

Aiyelaja Tasks Trado-medics, Doctors, Pharmacists On Collaborative Research

As a way of tackling the challenges associated with the standardisation of herbal medicine in Nigeria, trado-medical practitioners, orthodox doctors and pharmacist have been called upon to partner each other to develop an effective healthcare system that would work for every citizen, reports *Mercy Adeniji*.

More on p3



Side Bar 164th INAUGURAL LECTURE

Professor Baribor Vikoo of the Department of Curriculum Studies and Educational Technology, Faculty of Education, delivers the 164th Inaugural Lecture entitled: "Massification of Education in Nigeria: Reducing the Distance through Open and Distance Learning" on Thursday, October 17, 2019.

Details next Edition
Editor

163rd Inaugural

Wegwu Advocates Centre To Monitor Nutrition, Lifestyle, Disease Control

By Humphrey Ogu

Issues bordering on food safety, security and hazardous effects of food on human health formed the main thrust of the 163rd Inaugural Lecture delivered by Professor Matthew Wegwu of the Department of Biochemistry in the Faculty of Science. The well-attended Lecture, which held at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Thursday, September 26, 2019, was presided over by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Regina Ogali.

Delivering the Lecture appropriately entitled: *The Power of Food*, Professor Wegwu described food as "a substance obtained from plant or animal that is taken into the body to yield energy and nutrients for growth, maintenance of life and repair of tissues." He further described nutrients as "chemical substances that are present in food that the body can use to provide energy, structural materials and regulating agents that support growth, repair tissues and maintain life."

To further the promotion of healthy lifestyle in the University and beyond, Professor Wegwu proposed the establishment of a Centre for Environmental Nutrition, Healthy Lifestyle and Disease Control. He explained that when established, research in the proposed Centre

shall pioneer new knowledge; develop innovative, interdisciplinary, translational and interventional research with the objective of reducing the morbidity and mortality associated with unhealthy diet and lifestyle. The Centre, according to him, will also focus

on identifying important dietary components and lifestyle that would lead to the prevention of chronic disease among the population.

Citing a research he carried out with a colleague in 2007, Professor Wegwu who is

More on p6



**AEB
Student Wins
NIMASA
Competition**

Story
on
p2



**VC Commissions
Sandwich Office**

Story
on
p3



**Ogbuji Advocates
Social Marketing**

Story
on
p5



**Strategic Plan
C'ttee Presents
Preliminary
Report**

Story
on
p6

Dr Gladys Emenike

*If you want something you've never had before,
you've got to do something you've never done before*
COCO CHANEL

Dr Gladys Emenike is an intellectual Amazon who drives herself to the edge to attain personal and organisational goals. To her, every accomplishment must be earned through hard work, persistence and honest application of skills. Dr Emenike's success as Acting Director of the Centre for Logistics and Transport Studies (CELTRAS) underscores her determination to justify her appointment. Comparisons may be hard to establish, but she has improved the focus and reach of the Centre and reduced unnecessary bureaucracy and waste. To her, attaining result is a relentless strategy that has no substitute. Under Dr Emenike's watch, CELTRAS has pulled ahead of its rivals because she devised new ways to make it relevant to students and stakeholders in terms of generating revenue and relevance. This has been made possible through a new shared way of thinking, setting targets and a sublime gift that has incrementally transformed the once fledgling Centre into an attractive brand with wide-ranging networking capacity.

Available records show that very few women academics are courageous enough to venture into the male dominated field of Transport Geography. Dr Gladys Emenike is an exception to the rule and she has since made her own rules to govern such an exception in her defined academic career and leadership responsibilities. On first encounter, a rank outside may be forgiven to believe that Dr Emenike exudes a fragile personality profile, but just get closer to her and you discover a determined woman with steely determination to get things done. Once Dr Emenike sets mind on a target, she not only wraps her arm around it, but she launches all out to accomplish her goal with missionary zeal and panache. No wonder that Dr Emenike bestrides the hallowed corridors of the Department of Geography and Environmental Management and the Faculty of Social Sciences on the same footing with her male counterparts without looking down or allowing anybody to intimidate her in the line of duty.

To the Geographer, God created everything with a logical function in mind. The Transport Geographer is focused on the mobility of people, freight and information, and their spatial organisation with due regard to origin, destination, nature and purpose of movement. This is not a space for the faint-hearted practitioner as the purpose of transportation is to overcome space, distance, time, administrative divisions and topography that Transport Geographers refer to as "friction of distance" (or of space). In Geography, the truth can only be perceived by examining phenomena from every dimension and it is obvious that Dr Emenike's training fully prepared her to approach challenges from every possible angle with a view to surmounting them in the established tradition of her profession.

Dr Emenike is entirely fixated on fulfilling the demand for mobility which is the main preoccupation of Transport Geographers. In her capacity as a manager, the Acting



Dr Emenike

CELTRAS Director has proved to be resilient and open to new ideas. She has created hard-to-replicate competitive edge in Transport and Logistics Studies in this part of the country. Dr Emenike's success is largely predicated on the fact that she was able to avoid scandalous reputation accidents in the line of duty. Her leadership style is predicated on direct access channels of communication with superior and subordinate officers alike, and her ability to shun premature publicity that truncate the focus of otherwise talented managers of humans and resources. While enforcing a rigid result-oriented order of management at CELTRAS, Dr Emenike, has avoided the old-fashioned scramble for power and influence associated with such a high office.

She has a unique ability and abiding interest in identifying and engaging in progressive activities that advance organisational goals. Dr Emenike has, since assuming office, introduced dizzying changes that have transformed the Centre into an attractive brand individuals and organisations are willing to partner without hesitation. Under her watch, student subscription has increased, while more stakeholders are identifying with her vision of transforming CELTRAS into a first-choice destination for talented students and faculty. For instance, in this age of declining trust, Dr Emenike was able to persuade the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), to commence construction work on a purpose-built two-storey complex to house offices and classrooms for enhanced service delivery by CELTRAS. She was able to

accomplish this rare feat through targeted 'high-tech harassment' of the highly illusive Director-General of NIMASA, Dr Dakuku Peterside. Despite the occasional perilous distractions that academics in her position are compelled to endure in the pursuit of good causes, Dr Emenike has proved to be a true vector of great ideas and an authentic knowledge manager. She has generated intense momentum with the onerous mandate entrusted unto her capable shoulders and her accomplishments are there for discerning people to see.

