector," he said.

In their separate responses, leader of the UMaT team, Dr Harrison Osei and Class Captain, Miss Efua Abakah-Paintsil, commended UniPort Management for the quality of activities lined up for the exchange students during their time in the University. "We have realised that anytime our students come back from this University, they perform very well, which has justified the choice of this University. Available reports indicate that our students do very well in their industrial attachment here. We hope that the latest batch would perform even better than their predecessors," Dr Osei added.



DVC (Acad), Prof Fawehinmi (5<sup>th</sup> left), flanked by Director, ELP, Prof Akakuru (left), Leader of UMaT team, Dr Osei, and others. Inset: A cross-section of the students

In their separate speeches, Dr Escosa Omorogunju, who represented the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Professor Franklin Chukwuma and Acting Head of the Department of Petroleum and Gas Engineering, Dr Chikwende Ubani, charged the students to take the programme very seriously, expressing readiness to give them the very best in their industrial attachment.

Welcoming the delegation to his Unit, ELP Director, Professor Ikeuncho Akakuru, praised the partnership, promising to sustain it as long as both institutions show continuous commitment to the programme. "It is my singular pleasure to welcome the UMaT contingent to University of Port Harcourt under the programme we have successfully run for nine years. This Centre is in charge of exchanges between our university and other institutions and I can assure you that we have the best crop of lecturers here and proper industry setting to give UMaT students a memorable industrial experience," he noted.

In his goodwill message to the students, a Professor of

Ethnomusicology from the University of Mississippi, USA, Professor George Dor, who is currently on a research fellowship in the Department of Music, advised them to seize the opportunity to advance their career for the benefit of their home country, Ghana and Africa at large. Professor Dor who is originally from Ghana, commended both institutions for forging the partnership which he hoped would advance regional cooperation.

The UMaT students ended their internship programme in the University last Friday and have since departed for Ghana.

## STOP PRESS SECOND SEMESTER RESUMPTION: 2018/2019 SESSION

**A**ll Full-Time Undergraduate Students are hereby notified that lectures for the Second Semester of the 2018/2019 academic session commenced on Monday, July 8, 2019.

A memo to this effect dated June 28, 2019 and signed by the Registrar, Mrs Dorcas Otto, reminded all Full-Time undergraduate students, who have paid their first instalment and registered for their First Semester courses, to pay their second instalment and register their courses for the Second Semester.

The students concerned are, thereafter, advised to submit their completed Online Course Registration Forms to their Heads of Department and the College Secretary/Faculty Officers, respectively. All affected students should note that the deadline for completion of this important exercise is Friday, July 26, 2019.

"Please note that registration as a student of the University of Port Harcourt will only be valid if the Online Course Registration Form is tendered by the student and accepted by the Head of Department," part of the memo stated, wishing all students a successful Second Semester.

The students are also advised to visit the University website @ ([www.uniport.edu.ng](http://www.uniport.edu.ng)) and the E-campus site @ ([www.ecampus.uniport.edu.ng](http://www.ecampus.uniport.edu.ng)) for full information on the payment of approved charges and other registration formalities.

## VC Reassures NIAS On Teaching Facilities

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

**V**ice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, has assured the accreditation team from the Nigerian Institute of Animal Science (NIAS) that the University Management would improve facilities at the Department of Animal Science in a bid to strengthen it for greater service delivery. Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Regina Ogali, who received the NIAS accreditation team on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, gave the assurance at an Exit Meeting on Tuesday, July 2, 2019. Professor Ogali commended the accreditation team for its meticulous observations on the running of the Department in the University. She assured the team members that the few deficiencies they pointed out would be promptly addressed within available resources in time for their next visit.

"As a Management, we would do our best to implement your observations, even though funding is a general challenge in such matters. Let me assure you that things would be different on your next visit to the Department of Animal Science. We have noted your well-intended observations and assure you that we welcome such criticism aimed at making us better," Professor Ogali

told the team.

In the report, Head of Accreditation and Curriculum, Mr Peter Alike, stressed the need for the University Management to exploit the comparative advantages that abound in the Department. "This will ensure commercialisation and cutting edge teaching techniques, as well as enhance the entrepreneurship skills of the students in line with the vision and mission of the University which is to turn out graduates who are self-reliant," he said. Mr Alike added that if properly positioned, the Department of Animal Science has unlimited capacity to rake funds and transform the University into a Centre of Excellence in animal science and production.

Earlier at a pre-accreditation meeting, former Vice Chancellor of the University of Iyo, Professor Akamenren Essien, who led the NIAS team, disclosed that the Institute was established as a regulatory agency for animal science practice with powers to regulate all matters pertaining to animal husbandry in Nigeria. "The Institute is committed to strengthening the animal science component of Agricultural Science programme. The purpose of our visit here is to look at your facilities and encourage the University to do better," Professor Essien told his host.



VC, Prof Lale, (arrowed), flanked by NIAS Accreditation team leader, Prof Essien (left), other members of the team, some Principal and Senior Officers of the University

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V.C. Prof. Lale (arrowed), flanked by Dr Thirsk (right), Dr V.C. (Admin), Prof. Ogal, Dr. Lant, Principal Officers and others

## Mgt To Efemini, Chinah You Are Suspended For Gross Misconduct

By Williams Wodi

Following renewed allegations of official sleaze and negligence of duty, Management has, once again, slammed another round of suspension on Professor Andrew Efemini of the Department of Philosophy and placed him on half pay. Also suspended on the same count charge is Mr. Philip Chinah of the Bursary Department.

