

Council Chairman Solicits Communities' Support

By Sam Kpenu

The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Senator Andrew Uchendu, has solicited the support and cooperation of the University's host communities to ensure institutional and mutual growth of the University and the communities. Senator Uchendu made the call when he led members of the Governing Council and Management on courtesy visits to Alakahia, Choba, Omuokiri and Omuoko Communities in Aluu Clan on Tuesday, 15 and Wednesday, 16 June, 2021. Speaking at Alakahia Community, the Pro-Chancellor explained that the visit was to intimate them that the President of the Federal Government of Nigeria, His

commitment and continued support for the University. I assure you that all your entitlements within the confines of the law would be provided," he said. Speaking, the Nye-nwe-Ali of Choba, His Royal Highness, Eze Raymond Okocha, assured the Pro-Chancellor of the community's support and collaboration to enable him achieve his goals, while also appealing for increased employment and admissions opportunities for members of his community. "We will provide you with enabling environment to operate so that you can achieve what your predecessors could not achieve; always reach out to us for consultation and collaboration on how to move the university forward," Nye-nwe-Ali Choba stated. At the Palace of the Nye-nwe-Ali of Aluu, His Royal



Pro-Chancellor (left) being decorated by Eze Okpara



Pro-Chancellor (4th right), Nye-nwe Ali, Choba, Eze Okocha, Ag VC, Prof Okodudu, Council Members, Principal Officers and Choba Council of Chiefs

Excellency, Muhammadu Buhari, has found him worthy to be appointed, the Pro-Chancellor of University of Port Harcourt, adding that it was important he informs them of the change in the leadership of the University. He therefore, used the opportunity to call for the support and cooperation of all stakeholders and members of the community in order to uplift the University, adding that he would ensure a cordial relationship between his administration and members of the host community. Responding, the Nye-nwe-Ali of Alakahia, His Royal Highness, Eze Ogbonna Dodo, expressed appreciation to the Federal Government for appointing for the first time, an Ikwerre son as the Pro-Chancellor of the University. "You have done an extraordinary thing and we are



Prof-Chancellor (middle), Eze Dodo of Alakahia (right) and Ag VC Prof Okodudu

Majesty, Eze Chima Okpara, the Pro-Chancellor assured the Chiefs and people of Aluu Kingdom that all their grievances would be looked into and promised that the Council under his watch would address the issues of land compensation and solicited their cooperation. Responding, the Nye-nwe-Ali of Aluu urged the Pro-Chancellor to prioritise the welfare of the host community and prayed God to give him good health and wisdom to take the University to greater heights. "We have no doubt that you will deliver, not because you are the son of the soil, but because you have the capability owing to your track records of achievements in your previous endeavours," the Royal father stated. At the Palace of the Paramount Ruler of Omuokiri Community in Aluu Clan, the Pro-Chancellor commended the

by the Federal Government and lauded the community for giving so much cooperation for the sustenance of the University. He also enjoined the chiefs and people of the Omuoko Community to cooperate with him to enable him take the institution to the next level. Speaking, the Paramount Ruler of the Community, Chief Abraham Woke called for increased employment, admission opportunities and contracts for members of his community, as well as the appointment of sons and daughters of the land into



Pro-Chancellor, Council Members, Paramount Ruler of Omuokiri, Chf Welewa (centre) and his Council-of-Chiefs



Pro-Chancellor and Paramount Ruler of Omuoko, Chf Woke happy that you considered it appropriate to visit us," the Royal Father said, adding that Senator Uchendu was the first Pro-Chancellor to have visited them and prayed that his administration would be remarkable and memorable. At Choba Community, where he was received by the Chiefs and people, Senator Uchendu said his visit was borne out of his genuine desire to meet with critical and strategic stakeholders of the University. "I commend the people of Choba Community for their



Breaking! Georgewill Emerges UniPort 9th VC

By Otikor Samuel

Former Deputy Provost, College of Health Sciences, Professor Owunari Georgewill, has emerged the ninth Vice Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt. Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Governing Council, Senator Andrew Uchendu, made this public while announcing the outcome of the interview conducted by the Joint Council and Senate Selection Board which was approved by the

Governing Council following its meeting on Friday, July 2, 2021. According to the Chairman of Council, 16 candidates submitted applications for appointment into the exalted position of the Vice Chancellor out of which 12 were interviewed. The rigorous process produced Professor Georgewill as the most qualified candidate for the position.



History Dept Fetes Alagoa

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Stakeholders Gather For Gender Inclusion

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PSB Gets Lab Equipment

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170th Inaugural Nigeria Has No Reason To Suffer Food Insecurity ~ Adesope

By Humphrey Ogu

Nigeria has no reason not to be self-sufficient in food production and nutrition security. A Professor of Agricultural Extension, Olufemi Adesope of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension in the Faculty of Agriculture, made the observation while delivering the 170th

Inaugural Lecture of the University at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Thursday, June 17, 2021. Adesope, whose Lecture focused on ways of optimising Nigeria's development potentials through Agricultural Extension, with the title: "Agricultural Extension in Contemporary Nigeria: Optimising

Our Development Potentials," said "Nigeria is so blessed that we do not have any reason to be food and nutrition insecure." He blamed food, nutrition insecurity and related developmental challenges, experienced in the country, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown on poor agricultural policies.