This dogged Acting Director knows that humans are inherently conflicting and intensely competitive in their dealings, especially when the source of competition is a woman in a patriarchal African society. Dr Emenike thrives best in contested battlefields of ideas. Relying on her persuasive powers and elegant logic, Dr Emenike has cultivated a fantastic diversity of faculty and enthusiastic stakeholders that have assisted her to propel CELTRAS into an enviable pre-eminent position. She is quick to defend her strongly held principles both in public office and her personal life, which is in sharp contrast to the low moral credit some of her peers accumulate in similar positions of trust. On account of her intense clarity of vision and action, Dr Emenike makes her points very clear and requires no interpreters to be understood when important decisions are to be made.

As a reputable Transport Geographer, Dr Emenike is an indispensable asset during ceremonial events that attract huge crowds to the University. For instance, during Matriculation and Convocation Ceremonies, including other sundry public events, the Management of the University always counts on Dr Emenike to head the Traffic Sub-Committee. At such times, she relies on survey techniques and field work skills that enable her to obtain detailed information and understanding of the particularities of specific traffic challenges to be professionally managed to ensure smooth traffic control. She relies on the "modes, infrastructure, networks and flows" to ensure free flow of traffic. It is to her lasting credit that Dr Emenike had always delivered in style and with panache to general applause. Rather than constitute herself into a single hegemon, Dr Emenike had always used such service-roles to forge lasting bonds of friendship with recalcitrant campus transporters, visitors, staff and students during such public events that require creative and innovative traffic control.

In recognition of her acclaimed managerial acumen, quality leadership, purpose, enthusiasm, drive and for totally repositioning the Centre for Logistics and Transport Studies, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa E. S. Late, declares DR GLADYS EMEKIKE AS STAFF OF THE MONTHS OF OCTOBER-NOVEMBER, 2019. Congratulations to this workaholic lady who has invested her time and energy to the success of CELTRAS and unrelenting service to the University of Port Harcourt!

COURTESY: IPPR UNIT

A second year Student of the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Miss Lesi Mwara, was among 10 students from Nigerian universities who won an essay competition on *Empowering Women in Maritime Community* under the auspices of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA). The competition was

AEB Student Wins NIMASA Essay Competition

By Otiokor Samuel

organised to mark the 2019 World Maritime Day celebration.

Speaking with a Correspondent of *UniPort News* on her arrival from the award-giving ceremony which took place in Lagos on Thursday, September 26, 2019, Miss Mwara described her experience at the event as very fulfilling. She was the only student from Rivers State who won the competition.

"As the Assistant Course Representative in my Department, my Lecturer, Dr Numbere Aroloye, gave me the flyer for the competition to announce to my course mates through our *WhatsApp* app page. I posted it and also decided to apply for the competition which was restricted to first and second year

students. A week later, I received a response that I was one of the 10 winners out of over 5,000 applicants," she recounted.

The award recipient added that the event afforded her an opportunity to interact with the Honourable Minister of Transportation, Rt Hon Chibuke Rotimi Amaechi, Director-General of the NIMASA, Dr Dakuku Peterside, and Minister of State for Transportation, Ms Gbemisola Saraki.



Mwara (right) receiving her dummy cheque from Ms Saraki (centre) and another guest

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Cont'd from Page 1

The call was made by Professor Adedapo Aiyelaja of the Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management in the Faculty of Agriculture, while delivering the 5th Faculty Lecture Series entitled, *Between the Traditional and the Orthodox: Which Way Out?* The Lecture held at Board Room of the Faculty on Thursday, September 26, 2019.

The 5th Public Lecture Series Speaker stressed the need to upgrade the National College of Natural Medicine to a University, further recommending that the existing Centre for Research in Traditional Complementary and Alternative Medicine be upgraded to the Alternative Medicine Research Institute of Nigeria (AMRIN). He also advised government to set up a Committee on Alternative Medicine that would search the archive for all the screened, certified and standardised plant products in the country.

The Lecturer further stressed the need to engage in extension services, conduct collaborative research with Colleges of Medicine and Faculties of Pharmacy, with a view to ensuring that research in ethno-medicine is oriented towards products development and tests. He further called for the establishment of a Medicinal Garden and Herbal Unit or Shop at the Faculty and Departmental levels, respectively.

Professor Aiyelaja stated that all the trees and herbs available in Nigeria have huge potentials of providing healing and wellbeing for humans. "Traditional medicine should not be relegated to the background or abandoned as appears to be the case now; we should rather make use of Science and Technology to engage in further studies, and the two systems should be fully integrated to serve the healthcare needs of Nigerians," he advised.

Aiyelaja Tasks Trado-medics, Doctors, Pharmacists On Collaborative Research



DVC (Acad), Prof Fawehinmi (in suit), flanked by Prof Aiyelaja, Dean, Prof Godwin-Egein (right) and others

In his remarks, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Laile, who was represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, commended the Faculty of Agriculture for sustaining the Lecture series to its fifth edition. He congratulated Professor Aiyelaja for drawing attention to a very critical component of the fledgling health sector, describing the topic of the lecture as very apt.

"There is a very important place for indigenous medical practitioners to complement orthodox practice as is the case in many advanced countries of the world. So, there is a need for policy makers and stakeholders in traditional and orthodox medicines to join forces to professionalise their practice. For instance, the Asians, especially the Chinese and Koreans have successfully fused their trado-medicine and orthodox practices to produce what the world is toasting today in terms of good health and wellness. As an Entrepreneurial University, we have a duty to give strong leadership as we strive to do the same for our country," Professor Fawehinmi told the gathering.

Speaking earlier, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Monday Godwin-Egein, assured the audience that the series would now be regular, calling for more support for stakeholders engaged in traditional medicine research. He expressed hope that the Professor Aiyelaja and his colleagues would lead the move to create that crucial symbiotic relationship between traditional medicine and orthodox practice as the topic implies.

Presenting the welcome speech on behalf of the Chairman, Professor Aiyelaja, Associate Dean of the Faculty, Dr Henry Ijeomah, described the Faculty Lecture Series as a scholarly debt which every senior academic is expected to pay before retiring from service. He commended all the staff and students for coming out en masse to grace the event.