Professor Efemini's third suspension followed the conclusion of investigation into weighty allegations of extortion of money from Part-Time students of the defunct Institute of Science Laboratory Technology (ISLT) and misappropriation of funds while he served as Acting Dean of Student Affairs Department in 2013.

A letter signed by the Registrar, Mrs Dorcas Otto, which conveyed Professor Efemini's latest suspension, slammed a three-count charge on him; to wit: "exhibiting negligence of duty by failing to ensure that Part-Time students of the former Institute of Science Laboratory Technology, who did not pay for the regularisation still obtained their NYSC letters." There was also an allegation of misappropriation of ₦50,125,000.00 which Professor Efemini allegedly failed and/or refused to provide satisfactory and adequate explanations on how the balance of the money

paid for regularisation was spent. Professor Efemini was furthermore charged with wilful mis-application of funds raised from the regularisation of ISLT students, which he claimed to have channelled into financing the Students' Union Week. The Registrar also observed that Professor Efemini's expenditure curiously preceded approval and payment for regularisation by the affected students.

Consequently, Professor Efemini was summarily suspended from duty in accordance with Section 16, sub-section 2 of the University of Port Harcourt Act, CAP U13, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2014. The Registrar's letter further notified him that the status quo would remain, pending when the Governing Council would order further investigation into allegations that constituted gross misconduct.

Similarly, Mr Chinah was accused of unprofessional conduct in the discharge of his duty by making unauthorised withdrawals from the Student Affairs Account without necessary documentation and approvals. He was also charged with deliberately misleading the panel that investigated the alleged extortion of money from the former ISLT students on crucial facts concerning the management of the money paid by them to facilitate the contentious regularisation. He was also suspended under the relevant sections of the University of Port Harcourt Act, providing when Council would take appropriate decision on his case. Both suspensions came into effect on July 1, 2019.

It would be recalled that rather than answer the earth-shaking allegations, proffered against him, Professor Efemini filed a three-page petition to the Chairman of Council, Professor Mwendiga Jibo, in which he demanded the "immediate removal of Professor N. E. S. Lale as Vice Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt," for apparently calling him to account for the official sleaze.

## UniPort Hosts Second SAFE Paediatric Training

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Two Scottish Anaesthetists, Dr Lara Latif and Dr Joana Thirsk facilitated the three-day collaborative training exercise. It would be recalled that Dr Thirsk participated in the Obstetric Anaesthetic course last year.

The programme was facilitated by Safer Anaesthetics From Education (SAFE) in conjunction with the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA) and the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland (AAGBI).

Receiving a delegation comprising Local Organising Committee and United Kingdom-based experts on Monday, June 24, 2019, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, commended the programme facilitators for bringing it to the University of Port Harcourt. "Anaesthesia is very critical to effective healthcare, because we are aware that it is the first procedure before surgery can be successfully performed. I recall that you were here last year for SAFE Obstetric Anaesthesia Course; we are happy that you are back again this year to train early career health personnel on Paediatric Anaesthesia. We are very grateful for the sacrifices you are making to improve their skills on this highly specialised discipline," the Vice Chancellor told the two member training team. He commended the immediate past Provost, Professor Christie Mato, her successor, Professor Iyechi Siminlayi and immediate past President of the Nigerian Society of Anaesthetists, Dr Bisola Onajin-Ogbempe, for creating an

enabling environment for the training exercise.

In her contribution, Professor Mato expressed gratitude to Management for supporting the SAFE initiative in the University. "We did very well last year, which gave us the confidence to apply for the programme again this year. We are particularly proud to be the first to host this three-day modular course designed to update our junior colleagues in this operational environment. This course is specifically for low income countries and it is geared towards improving Paediatric Anaesthesia in children," Professor Mato said.

In a sideline interview with our Correspondent, Coordinator of the SAFE programme, Dr Rosemary Ogu, disclosed that the aim of the course was to train both physicians and non-physicians, including those who administer Anaesthesia in hospitals. "It is hoped that the training would improve the safety of Anaesthesia in children which requires expertise. Our hope is that this training would improve the skills, education and quality care geared towards better health outcomes for children in this part of the country," Dr Ogu said.

Eighteen surgeons were trained, while a "breakout group discussion" was also facilitated by the visiting experts. Topics presented included: *Introduction to SAFE Paediatric Course: The Child is not a Small Adult; Safety in Paediatric Anaesthesia; Recognition and Assessment of the Sick Child; Trauma in Children; Demonstration Scenario and Neonates.*



Efemini Chinah

## Rumkokuwa Girls, UDSS, Enitona High School Athletes Dominate UniPort Sports Challenge

By Otokor Samuel

Building athletes from Government Girls' Secondary School, Rumkokuwa emerged tops at the maiden edition of *UniPort Challenge and Relays* sporting fiesta. The fiesta featured 14 secondary schools in Rivers State. Rumkokuwa Girls won the 4x100m and 4x400m relay events, while the University Demonstration Secondary School took the 4x4m. Enitona High School, Borikiri carried away the 4x1m relay race event in the boys' category.