VC Commissions Reconstructed Sandwich Office, As UPSSA Marks Cultural Day In Style

By Letom Nnen

A part of activities that marked the 5th Cultural Day celebration of the University of Port Harcourt Sandwich Students' Association (UPSSA), the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Laile, has commissioned the ultra modern Post-NCE office block completed by his administration. The commissioning ceremony took place on Thursday, September 19, 2019 at Choba Park.

Speaking shortly before commissioning the building, the Vice Chancellor commended UPSSA for their contribution towards the building of the office facility and completion of a Sandwich Hostel project that has already been put into use. He praised the Dean of the Faculty of Education, Professor Tammy Oruanaboka and Acting Director of the Post-NCE Unit, Dr Gospel Kpee for their commitment towards the completion of the two projects.

"May I remind Post-NCE Sandwich Students that the hostel project embarked upon under their leader is a legacy project that would add to existing facilities on campus. The University will forever remain grateful to the students and their leadership for not constituting themselves into a cog in the wheel of progress in the smooth-running of the Post-NCE Sandwich Degree programme in particular and the University in general," Professor Laile said. He further assured them of Management's total commitment to their welfare at all times.

Earlier in his opening remarks, Professor Nath Abraham who stood in for the Chairman of the occasion, Professor Ikechukwu Agbagwa, commended the Vice Chancellor

for always honouring invitations from the Faculty of Education. He charged the students to always promote indigenous cultures when teaching the younger ones to preserve the identity of the various ethnic groups in the country.

Dean of the Faculty of Education, Professor Tammy Oruanaboka in his address, commended the Vice Chancellor for commissioning the Faculty of Education Building, as well as providing seats in the Faculty Seminar Rooms. Professor Oruanaboka also commended him for granting approval for construction of the Sandwich Students' Hostel in Choba Park. He appealed to Management to interlock the front view of the new Faculty building at the University Park to give it a befitting ambience. The Dean also praised the Acting Director, Dr Kpee for his outstanding leadership quality, urging him to continue to set new records in the administration of the Post-NCE programme.

In their separate addresses, the Acting Director, Dr Kpee and UPSSA President, Mr Eskuile Unenogo, commended the Vice Chancellor for his leadership capacity, expressing appreciation to him for granting approval for use of the new Sandwich hostel facility and commissioning of the new office complex.

The Cultural Day event also featured March Past by UPSSA Executive, cultural displays by Konowo Cultural Troupe of UniPort and cultural presentation by students from different states. A major highlight of the event was the conferment of the title of *Aare of UniPort* (Father of UniPort) on Professor Laile, while his Wife, Mrs Joy Laile was invested as the *Iya-Afa of UniPort* (Mother of UniPort) by the Ogun State Chapter of the Association.



VC, Prof Laile (arrowed), his wife, Joy (right), Dean, Faculty of Education, Prof Oruanaboka (left), Ag Director, Post-NCE Programme Unit, Dr Kpee (2nd right) and others

Stop Press

RCBBR Training For Life Scientists

The Regional Centre for Biotechnology and Bioresources Research (RCBBR) holds a four-day training on practical techniques in Molecular Biology for Laboratory Technologists and Graduate Students in the life sciences. A statement dated October 4, 2019 and signed by the Director, Professor Anthony Ataga, disclosed that the session will commence with training on basic genomics, including DNA and RNA extraction, PCR Amplification, Gel Electrophoresis and Sequencing on October 14 and 15, while training sessions on basic bioinformatics will take place on October 16. Participation for the basic genomics training will cost N10,000 only, while basic bioinformatics is pegged at N5,000, only. The two sub-themes will cost N15,000. Interested participants are advised to contact the Centre at the IPS Park along East/West Road, opposite Choba Area Command of the Nigeria Police.

DSAs' Confab

Mefor Calls For Campaign Against Suicide Cases On Varsity Campuses

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Against the backdrop of the rising suicide cases in Nigerian tertiary institutions, a Forensic Psychologist with the National Assembly, Dr Law Mefor, has identified dealing with stigma, counselling multi-sectoral collaboration, surveillance and monitoring, as some preventive and remedial measures that could be adopted to stem the trend.

helping young students in particular and young persons in general to overcome the rising cases of suicide in society. He also called on academics to come up with recommendations that would help policymakers in achieving reduced suicide rates in the country. "It is also my hope that this conference will produce a communiqué that would assist the leadership of institutions to set up and run effective counselling centres on



DVC (Acad), Prof Fawehinmi, (centre), flanked by Dean, Student Affairs, Of Otu Ekepyong (left), National President, Prof Udedi and Associate Dean, Dr Edward Ino (right). Inset: Keynote Speaker, Dr Mefor

He advocated a coordinated and sustained national campaign to create awareness about the scourge.

Dr Mefor also suggested retuning student counselling services, as well as the introduction of Department-based intervention strategies against suicide in tertiary institutions with Help Lines students can call 24 hours in a day. The event held at the main auditorium of the Institute of Petroleum Studies from Wednesday, September 25 to Friday, 27, 2019.

Dr Mefor made the recommendation as keynote speaker at the 3rd Annual Conference of the Association of Deans of Student Affairs of Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria. Dr Mefor, who spoke on the theme: *Depression, Suicide and the Nigerian Student*, regretted that Nigeria has far fewer psychologists and psychiatrists in the world, despite the prevalence of citizens afflicted by mental and psychological cases.

"Despite having the largest number of mental cases as the most depressed country in Africa, Nigeria has only about 250 psychiatrists providing mental healthcare to citizens, while there are about 60 million persons with mental illnesses in the country," the keynote speaker disclosed.

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, who read the Vice Chancellor's Address at the opening ceremony, urged participants to fashion out ways of

their campuses to tackle the scourge," the Vice Chancellor stated.

Presenting the lead paper entitled: *The Roles and Responsibilities of the Deans of Student Affairs in the Management of Students in Institutions of Higher Learning*, Acting Director of Student Affairs at the National Universities Commission, Abuja, Mrs Lauretta Achor, urged professionals in charge of student matters to be change agents by being innovative, proactive and continuously fine-tuning their strategies for better service delivery to students.

In his address, President of the Association and Dean of Student Affairs of Nnamdi Azikiwe, Professor Stanley Udedi, described the theme of the conference as apt, in view of the increased reporting of suicide cases on the campuses of Nigerian universities. Describing the trend as an extremely worrisome development, Professor Udedi called on his colleagues to take proactive steps to contain the social epidemic.

"This conference is a wake-up call and an appropriate response to our critics who believe that we are not committed to the development and welfare of our students," he said. Professor Udedi commended the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale and the Acting Dean of Student Affairs, Of Otu Ekepyong for successfully hosting the conference in the University.



Dr Oparaocha

Mgt Commends Oparaocha For Crest Donation

Management of the University has commended Dr Chibhe Oparaocha of the Department of Fine Arts and Design in the Faculty of Humanities in writing for voluntarily designing and mounting a customised Crest of the University at the Senate Chambers. A letter dated September 24, 2019 and signed by the Registrar, Mrs Dorcas Otto, expressed profound gratitude and appreciation of Management to Dr Oparaocha for donating what was described as a "Jumbo-sized University of Port Harcourt Crest placed in the Senate Chambers." The letter of commendation further assured Dr Oparaocha that his donation was highly commendable and would be preserved as a legacy project.

Unique Mappers Team Showcases UniPort On Global Map, Gets UNFPA Grant

By Otiokor Samuel

An organisation of budding scholars in geospatial technology, Unique Mappers Team, secured another travel grant for this year's Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial (FOSS4G) conference which held at Bragadum Palace, Bucharest, Romania between Monday, 26 and Friday 30, August, 2019. The Unique

Mappers Team is domiciled in the Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences.

In a chat with a *UniPort News* Correspondent last Wednesday, the Coordinator of the Team and Lecturer in the Department, Mr Victor Sunday, disclosed that the Team earlier secured a travel grant from FOSS4G for last year conference, while the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)

sponsored this year's trip. "Unique Mappers Team is a community-based humanitarian volunteers passionate about putting every building on globally accessible map and engage people into citizen science activities. The Team provides humanitarian disaster response to vulnerable communities in terms of flood, oil spill and other misadventures. It is an affiliate team of Open Street Map Community, Youth Mappers Network, OSGEO and Humanitarian Open Street Map Team, U.S. Our mandate is to grow and expand teams in various universities in Nigeria," the Coordinator stated.

Mr Sunday revealed that the Team showcased the University of Port Harcourt in a globally accessible world map of Open Street Map, particularly during last WAUG competition held in the University, adding that every building on campus was captured in the global map.

"We have been able to map communities around the University and the map is accessible to anyone, including security agencies. With this, security surveillance will be made a whole lot easy. People who want to find some locations can easily track the way to their destination. If you have maps, for instance, all you need to do is to type your location and it provides the navigational information in terms of distance, time and shortest route," he explained.

The Coordinator stated that a First Class graduate of the Department, Miss Faith Umukoro, attended last year's conference, while he attended this year's edition of the conference. "We had more than 49 sessions and training workshops which centred on geospatial technology and geo-information technology. What I gained from the conference will translate into quality lecture delivery and knowledge transfer to the students," he said.



Mr Sunday (centre) and other participants

Two students on the Master's degree programme: **Faience Mivwon Wole-Oksugba** (G2015/MSc/POL/FT/1262) and **Samuel Ifeanyichukwu Edeh** (G2015/MSc/GEOL/FT/897) have been expelled for involvement in plagiarism. The affected students failed the anti-plagiarism test which was conducted to ascertain the originality of their dissertations. It was proved that they both copied over 50% of their works from a single link and scored similarity indices below 50%, according to the results turned in from the *PlagScan*.

The expulsion of the students was a major part of the decisions of Senate of the University at its 445th Meeting, which held at the Senate Chambers, University Park on Thursday, September 26, 2019. The expulsion followed a report by the Special Committee on Anti-Plagiarism which was presented on behalf of the Chairman, Professor Chinedu Chukwueze by a member of the Committee, Dr Eucharika Nwaichi.

Other students affected by the anti-plagiarism test were: **Oweli Reuben Monday-Babou** (G2015/MSc/POL/FT/1236). He scored 72.7%. **Joan Chidinma Umeano** (G2016/MSc/IPS/CPG/FT/131), who scored 50.9% and **Edeghie Andrew Iref** (G2014/MSc/GEOL/FT/837) with a similarity index of 50%. The students also failed the test, but their cases were not classified as grievances because they did not copy from a single link. Consequently, they are to be given new topics and supervisors.

The case of **Nnamazie Chukwuama Arinze** (G2016/DRM/MSc/FT/157) was referred back to the Committee for re-examination due to complexities surrounding the submission of some vital documents. The Committee was given one week to resolve the issue. The meeting was presided over by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Regina Ogiu who stood in for the Vice Chancellor.

In his opening remarks, Professor Ogiu conveyed the goodwill of the Vice Chancellor and Chairman, Professor Ndowa Lale, who was on an official trip outside the country. The Acting Chairman announced the appointment of Dr

445th Senate in Session

Senate Expels Two Students For Plagiarism, Sets New Deadline for Results Submission

By Otokor Samuel

Gladys Ndorim-Wurli as Acting Director of the Centre for Conflict and Gender Studies. She also announced that the 164th Inaugural Lecture entitled: *Massification of Education in Nigeria: Reducing the Distance through Open and Distance Learning* would be delivered by Professor Baribor Vikoko of the Department of Curriculum Studies and

Educational Technology in the Faculty of Education on October 17, 2019.

Senate also set up a Committee headed by a former Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibo to look into an allegation of parallel result portals by some Departments outside the authorised central portal run by the Information and Communication Technology Centre (ICTC). Other members of the Committee are Professors Vincent Idemisor, Michael Monanu, Nwadiuto Akani and Florence Ndika. The Registrar was directed to appoint a Secretary to serve on the Committee, which is expected to submit its report by the end of October, 2019.

Senate approved a new Master of Business Administration (MBA) programme in Oil, Gas and Energy Management for the University of Port Harcourt Business School. It also approved three Master of Science degree programmes in Human Communication Theory, Disability Studies and Management, and Special Needs Education for the Centre for Children Developmental and Communication Disorders (CCDCD).

The apex academic policy-making body ratified some results executively approved by the Vice Chancellor on its behalf. The results were presented by the Deans of Faculties of Agriculture, Education, Engineering, Humanities, Management Sciences, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Science, Social Sciences, School of Science Laboratory Technology, School of Graduate Studies and the Deputy Provost of College of Health Sciences. Senate directed all Departments with cases of outstanding results to avail themselves of the period of the final 'amnesty' to submit all such results within six weeks. In the spirit of full disclosure, Senate directed Faculties to henceforth, submit their degree results alongside the names of the students who are not graduating with their set.