The winners were given prizes and trophies at the closing ceremony of the three-day event, which kicked off on Monday, June 24, 2019 at the main bowl of the University Stadium.

Speaking with a *UniPort News Sports* Correspondent on the aim of the fiesta, Director of the Sports Institute, Professor Ken Anugweje, disclosed that *UniPort Challenge and Relays* was part of his core mandate of identifying and grooming sporting talents in the West African Sub-region.

"*UniPort Challenge and Relays* is in keeping with our mandate of scouting for talented youths through our special talent identification programme. The programme is usually two-pronged—to target UniPort students who are yet to identify with sporting activities in the University, while the relay is a talent hunt for pupils. The challenge is designed to test each participant on the bio-motor activities that determine sporting talents in the various activities. Prospective athletes are tested on strength, speed,

endurance, agility and flexibility," Professor Anugweje said. He added that male athletes were assessed in over eight events, while their female counterparts participated in seven events.

"We were able to identify many potential athletes that we hope to channel to various sporting activities, especially in athletics, swimming, judo and tennis. For the relays, we identified many athletes from invited secondary schools across Rivers State who would be offered placements in our *Olympiafrica* programmes. We also hope to develop these athletes and encourage them to choose UniPort after their secondary school education," the Director told our Correspondent.

He revealed that University of Port Harcourt Business School (UPBS) was title sponsor of the programme with support from

*Olympiafrica* UniPort Centre and the African Athletics Development Centre (formerly High Performance Centre).

Also speaking, Director of *Olympiafrica* UniPort Centre, Dr Chieks Agi, showered praises on all stakeholders on the successful hosting of the programme. He specifically expressed gratitude to the Director of UPBS, Professor Okechuka Onuchaka, who promised to make the talent hunt exercise an annual event.

The Director of Sports, Rivers State Sports Council, Mrs Mildred Hart and other sports enthusiasts also graced the



Some of the athletes displaying their certificates of participation

# Students' Union EXCO Seeks IPPR Partnership



Deputy Registrar (Info), Wodi (middle) flanked by Students' Union President, Sorbari (left), VP, Odoh (right) and other EXCO members

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

**T**he Student Union Executive has commended the Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit for projecting a positive image of the University through effective information dissemination

and good public relations practice. President of the Union, Lavedge Sorbari and Vice President, Grace Odoh, who led other members of the Executive on an unscheduled visit to the office of the Deputy Registrar and Head of the Unit, Williams Wodi, on Tuesday, June 2, 2019, expressed readiness to work

with the Unit to move the University to greater heights. "We are committed to ensuring that the University is peaceful and conducive for quality learning in the remaining part of our tenure. We are tired of self-appointed agitators who claim to speak on behalf of students, only to use us to achieve their selfish desires. We want to engage in positive agitation for the welfare of students and we are here to solicit for your support in the form of interceding on our behalf in Management circles. There are many things that we want Management to address, but we have resolved not to allow trouble makers to incite us into destroying our University," Sorbari said. Receiving the Union leaders in his office, the Head of Unit praised them for identifying with the Unit, expressing satisfaction at their maturity and constructive engagement with Management to find solutions to the problems that undermine their studies. Promising to be a tireless advocate of their legitimate causes, the Public Relations Officer described the current Executive as a rare breed of student leaders, who have contributed significantly to the peace enjoyed on campus. "I want to thank you for proposing a partnership with the IPPR Unit. My door is always open to you and I am available to present your genuine request to the highest authorities for redress. Luckily, we have a listening Vice Chancellor who has the interest of students at heart. Despite the machinations of a few detractors who are hell-bent on taking the University backwards, Professor Lale is entirely focused on his mandate and the recent award to him by UniPort students and NANS is a confirmation that the Vice Chancellor has done well so far. I can assure you that he is prepared to work right to the end of his tenure. I want to assure you that the Vice Chancellor and the University Management recognise your efforts in helping to stabilise the University," Wodi told his guests.

# UniPort, GSSHealth To Explore More Partnerships

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

**T**he University of Port Harcourt under the auspices of the Centre for Malaria Research and Phytomedicine (CMRAP) and United States-based Global Scientific Solutions for Health (GSSHealth), have agreed to explore more mutually beneficial activity to both institutions aimed at promoting healthcare and wellbeing.

Briefing the Vice Chancellor at a courtesy visit on him by a GSSHealth delegation on Monday, July 1, 2019, Director of CMRAP, Professor Orikomaba Obunge, disclosed that he reached out to the organisation for assistance in assembling facilities that would ease sample collection and analysis in the University. He added that the team was in the University to install and demonstrate the equipment, as well as offer training to relevant personnel that would operate the facility at the Centre.

Founder and Chief Executive Officer of GSSHealth, Dr Paula Fernandes, who was accompanied by Jordan Schermerhorn, noted that her group translates health policy into practice by enhancing public health programmes. "We do this through planning, training, mentoring and evaluation of the processes. We are here to train your

personnel on a new technique for mass sequencing of mosquito DNA as part of ongoing research against malaria. Because of its multiple uses, this instrument can also be used for effective disease surveillance as well. We are interested in the University of Port Harcourt because of the diverse range of scientific disciplines and expertise available here and it is one of the best universities in Nigeria. In addition, we are seeking further research collaborations in other areas," Dr Fernandes said.