Senate approved the review and modification of curricula for the Department of Hospitality Management and Tourism with effect from the 2019/2020 academic session. Similarly, it approved the revised Undergraduate academic programme for the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology in the Faculty of Science. The apex academic regulatory body warned Departments and Faculties against announcing new programmes in the middle of an academic session, emphasising that all new programmes approved by Senate should start in a new session. It also regretted that some Heads of Department had formed the unacceptable habit of absenting themselves from Senate Meetings, directing all Heads and Acting Heads of Department to attend to keep abreast of policy directions.

Senate frowned at situations in which some academic staff abandoned the statutory graduate programmes at the Departmental levels for the juicy ones that are better remunerated at the Centres and Institutes.

Senate directed the Academic Board of the College of Health Sciences to take a decision on the studentship status of Boloye Gift Ibomoh and report back to it. The august body approved the revised 2018/2019 Academic Calendar for Full-Time programmes with the Second Semester Examination starting on Monday, October 21. The four-week examination period would end on Friday, November 15, 2019. Senate approved Monday, 7 to Saturday, 12 October 2019 as *Students' Union Week* for cultural activities and elections into its executive body. Senate frowned at the commencement of the *Student's Union Week* outside the approved activity window by the University.

19th FMS Lecture: Ogbuji Recommends Social Marketing To Curb Drug Abuse ...As Students Exhibit Products

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The role of aggressive social marketing and how it could be adopted to curb the growing menace of drug abuse, especially amongst young people, formed the main thrust of the 19th Public Lecture Series of the Faculty of Management Sciences delivered by Dr Chinedu Ogbuji of the Department of Marketing at the Faculty Auditorium on Thursday, October 3, 2019.

Delivering the lecture entitled, "Social Marketing and the New Slave Masters in Town: Redeeming Our Future," Dr Ogbuji described social marketing as a strategy employed to solve social problems and targeted at improving the welfare of the citizens. He cited the adoption of social marketing by Federal Government agencies in the control of such pandemics as HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis, recommending that the same technique should also be applied to check the abuse of prescribed drugs, especially Codeine and Tramadol.

"Social marketing as a remedy for drug abuse starts with identifying the remote reasons behind the addiction, profiling the addicts, using known marketing bases such as occupation, age and designing and funding orientation programmes tailored to suit the different target groups to attain effective results," he said. The Public Lecturer advised government to compel pharmaceutical companies in the country to pay what he described as Drug Addict Rehabilitation Tax to effectively fund rehabilitation centres across the country.

"There should be stakeholders' forum on drug abuse at the various levels of government such as the establishment of a drug addict rehabilitation centre in public hospitals and health centres to tackle the menace," he said.

In his remarks, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale,

who was Special Guest of Honour at the occasion, described the Public Lecture Series of the Faculty of Management Sciences as one of the best in the University. This Faculty under the capable leadership of Professor Barisua Nwine has brought about so many positive innovations for which we are very grateful to him and his subordinates. Let me assure the leadership of the Faculty that when fully completed and put into use, the new building project currently under construction and dedicated to the Department of Hospitality Management and Tourism would further boost the capacity of the Department and Faculty to generate revenues. I am very impressed by the entrepreneurial drive of your students and this bodes down to good governance," Professor Lale said. Dean of the Faculty, Professor Barisua Nwine, commended Dr Ogbuji for what he described as an outstanding performance in the established tradition of academic excellence in the Faculty. "I wish to thank the Vice Chancellor for supporting our modest effort to reposition this Faculty for enhanced service delivery to our numerous stakeholders. What the students exhibited today is a practical demonstration of what we teach them in the classroom. In line with the entrepreneurial drive of the University, we have decided the showcase the abundant talents of our students to the University community and this just the beginning of what we are capable of as a Faculty," Professor Nwine assured Management of the University.

A major highlight of the Public Lecture was the exhibition of shoes, belts, beads, clothing items, paint, petroleum products, perfume, close circuit television, cake, bread/pastry and make-up items produced by students of the Faculty of Management Sciences. The Vice Chancellor and his entourage sampled some of the products exhibited by the students before the lecture.



V.C, Prof Lale (5th left), the Lecturer, Dr Ogbuji (left), DVC (Acad), Prof Fawehinmi, Dean, Prof Nwine and others

Cont'd from Page 1

Occupant of the Bene Willie Abbey Professorial Chair of Nutrition and Environmental Biochemistry, said: "We have successfully demonstrated in our laboratory research that nutrients in foods may reduce the risks associated with some non-communicable diseases that currently ravage the populace." He emphasised that "most of the diseases and untimely deaths that occur in our communities are traceable to our lifestyle, especially riotous eating habits."

"Available evidence strongly suggests that most deaths in the Nigerian space, especially in recent times, are traceable to cancer, diabetes, chronic respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. We are deeply convinced that these deaths are preventable and avoidable conditions that could be achieved through the adoption of healthy lifestyle, including the cultivation of sustainable diets and consumption of healthy foods," he observed. "While it may appear obvious that something must kill a man, it is also true that our aging and dying processes may be retarded by consuming foods based on their nutritional value and contributions to a positive lifestyle," the Inaugural Lecturer pointed out.

Professor Wegwu, who is Chairman of the Sports Complex Management Committee and pioneer Chairman of the Academic Board of the University of Port Harcourt Sports Institute, attributed the success of *Team UniPort* in the sporting arena to a special dietary regimen he co-developed with a colleague, Professor Ken Anugweje. He further disclosed that Professor Anugweje who is the Director of Sports Institute "has compounded a diet composed of higher and medium glycemic index foods for quick recovery of athletes after strenuous training sessions."

According to him, the product is awaiting patenting after which it would be made available in commercial quantities for the use of athletes worldwide, thus placing the University's name on the map. He added that the ultimate aim of a research he is currently undertaking with Professor Anugweje, who is an accomplished

Wegwu Advocates Centre To Monitor Nutrition



164th Inaugural Lecturer, Prof Wegwu (4th right) flanked by DVC (Admin), Prof Ogali (right), Registrar, Mrs Dorcas Otto, DVC (Acad), Prof Fawehinmi (left) and other professors

Biochemist and expert in Sports Medicine, was to produce a branded *UniPort Sport Drink* that would be acceptable in the international sporting market.