Receiving the visitors, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, commended Professor Obunge who was a former Deputy Provost of the College of Health Sciences for initiating the collaboration. "Despite the serious threat posed by other ailments, it is on record that malaria still claims more lives and we are in dire need of critical research efforts to tackle this scourge that kills mostly children and pregnant mothers in this part of the world. We are thrilled by the installation of a technology that would enable our research team to improve field survey. Let me, on behalf of Management, express our collective gratitude to GSSHealth for finding our University suitable for this important collaborative research," Professor Lale said, pledging the support of Management to the successful implementation of the project.

# Pol Science Dept Will Rule Social Sciences Again, Boasts Nte

By Mercy Adeniji

**N**ewly-appointed Acting Head of the Department of Political and Administrative Studies in the Faculty of Social Sciences, Dr Timothy Nte, has expressed gratitude to the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, for appointing him to the position. He also praised the leadership and elders of the Department for finding him worthy to run the affairs of the Department at this time in its evolution.

"For me, this challenging appointment is a call to duty and I intend to approach my mandate with a sense of purpose through sacrificial leadership. My duty is to leave the Department far better than what I inherited. I shall rely on the cooperation of my colleagues and people of goodwill to make a success of this mandate. I wish to solicit the support of everybody in our collective quest to, once more, position our beloved Department as King of the Social Sciences and flagship of the Faculty of Social Sciences. That was our enviable position in the past. My immediate priority is the forthcoming accreditation exercise by the National Universities Commission. Our success in the resource verification and accreditation will set the tone for better days ahead for the Department. I wish to pledge total dedication to duty and fairness to all stakeholders in the affairs of the Department," Dr Nte promised.

Speaking on his tenure before handing over to his successor at the Departmental library on Tuesday, June 25, 2019, immediate past Acting Head of Department, Dr Okechukwu Amadi, expressed gratitude to God for giving him the grace to wade through the stormy moments and

commended his colleagues, staff and students for their support. Dr Amadi disclosed that he provided intellectual and administrative leadership to those who joined forces with him to bring the Department to its present level of development. "I did my best as Acting Head of Department, but the modest success recorded under my tenure would not have been possible if we had not worked as a team. We worked hard to sustain the vision, objectives and philosophy of the Department with a high sense of integrity, honesty,



Dr Amadi (right) handing over to Dr Nte

humility, courage, openness and transparency. In the face of daunting challenges, we showed a clear understanding and demonstrated a high sense of maturity in surmounting them," Dr Amadi told our Correspondent. He disclosed that during the period under review, the Department graduated a considerable number of students at various levels and motivated staff in various ways to give of their best. "We need to recruit more staff, especially Graduate Assistants, Assistant Lecturers and Lecturers II for both programmes offered in the Department. I wish my successor well and pledge to support him to take our Department to greater heights," the erstwhile Acting Head of Department said.



VC, Prof Lale (seated 3<sup>rd</sup> right) flanked by Dr Fernandes (left), Schermerhorn (right) and others

# NANS, UniPort Students, Confer Nkrumah Leadership Award On Lale, Pledge More Support For Administration



VC, Prof Lale (arrowed), flanked by Principal, Senior Officers and the student leaders

By Letom Nnen

**I**t was a carnival atmosphere when the leaderships of the National Association of Nigerian Students (Zone 'B') joined forces with the University of Port Harcourt Students' Union to honour the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale for what they described as his monumental developmental strides and capacity to stabilise the University in the face of strident opposition from vested interest groups.

In a joint statement they issued shortly before conferring the prestigious *Kwame Nkrumah Exemplary Leadership Award* on him, the two leaderships commended the Vice Chancellor for running a student-friendly administration that has consolidated the fragile peaceful atmosphere, leading to accelerated infrastructural and academic development of the University in the last four years.

Coordinator of NANS Zone 'B', Mr Godson Okereke, who spoke on behalf of the two bodies, gave the commendation during a courtesy visit on the Vice Chancellor, preparatory to their congress which held in the University. The well-attended ceremony held in the Vice Chancellor's Committee Room on Friday, June 28, 2019.

"Your administration has shown full commitment to the welfare of Nigerian students in the University of Port

Harcourt; and you have also extended such support to NANS Zone 'B' through regular consultations with the Deputy Coordinator of the Zone, who is a student of this University. We will continue to support you till the last minute of your administration and we have resolved not to be swayed by the antics of hypocrites who do not mean well for students and the University," he said. The students thereafter conferred the prestigious *Kwame Nkrumah Exemplary Leadership Award* on the Vice Chancellor.

Speaking earlier, Acting Dean of the Student Affairs Department, Dr Otun Ekenyong, told the Vice Chancellor that the students were in the University to hold their zonal annual convention in our University. "Usually, the students pay a courtesy visit on the Vice Chancellor of the host University as part of their pre-convention activities. This visit is an opportunity for them to inform Management of their planned convention, as well as commend you for all the support you have given to them and for what you have done for their counterparts here," the Acting Dean remarked.

Also speaking, President of the University of Port Harcourt Students' Union, Loveday Sorbari, commended Professor Lale for approving the convention in the University. He showered praises on the Vice Chancellor for his developmental strides, pledging the Union's support for the administration to complete its

tenure on a high note. "We are happy with the direction of your administration and we hope that you would continue to have the interest of students at heart. The University has done very well under your tenure and we promise to cooperate with you in the actualisation of your laudable vision," the President said.

In his response, a visibly delighted Vice Chancellor expressed gratitude to NANS Zone 'B' and the Executive of the Students' Union for adjudging him worthy to be conferred with the *Kwame Nkrumah Exemplary Leadership Award*. He commended the student leaders for conducting themselves in a mature manner, reassuring them that the Management of the University would continue to work tirelessly for their welfare.

"When there is cooperation between Management and student leaders, the resultant effect is lasting peace, which would enable students to study under the best condition and graduate in due time. It is, therefore, important that all of you should avoid actions that are capable of fracturing peace on campus. It is not written anywhere that it is only when students block roads, destroy school property and abuse the Vice Chancellor that they are seen to be effective leaders. We can achieve a lot through consultation and refined engagement," he told the student leaders, shortly after receiving the award.

## Rexzodoneh Group To Partner UniPort On Mega Specialty Hospital, Hostel

By Mercy Adeniji

**M**ore cheering news came the way of the University on Wednesday, July 3, 2019 when a consortium under the auspices of Rexzodoneh Group made known its intention to partner the University in the building of a mega specialty hospital on campus. The group also has plans to build a globally certified water factory and six-thousand capacity students' hostel facility. Put together, the three projects are estimated at a whopping \$60 million.

Speaking on the essence of the visit at the Vice Chancellor's Committee Room, leader of the delegation, Chinedu Ogbuibe, commended Management on the clean and green environment of the University and positive response to the proposals. "Rexzodoneh Group came to interface with Management of this University on our desire to develop world-class infrastructure on this campus. We are interested in the building of a mega specialty hospital that would be a reference point in top quality healthcare delivery in this part of the country. We also want to construct a standard students' hostel and establish a water factory, in addition to other areas of priority to the University. The hospital alone would cost \$40 million, with the

remaining cost spread between the water factory and student's hostel" Mr. Ogbuibe told the Vice Chancellor.

In his contribution, another member of the consortium, Mr Olusegun Femi, described Rexzodoneh Group as a global investment company with interest in general infrastructural development. "The idea of coming to the University is because the environment is the ideal and fastest place to reach out to people with taste. We want to partner the University as our own way of generating funds for both parties in the long run on a Build, Operate and Transfer basis," he disclosed.

Receiving the team, the Vice Chancellor, Professor

Ndowa Lale, commended the investors for their interest and proposal to partner the University on the mega projects. "These are big projects that are very relevant to the University. We need to have some representation of these proposed projects on a slide presentation. We need to see all the details of the students' hostel in terms of what the structure would look like; the capacity of the hospital and water factory," Professor Lale said. He advised the team to find time to make a proper presentation on the proposed project.

Also speaking, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Regina Ogbel, expressed gratitude to the Group for choosing UniPort for the mega projects, hoping that the proposal would see the light of day in the shortest possible time line.

Other members of the Rexzodoneh Group included Turkish businessman, Muhammed Dizbay, Joseph Ataba, Tuchi Ejimala, Bob James, Engineer Ephraim Olaka and Godspower Lucky.



VC, Prof Lale (seated centre) flanked by Ogbuibe (left), Principal and Senior Officers

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## UniPort Gets Confucius Teaching Point

very poor. I have inspected similar facilities elsewhere, but I have never met any as prepared as the University of Port Harcourt. The Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, is very committed to the success of this programme and you can see it in his action, not in talking. I am so impressed by what I have seen here. You are hereby authorised to commence advertisement for students with immediate effect. We will send all the teaching materials and resource persons as final confirmation of your approval to take-off," the UniZik Vice Chancellor's representative said.

In his response, a highly-elated Vice Chancellor commended the UniZik delegation for the partnership, promising that the University would exercise its part of the collaboration. "My success is essentially predicated on a dedicated team that shares my vision. We have decided to always do things big and do them well. Today is historic and we thank you for permitting us to hit the ground running. We are hoping that about 7,000 students would enrol in the Chinese Mandarin programme in this Teaching Point. Let me assure you that we would keep this centre functional and make it attractive to prospective students. With so many Asian companies in Port Harcourt and the Niger Delta, we expect a very viable centre here," Professor Lale said.



VC, Prof Lale (5' left), flanked by DVC (Admin), Prof Regina Ozali (left), Coordinator, Confucius Teaching Point, Prof Chukuegu (arrowed), managing partners and other Principal Officers

The refurbished facility has a board room, director's and coordinator's office, interaction room, language laboratory, dining and kitchen facilities, restroom, 15 offices, library and over 10 classrooms.