On the environmental degradation of the Niger Delta, Professor Wegwu, who is also a practising Environmental Biochemist, picked holes in the raging agitation for Resource Control by the people of the Niger Delta. "I would rather recommend that the leadership and the peoples of the region should demand Resource Sustainability and Conservation by adopting civilised, non-violent approaches as this, in my opinion, remains the most acceptable and swerving strategy to obviate the impending extinction of our resources and food production on arable lands."

Speaking after the Lecture, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration) Professor Ogali, who represented the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Laale at the occasion,

commended the Inaugural Lecturer for what she described as an enlightening and well-delivered Lecture.

"Professor Wegwu has done wonderfully well by advising us on how best to eat to get the best from food. He advised that we should eat more of foods that contain fibres and consume more of fruits. He also charged us to be mindful of what we do to our environment and I believe he did well. On behalf of the Vice Chancellor, I wish to congratulate Professor Wegwu on his very enlightening lecture," she said.

Professor Ogali announced that the 164th Inaugural Lecture entitled: "Massification of Education in Nigeria: Reducing the Distance through Open and Distance Learning", will be delivered by Professor Baribor Vikoo of the Department of Curriculum Studies and Education Technology in the Faculty of Education on Thursday, October 17, 2019.

Strategic Plan Review C'ttee Presents Preliminary Report To Mgt

By Otokor Samuel

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Laale, has commended members of the Strategic Plan Review Committee for completing work on the draft report of the Strategic Plan Document that would guide development endeavours in the University between 2021 and 2025. The full Plan would be presented at the coming Retreat of the Governing Council, following which it would be laid before other relevant arms of the University. The current Strategic Plan Document would expire next year.

Speaking after presiding over a PowerPoint presentation on behalf of the Committee by the Chairman, Professor Steve Okodudu, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Laale, expressed satisfaction with the detailed work done. He said that the final document would guide the next administration in formulating policies that would

lead to accelerated academic and infrastructural development of the University. Professor Laale, however, urged the Committee to take into account, some vital observations aimed at improving the quality and functionality of the Report before it would be presented to Council, Senate and other stakeholders.

"Let me start by thanking our very revered Professor Mark Anikpo for finding time to be here and for his valued input as a Consultant to the Committee. We recall that he chaired a previous review session that fine-tuned the Strategic Plan Document in operation today. We carefully selected people who are already busy to serve on the Committee because they are hardworking and productive. As you know, the reward for hard work is more work. We don't give assignments to those who are not busy because they have nothing to contribute to the system. On behalf of the University, I want to thank members of the Committee for their enthusiasm and doggedness in

turning out this detailed Report. This presentation to Management is the first one; in its final form, the Report will also be presented to Council and Senate," the Vice Chancellor disclosed. He regretted the demise of one of the members of the Committee, Professor Benjamin Ndukwu, following which a Minute Silence was observed in his honour.

Earlier in his presentation, Professor Okodudu had recalled that the first Strategic Plan Document was formulated by the administration of the 5th Vice Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, which covered 2003 and 2013. He thanked the Vice Chancellor for appointing him to head the 13-member Committee, each of whom made useful contributions to the draft Report.

It would be recalled that the Vice Chancellor inaugurated the Committee on Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at the Committee Room with a mandate to review the existing Strategic Plan for the next five years. The Committee was also directed to formulate a vision statement for the new Strategic Plan and incorporate objectives and strategies for actualising the vision.

The Vice Chancellor also tasked the Committee "to conceptualise a future in the growth of the University in a changing environment in terms of students'

population, infrastructural development, academic expansion, innovations and financial requirements. To determine the stakeholders of the University and how their interest, support and commitment can be enlisted and retained." The Committee was earlier given three months to conclude its assignment in June 30, 2019.



VC, Prof Laale (seated centre), flanked by the Chairman, Prof Okodudu (right), Principal Officers, Consultant, Prof Anikpo (left) and other members of the Committee

GUIDE POST

Staff, Students Speak On Nigeria's 59th Independence Anniversary

RENEWAL OF APPOINTMENT

Professor Edem E. Williams, Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science, granted Renewal of Appointment as *Adjunct Professor*, effective February 29, 2019 to February 28, 2020.

Dr. Tammy Golden Alalibo, Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted Renewal of Contract Appointment, effective June 1, 2019 to May 31, 2020.

Dr. Amadi E. Akiamadu, Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted Renewal of Contract Appointment, effective August 4, 2019 to August 3, 2020.

Dr. Polycarp A. Ijobiokwe, Department of Hospitality Management and Tourism, Faculty of Management Sciences, granted Renewal of Appointment as *Adjunct Reader*, effective October 10, 2019 to October 9, 2020.

RESUMPTION OF DUTY

Professor Blessing C. Dida, Department of Human Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, resumed from *Leave of Absence* after serving as Vice Chancellor of Rivers State University, effective August 14, 2019.

Dr. Innocent B. Barikro, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Science, resumed from *Leave of Absence* after serving as a Member of the Rivers State House of Assembly, effective August 2, 2019.

Dr. Gift O. World, Department of Management, Faculty of Management Science, resumed from *Leave of Absence* after serving with the Niger Delta Development Commission, effective September 2, 2019.

RETIREMENT FROM SERVICE

Professor Enusie Akpofe, Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, to proceed on three-month *Pre-retirement Leave*, effective January 28, 2020.

Professor Bernard Ejiofor, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, to proceed on three-month *Pre-retirement Leave*, effective April 21, 2020.

Professor Raseline Konyu, Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Faculty of Science, to proceed on three-month *Pre-retirement Leave*, effective October 19, 2019.

Professor John Enaahwo, Department of Educational Management, Faculty of Education, to proceed on three-month *Pre-retirement Leave*, effective April 7, 2020.

Professor Anthania Okeregwu, Department of Hematology and Blood Transfusion, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, to proceed on three-month *Pre-retirement Leave*, effective March 30, 2020.

Professor Ambrose Obichina, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, to proceed on three-month *Pre-retirement Leave*, effective July 12, 2020.

Professor Kio A. Abo, Department of Pharmacognosy and Phytotherapy, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, to proceed on three-month *Pre-retirement Leave*, effective August 3, 2020.