The team had earlier paid a courtesy visit on Management of the University at the Senate building at

which Principal Officers of the University were in attendance. Other members of the UniZik delegation included Associate Professor Zhang Ai Wu, Huang Changbin, Zhang Yudong, Dr Anas Elchokwu, Mrs Rosemary Ifeakor, Ugochukwu Emmanuel, Franklin Oshwubko and Onyemachi Odinye.

## Music Dept Hosts Dor, Carnegie African Diaspora Fellow

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The Department of Music in the Faculty of Humanities is currently playing host to a Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Recipient and Professor of Ethnomusicology at University of Mississippi, USA, George Dor. The project which is already in its second month would last 90 days. Professor Dor is undertaking field research in Ethnomusicology, developing curriculum and mentoring younger academics in the Department.

Professor Dor who is also a Composer and Director of the Ole Miss African Drum and Dance Ensemble at the University of Mississippi, was accompanied on a courtesy visit to the Vice Chancellor by Acting Head of the Department of Music, Dr AdeOlunwa Okunade and another lecturer, Dr Marie Agatha Ozah. "My evaluation of the Department of Music in the University of Port Harcourt is quite impressive and I commend my colleagues there for what they are doing within the operational difficulties they face on daily basis. I have interacted with the graduate

students and I can tell you that standards are pretty high. What I will take away as my contribution to the Department would be in three components: Firstly, the mentorship of younger academics; secondly, to build on a research that Dr Ozah and I are collaborating on and also help the Graduate Studies Committee to review the course outline," he said.

"I have a passion for music because I was born into a family of accomplished musicians. I am a composer, local band director of a vibrant traditional musical group and I come from a border region of Ghana that is rich in traditional music. I am very interested in training young people in traditional music and we are on the right path to intensifying our cultural perspectives," Professor Dor said. Welcoming the Visiting Scholar, the Vice Chancellor praised him for accepting to come to this part of Nigeria, despite the largely false perception of the Niger Delta as a violence-prone region. "We live here and make our own contributions to national development from this location. I wish to thank you for making the sacrifice of coming here to partner your colleagues on indigenous African music that is seriously threatened by foreign influence. We hope that your visit here would facilitate a lasting partnership between our University and Mississippi," Professor Lale told his guest.

Professor Dor later paid a visit to the Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit, during which he interacted with the Deputy Registrar and Head of Unit, Williams Wodi. The Head of Unit gave a brief background account on the evolution of the University. He told the Visiting Scholar that the institution has established its reputation in certain core areas, including some specialised Centres and Institute.

"Our selling point is in the diversity of science-based programmes. Our Departments of Biochemistry and Petroleum Engineering have made giant strides in applied research and patents," he said, adding that the University boasts of a strong alumni base that has contributed to the infrastructural development.



L-R: Acting HoD (Music), Dr Okunade, Dr Ozah, VC, Prof Lale and Prof Dor

## National President Praises UniPort Support For NAHE

By Mercy Adeniji

A part of events that marked the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference of the Nigerian Association of Health Educators (NAHE), which kicked-off on Wednesday, July 3, 2019, National President of the Association, Professor Shehu Adamajuma of the University of Ilorin, led some members of his Executive on a courtesy visit on the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale. He commended Management of the University of Port Harcourt for supporting the activities of the Association.

Professor Adamajuma expressed happiness at the warm reception accorded his conference participants since they arrived in the University. He also commended the Vice Chancellor for the predominant position of female Principal Officers in his administration. "We thank Management of this University, especially the Vice Chancellor for what you have done for us since our arrival here. We appreciate you for providing us with logistic support and accommodation for our Executive," the National President said. He recalled that

the conference which was earlier scheduled for mid-June, 2019, had to be put forward for logistic reasons.

Responding, the Vice Chancellor expressed gratitude to the NAHE Executive for choosing the University for its Annual Conference. He pledged continued support of the

Management for professional associations wishing to hold their academic activities in the University.

Other members of the delegation included Professor Johnson Okpako, Acting Head of Department, Dr Golda Ekenedro, Dr Steven Ama, Dr Christian Elenudu and Dr Francis Swagbo.



VC, Prof Lale (seated centre), flanked by NAHE President, Prof Adamajuma (left), Principal Officers, other EXCO and LOC members

## GUIDE POST

## APPOINTMENT

**Dr Timothy Nte**, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of Department*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect will terminate on June 16, 2021.

**Dr Omotise Maduka**, Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of Department*. The two-year appointment which took effect from July 8, 2019, will terminate on July 7, 2021.

**Dr Kalu Wosu**, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Faculty of Humanities, appointed *Acting Head of Department*. The two-year appointment which took effect from June 17, 2019, will terminate on June 16, 2021.

## PROMOTION

**Dr Okiemute Johnson-Ajinwo**, Department of Pharmaceutical and Medical Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2018.

## CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT

**Dr Gift Chukwu-Okeah**, Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Faculty of Sciences, granted *Confirmation of Appointment*, effective January 4, 2018 to retirement age.

**Mr Adewole Adekola**, Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted *Confirmation of Appointment*, effective January 23, 2016 to retirement age.

## REGULARISATION OF APPOINTMENT

**Dr Michael Agwa**, Department of Preventive Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, College of Health Sciences, granted *Regularisation of Appointment as Lecturer 1*, effective January 25, 2017.