Professor Abi Derefaa, Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Humanities, to proceed on three-month *Pre-retirement Leave*, effective March 24, 2020.

Professor Henry Bell-Gam, Department of Theatre and Film Studies, Faculty of Humanities, to proceed on three-month *Pre-retirement Leave*, effective June 8, 2020.

Professor Ndubisi Eke, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, to proceed on three-month *Pre-retirement Leave*, effective May 22, 2020.

EXTENSION OF RETIREMENT DATE

Professor Zuleat M. Ofuya, Department of Human Physiology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, granted *Extension of Date of Retirement* by three months on special grounds, effective June 30, 2019 to September 30, 2019.

As Nigeria celebrated her 59th Independence Anniversary on Tuesday, October 1, 2019, staff and students of the University expressed divergent views on the journey so far and the way forward. They spoke to Correspondents MERCY ADENIJI, OTIKOR SAMUEL, HUMPHREY OGU and ETHEL TIMI-JOHNSON. Please read on:

DR GODDY OTTO, Dept of Economics

At 59 years, if Nigeria were to be a Civil Servant, it would be planning its formal retirement from service. So 59 years is a long way, but very unfortunately, Nigeria is still crawling. Its peers such as Brazil, Indonesia, South Korea, Singapore, China and even South Africa have long been independent in 1994, are far ahead of Nigeria in terms of economic growth and political maturity. China celebrated its 70th Independence also on 1st October and the country is proud of where it is and where it is going. Even though, it is not yet a developed economy, China is at peace with itself and boasts that no nation can stop it from marching forward. For us to go forward, Nigerians must elect knowledgeable leaders, who are dispassionately prepared to tackle the country's problems. If we have those leaders, then we will make progress.

DR SIMEON NENBEE, Lecturer, Dept of Economics

I don't think there is anything wrong with Nigeria as a country. I see Nigeria as a sleeping elephant that would wake up one day and surprise the world. All we need to do is to work very hard to wake this sleeping giant to unleash its full potentials. Such a positive development can only come from the body polity which is currently in the hands of people who appear to be more interested in advancing their own self-interest, than advancing the collective interest of the entire nation. If we get the polity right, the country will be okay and you cannot divorce economic growth from the polity. That is why we should have a clear line between politics and economics. We cannot continue to play politics long after elections are over. Let us learn from other nations that work.

OMOVIE FOWODE, CHS

At 59, Nigeria has come of age, but to me, we have not reached where we ought to be, but we are hopeful that with time, we would get there. Some of our leaders are the cause of our problems in this country. If our leaders can work with the right people and with sincerity of purpose, we will surmount most of the problems this nation faces today. We need good governance for the nation to move forward. We need to stop discriminations against our fellow citizens based on party or ethnic considerations. Nigerians must come together as one people to build a strong, prosperous and respected nation that would cater to the needs of every citizen. We must continue to unite the nation, despite our ethnic diversity and political persuasion.

JOHN NWAJIOBI, CCE

My take as it affects Nigeria at 59 is that by reason of the amalgamation of the Northern and Southern Nigeria in 1914, there are still some issues associated with our colonial past that must be addressed. This country has come of age and it is expected that there are certain things Nigeria should not be thinking about at this age. For instance, the exportation of refined crude oil which was discovered in Oildibi before 1960, should have given way to local refining of petroleum products that should have created employment and prosperity for our people. It is sad to note that we still don't have one functional refinery since Independence in 1960. Our

government needs to improve the different sectors of the economy, especially in the area of electricity supply, agriculture, roads and job generation for our youths. We can stop xenophobic attacks on our youth by countries like South Africa. Our government also needs to be sensitive to what is obtainable in other countries that are doing well. Our leaders should find out how those countries operate and imitate and bring the good things they do to Nigeria.

RUSSELLOGU, MSc, Pol Science

Looking at the state of affairs, I think Nigeria has not fared at all levels of governance. The country wasn't prepared for independence in 1960, but for the greed of those who were in a hurry to feast on the national wealth. They just wanted to replace the white people and enjoy their privileges. In Nigeria, the laws are not working for the common people. There is widespread poverty and corruption which has fuelled insecurity in the land. At 59, our people are still loyal to their ethnic groups, rather than the nation, which threatens the basis of national unity. To solve the problem, the masses need the right orientation, our laws should work and the fight against poverty and corruption should be no respecter of anybody, no matter the part of the country he or she comes from as appears to be the case today.

VIOLA OKPARA, Year IV, LCS

I feel that Nigeria has so much potential that the country should not be where it is the moment. Most people believe that Nigeria was better off under the colonial masters and that Independence came too soon when we have not mastered the art of statecraft. At 59, we are still struggling to find our feet; our democracy is not working and we are doing trial and error in virtually every aspect of our social, political and economic life. We should be very sober that at 59, we are yet to define ourselves as a nation. The way forward is to find a working and sustainable system free from personal and ethnic prejudices that hinder accelerated nation-building. For instance, such economic programmes as Sure-P under President Goodluck Jonathan and N-Power under the President Muhammadu Buhari administration are not sustainable. The same also applies to feeding of school pupils. Instead, parents and guardians should be empowered economically to enable them feed their children and wards. I believe that a good number of Nigerians are smart and hard-working. They just need a good system and environment to thrive.

DIYOKI EMMANUEL, Year II, History/Dip Studies

I think Nigeria at 59 is not truly independent and is still not free from colonial rule. Nigerian leaders still run cap-in-hand to Britain for aides and even President Muhammadu Buhari and many Nigerians still patronise foreign healthcare services for ailments that can be treated back here. They have no confidence in our health system because they have refused to fund it properly to deliver world class medical services to the citizens, who cannot afford to join there on expensive medical tourism. At 59, we still have a long way to go even as we are developing a nation and we have achieved very little from past and present administrations. I think the youths are the solution to Nigeria's problems. The way forward is to elect knowledgeable people beyond partisan politics or ethnic considerations. We need to elect selfless leaders who can bring us out of this mess. We need to come together in unity as a country to deal with bad and corrupt leadership, no matter their party affiliations.

Mgt Pledges Support For New Police Area Commander

By Mercy Adeniji

Following the recent appointment of Mr Stephen Okunade as new helmsman of the Choba Area Command of the Nigeria Police, Management of the University has assured him of unflinching support that would enable him accomplish his mission. The assurance was given when Mr Okunade who is an Assistant Commissioner of Police paid a getting-to-know-you visit to Management of the University on Friday, September 20, 2019.

"The University and its neighbourhood are very challenging environments to fight criminal activities and other deviant behaviours. I am very pleased to know that the hierarchy of the Police chose a competent officer like you for this important and very sensitive job. We still have the issue of land encroachment by some elements in our host communities and we hope your tenure would be remembered as the one that enabled us to contain the unsavoury activities of land speculators. Secondly, this University has zero tolerance for cult related activities. We have had a wonderful relationship with the Area Command in Choba and the Inspector-General Monitoring Unit in Aluu. Their uncommon dedication to duty has brought crime in the University to its barest minimum. I charge you to do more to stamp out the remnants of criminal-minded elements from the campus and our neighbourhood," the Vice Chancellor charged the new Area Commander.

Professor Lale further appealed to the Area Commander to deploy more patrol teams to the University—especially the Ashgrove Academy to secure that axis of the institution. "We would continue to count on your



V.C. Prof. Lale (seated 3rd right), flanked by the Area Commander, Mr Okunade, DVC (Acad), Prof Fawehinmi, Dr Dabura Charles Granville, University Librarian, Dr Susan Umehor (left), DVC (Admin), Prof Regina Ogali, Barrar, Dr Felicia Ayuyo (right) and others

assistance as always and let me assure you that we would do whatever is within our powers to support your operations aimed at keeping us safe," the Vice Chancellor said.

Earlier in his address, the new Area Commander, Mr Okunade, expressed gratitude to Management for the warm reception accorded him since he assumed duty, recalling his previous stints in Port Harcourt. "I have been in Port Harcourt for a long time and I know the environment very well. I was redeployed to the West before returning to the State as a Chief Superintendent of Police in 2016 and I am very happy to be in this neighbourhood as the new Area Commander. Our ultimate goal is to work towards a peaceful community and I am also aware of the activities of cult groups who are bent on disrupting the peace of the University and its

neighbourhood. I wish to assure you that this place would be trouble-free under my watch and let me use this opportunity to warn criminal elements to stay clear of this area as there will be no hiding place for them on my watch," Mr Okunade told Management.

In her contribution, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Regina Ogali, expressed gratitude to the new Area Commander for finding time to familiarise himself with the University on his assumption of office. She further charged Mr Okunade to quickly settle down to tackle the enormous security challenges in his new operational environment.

Also present were the Area Crime Officer, Superintendent of Police, Mr Obi Ikechukwu and Station Officer, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Mr Ozim Goddey, including Principal Officers of the University.

Mgt Fetes Ekekwe For His Services As UniPort News Editorial Chair

By Onkor Samuel

It was a spectacular moment to remember on Friday, October 4, 2019 as Management of the University rolled out the drums and clinked glasses in honour of the pioneer Chairman of the Editorial Board of UniPort News and Unique UniPort, Professor Eme Ekekwe, following his statutory disengagement from the services of the University last September.

Speaking at a reception ceremony organised by Management in concert with staff of the Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, heaped praises on Professor Ekekwe for providing adult leadership and selfless service to the IPPR Unit Editorial Board.

"I am glad to personally head this reception in honour of Professor Ekekwe who served the University with uncommon zeal in diverse capacities. I missed his *Faladictory Lecture* as I was out of the campus on an official trip at the time. Professor Ekekwe is a very peace-loving and personable gentleman who is at peace with himself. He did a lot for the University and the IPPR Unit. The greatest asset every human being has is

the mind and Professor Ekekwe dutifully deployed his mind in such important service roles that contributed to the growth of the University.

"Each time he left the University to do something else, Professor Ekekwe always came back to where he began his career. His impact was felt in the Faculty of Social Sciences and the entire University. We are gathered here to express our collective gratitude to Professor Ekekwe for his meritorious services and to honour him for the quality services he rendered as Chairman of the Editorial Board of UniPort Weekly which was later renamed UniPort News by my administration," the Vice Chancellor said.

In her goodwill message, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Regina Ogali, described Professor Ekekwe as a scholar of the old order, whose services would be sorely missed in the Department of Editorial and Administrative Studies and the Faculty of Social Sciences. She wished him well in his future endeavours. Also speaking, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakem Fawehinmi, described Professor Ekekwe as a consummate scholar and a political colossus whose impact was felt across the

University. Professor Fawehinmi enjoined Professor Ekekwe to continue to make himself available for the younger ones to tap from his rich fountain of knowledge.

In her contribution, the Registrar, Mrs Dorcas Otto, recalled her encounter with the then Dr Eme Ekekwe at the Inno State Government House in 1988, during her National Youths Service Corps. She expressed gratitude to Professor Ekekwe for his unimpeachable services to the University, wishing him a graceful retirement. Pioneer Dean of the Faculty of Law, Professor Kaniye Ebeku and Editor of UniPort News, Williams Wodi also took turns to shower praises on the Chairman Emeritus of the UniPort Weekly and Unique UniPort Editorial Board.

In his response, a highly enthused Professor Ekekwe expressed gratitude to Management of the University and the Editorial team of UniPort Weekly for honouring him. "I feel very humbled for the honour I have done me. I can't recall if this type of reception was accorded to any of my colleagues who retired from the services of the University in the past. I wish that I truly deserved and really reciprocated the honour which the University conferred on me, because this institution gave me everything," Professor Ekekwe said. He reminded staff of the IPPR Unit of their critical role to the smooth-running of the University in terms of effective information dissemination.

The Vice Chancellor and Editor of UniPort News later presented gift items to the honoree, who was accompanied by his wife, Mrs Ifeoma Ekekwe. Also in attendance were Mr Arhite Princewill, who stood in for the Barrar, Dr Felicia Ayuyo, Dean of the Faculty of Law, Professor Lucky Worika, Director of Quality Assurance and Quality Control, Professor Ikechukwu Agbagwa, Special Assistant to the Vice Chancellor, Mr Kingsley Wogwu and former Associate Editor of UniPort News, Dr Obinna Nwodin, including the entire IPPR staff.



V.C. Prof. Lale (5th right), flanked by Principal Officers, Prof Ekekwe, his wife, Ifeoma, Dr Nwodin, S.A.C (back) and staff of IPPR Unit