**Dr Arthur Nwashedi**, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Faculty of Dentistry, College of Health Sciences, granted *Regularisation of Appointment as Lecturer 1*, effective September 18, 2017.

**Dr Grace Alade**, Department of Preventive Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, College of Health Sciences, granted *Regularisation of Appointment as Lecturer 1*, effective January 7, 2015.

**Mr Udondoh Ikpaiong**, Department of Petroleum and Gas Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, granted *Regularisation of Appointment as Graduate Assistant*, effective March 10, 2014.

## SABBATICAL LEAVE

**Dr Jeremiah Ezeora**, Department of Mathematics/Statistics, Faculty of Science, granted a one-year *Sabbatical Leave* at the Federal University Otuoke, Bayelsa State, effective April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020.

**Mr Mainasara Gwomut**, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Sciences, granted a one-year *Sabbatical Leave* at the PAMO University of Medical Sciences, Rivers State, effective March 4, 2019 to March 3, 2020.

## STATUTORY RETIREMENT

**Mr Samuel Amadi**, Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, College of Health Sciences, proceeds on a three-month *Pre-Retirement Leave*, effective July 10, 2019, preparatory to his *Statutory Retirement* from service on October 10, 2019.

**Mr Uchenna Chukwulobe**, Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Science, proceeds on a three-month *Pre-Retirement Leave*, effective September 9, 2019, preparatory to his *Statutory Retirement* from service on December 9, 2019.

## KenPoly Sec School Wins CCGS, NACGOND Environmental Competition



UPWA Vice President, Mrs Fawehinmi, (centre, behind), flanked by Acting CCGS Director, Dr Allen (extreme left), NACGOND rep, Dr Ublebe, the winners displaying their trophies and others

By Letom Nnen

**K**en Saro Wiwa Polytechnic Comprehensive Secondary School, Bori, has emerged overall winners of a quiz competition organised by the National Coalition on Gas Flaring and Oil Spill in the Niger Delta (NACGOND). The programme was mounted in collaboration with the Centre for Conflict and Gender Studies (CCGS), University of Port Harcourt.

The gallant Kenpoly students beat 23 other secondary schools to carry away the top prize on offer. In the essay category on *The Role of Citizens in the Management of Environmental Problems*, organised for Environmental Clubs of selected senior secondary schools in Rivers and Delta States, Miss Tamunobulehara Gladin of Kings College, Okochiri in Okrika Local Government Area, clinched first position.

Speaking shortly before handing over the prizes to the winners at the end of the competition which held at the CCGS Auditorium on Monday, June 24, 2019, Vice President of the University of Port Harcourt Women Association, Mrs Hadeze Fawehinmi, who represented the President, Mrs Joy Lale, commended the students on their interest in the programme.

"Let me, on behalf of the UPWA President; commend the organisers for exposing the participants to the rising environmental degradation in Nigeria today. We are happy that you are taking the message to young people in secondary school, I wish to charge the students to become champions of a clean and green environment. Events like this one would inculcate the spirit of healthy competition and fairness into the participants and enhance their self-esteem," Mrs

Fawehinmi said.

Commending the Centre for collaborating with NACGOND, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Prince Mmon, advised the students to take the competition seriously by reflecting its message in their daily activities. "The essence of this competition is not just for you to have fun, but to build your capacity for critical thinking and interaction with others. So, take it as a very serious business that would enable you showcase your skills, even as we hope to see you in UniPort or other universities of your choice when you complete your secondary education," Professor Mmon said.

Earlier in his welcome remarks, Acting Director of the Centre, Dr Fidelis Ublebe, emphasised the importance of the competition. "We organised it to create environmental awareness among young people. This competition is another opportunity for the students to understand the interplay between humans and the environment. We want young people to become better equipped to save the environment," he said.

In his address, Dr Benjamin Ublebe, who stood in for the National Coordinator of NACGOND, Dr Edward Obi, stated that the competition was organised to stimulate environmental stewardship amongst the students. He added that the idea was to match theory with practice for the benefit of the students.

Other winners included Aragba Secondary School, Aragba-Orogun in Delta State, Kings' College, Okrika, which took second and third places in the quiz category. Miss Milibeke Favour of Bodo Government Girls' Secondary School took second place in the essay writing category.

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3. 479,023sq. meters of virgin table land located at Chokocho in Etche L.G.A, River State.

Interested buyers should contact the following numbers: 08034442700, 08038871945, 08060387449, 08166441888. Prospective buyers can also personally call at the main office of U&C Microfinance Bank Ltd at the Shopping Complex, Choba Park, University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

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MANAGEMENT



## Vice Chancellor Clocks Four Years In Office

Professor Ndowa E. S. Lale clocked four years in office last Saturday without staging the wasteful pomp and ceremony that have come to characterise public office in Nigeria. Professor Lale rather travelled to his country home in Eleme to bury his brother-in-law, Professor Emmanuel Amadi, brutally murdered by hoodlums who attacked his residence at Ramololument. Correspondent, OTIKOR SAMUEL and EDITOR, WILLIAMS WODI, beamed the searchlight on the Vice Chancellor's performance in the last four years and scored him high on every measure of merit.

English poet and philosopher, Elizabeth Browning, once declared that a great man, leaves clean works behind, and requires no sweepers up of the chips. Our candid submission is that since he became Vice Chancellor on July 13, 2015, Professor Ndowa Lale has evidently nudged the University in the right direction to general aplomb; and this is in spite of the vaguely disguised part of opposition by a few rebels without a course and preachers with neither pulpits nor progressive energy determined to fling mud at Professor Lale's glittering record of service. Still, the expression of admiration is visible on the faces of many more stakeholders than the few fringe elements, hell-bent on discrediting a distinguished *Rosier Card* that stands out on every measure of merit, even in darkness.

Professor Lale clocked four years in office last Saturday without backslapping and glass clinking that usually heralds such watershed moments on the annual calendar of public office holders. The Vice Chancellor has stoutly refused to succumb to those who appeal to his vanity to mount elaborate anniversary celebrations to mark each of his last four years in office. As we begin the final countdown of the Lale administration, it is auspicious to beam the searchlight on his modest accomplishments on the hot seat.

Professor Lale has deepened the academic culture by insisting that lectures must commence on the first day of resumption. Students now assess their lecturers to determine their productivity. The Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit of the Vice Chancellor's office has diligently policed erring staff to deliver on their core mandate. Professor Lale also set up the Staff Certificate Verification Committee to ascertain that all staff possess the requisite academic qualifications to earn their places. The Committee is already in the middle of its onerous assignment to extend certificate verification to staff as they do to students.

The infrastructural drive of the present administration has received more impetus with new structures that have created a conducive learning environment for staff and students. Some of the signature projects completed and commissioned in the last one year included the TETFund-sponsored mega circular building, popularly known as 7-in-1, office complexes, museum, lecture hall for the Department of Fine Arts and Design, Department of Anatomy building and Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences. Other projects completed in the past one year are the new UniPort Executive Guest House at Ghana-Ama, and the fully refurbished Guest House at the University of Port Harcourt Liaison Office in Maryland, Lagos.

As part of its welfare package for students, Management is constructing another signature project in the form of a *Walk-way* in concert with the Students' Union. This is a novel idea in the Nigerian university system. Sandwich Students' Hostel at Choba Park is nearing completion to bring partial closure to the perennial accommodation problem faced by this category of



VC, Prof Lale

students. The roads at New Ghana-Ama and Gambia-Ama have recently been resurfaced by the Niger Delta Development Commission to ease vehicular movement in that axis of the residential areas of the University Park. Contractors would soon mobilise to site to commence construction work on brand new 27,000-seat capacity Convocation Arena donated by the Rivers State Government. The 3-D design which could be collapsed into classrooms has other uses; complete with offices, conference rooms for members of the Governing Council, including a coffee shop, amongst other facilities.

Other projects completed under Lale's watch included the Faculty of Social Sciences Annex, Counselling Centre, Central Bank of Nigeria Centre of Excellence and a one-storey classroom building at the University Demonstration Primary School with a *Tack Shop*.

The Senate building, Ekitimi Ranigbo Auditorium and Faculty of Agriculture now wear new looks following their repainting by the Lale-led administration. The Faculty of Law Library donated by the family of the late Eze Clifford Nwuche has attained about 30 per

cent completion rate. The administration had previously renovated student's hostel and built 32 housing staff residential house, including public toilets in advancement of its sanitation drive.

Under Professor Lale's watch, the local branch of the Academic Staff Union of Universities completed and commissioned its expansive secretariat building at Delta Park, while the University of Port Harcourt Women Association School added new structures and equipped its Computer Laboratory. On staff welfare and promotion, the administration of Professor Lale in the past year elevated 12 academics to the rank of Professor, 11 got promoted to readership position, 46 Senior Lecturers, 22 Lecturers II position, 41 Lecturers I and 3 Assistant Lecturers. A total of 236 administrative staff in the category of Senior Professional, Administrative and Technical Staff (SPATS) and 100 junior staff also received their promotion letters with effect from October 1, 2018.

In sports, the Lale administration successfully hosted and won the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the West African University Games (WAUG) last October. The University's world-class sporting complex recently played host to the maiden edition of UniPort Challenge and Relays which is a talent identification programme for the training of budding athletes.

On the volatile security situation, Professor Lale has masterfully managed it to the extent that while neighbouring host communities have almost succumbed to the unbridled reign of freely rampaging hoodlums, the campus has been fairly insulated against such tendencies—thanks to the deployment of the dutiful Inspector-General Monitoring Group to Omokiri community in Aluu.

On the whole, the collective enthusiasm that greeted Professor Lale's *Inaugural Address* on July 13, 2015 when he took office as 8<sup>th</sup> Vice Chancellor was predicated on the intense clarity of his vision, mission and courage to do the right thing. The furious rage, slanderous and libellous rants by fringe elements that seek to impeach his reputation and accomplishment merely expose their seductive illusions in the public space. The Vice Chancellor's open door policy, fairness and firmness need no further interpretation. All said, Professor Ndowa E. S. Lale has a superior destiny than those out to bring him down from the peak of his performance. There is a general chorus of agreement that it has been four years of breathtaking high impact performance in the line of duty!



Mega circular building



Executive Guest House



New Faculty of Pharmacy Annex (by English House)



Ongoing Walk-way project