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HDS Fetes Alagoa, Institutes Annual Legacy Lecture Series

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By Sam Kpenu

A former Nigerian Ambassador to the Netherlands and Pro-Chancellor, Federal University, Lokoja, Dr Godknows Igali, has described Emeritus Professor Ebiegheri Alagoa as a scholar whose signature of academic excellence has continued to resonate, even long after his graceful retirement from formal academic activities of the University of Port Harcourt.

Dr Igali made the remark while delivering a Lecture on *History, Historical Hypothesis and the Historian* at the 88th birthday celebration and the maiden edition of the Legacy Lecture Series in honour of Emeritus Professor Alagoa, on Thursday, May 25, 2021 at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium. Igali said great insight and passion for high impact research have defined Emeritus Professor Alagoa's long walk in the academy in Nigeria and around the world.

"Despite the shameful bias and unfairness that Eurocentric critics levelled against his approach in reconstructing and restoring African history, Alagoa's love for reasoning and curiosity continue to illuminate his path in and outside the academy. Indeed, he has been an awesome Ambassador of retelling the past from the academic and traditional perspectives," he stated.

Dr Igali said "none will controvert the view that the types of Professor Alagoa don't come too frequently in the land of men. How can one man combine all the best of humanly virtues as so well lined out by the Lord Himself in the Beatitudes of the sermon on the Mount." Declaring the programme open, the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu, said the programme was organised to celebrate the life and times of Emeritus Professor Alagoa, who he described

as a man of impeccable character, renowned ethnographer, community leader and an eclectic scholar on an elevated scale.

Speaking as Chairman of the occasion, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs who is also the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman, Governing Council of the Federal University, Ndofu Alike, Ebonyi State, said the University would continue to benefit from the legacies of Alagoa. He described Alagoa as a Grand Master in historical scholarship and a distinguished scholar of the finest tradition.

"Alagoa is a consummate administrator and shrewd philosopher, Alagoa is a teacher's teacher and a dependable leader who mentored younger academics in search of worthy role models," Briggs declared.

Speaking earlier, the Acting Head of the Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, Dr Charles Asuk, said Emeritus Professor Alagoa has demonstrated his mettle as one of the greatest academic mentors in Nigeria as a professor of professors. He disclosed that the primary goal of the gathering was to celebrate achievements and excellence, and to tell the present generation of scholars what virtue there is in mentorship and hard work.

"As a Department, it is important that we honour our founding father. It is against this backdrop that the Department decided to institutionalise a Legacy Lecture series as an annual academic ritual to be held on 14th April of every year in honour of Emeritus Professor E. J. Alagoa," Asuk stated.



Emeritus Prof Alagoa (arrowed), flanked by Coordinator (Acad Affairs), Prof Kilani (left) and other guests

In his response, Emeritus Professor Alagoa, said he was highly elated with the love and solidarity shown him through the celebration of his 88th birthday and the institutionalisation of a Legacy Lecture series in his honour.

He called on all men of goodwill to support the dreams of the founding fathers of the University to ensure that high impact research, training and academic mentorship of mid-career scholars compete with their counterparts in other parts of the world. Emeritus Professor Alagoa expressed satisfaction with the research output of some younger academics in the University, which according to him had gone a long way to show that there is hope for the future.

The well-attended occasion attracted dignitaries from all walks of life including the Amanyannabo of Opobo Kingdom, His Royal Majesty King Dandison Jaja and King Edmund Dakoru of Nembe kingdom in Bayelsa State.

UniPort Harvests 60 New Professors

By Otikor Samuel

A total of 60 new Professors have been harvested in various disciplines in the University. A statement dated June 9, 2021 and issued by the Acting Registrar, Mrs Joyce Tamuno, disclosed that the Governing Council at its 172nd Meeting held on Monday, May 17, 2021 granted approval for the professorial promotion.

A breakdown of the figure showed that Faculty of Management Sciences has the highest number of newly-promoted Professors with a total of 13. They are: Francis Asiegbu, Emmanuel Ibanichuka, Gabriel Ogbonna, Fyeface Akani, Uwaoma Ironkwe, Christian Micah and Ikechukwu Nnamdi.



Pro-Chancellor, Senator Andrew Uchendu

Others are Ebele Ifionu, Henry Ozuru, Edwinah Amah, Hart Awa, Chinedu Ogbuji and Continue Eketu. It was followed by the Faculty of

Humanities with nine Professors. They are: Clive Krama, Adeoluwa Okunade, Pamela Cyril-Egware, Onataghogho Nics Ubogu, John Yesibo, Tamunosiki Ogan, Emmanuel Gbeneye, Stanley Okoroafor and Edem Peters.

Faculties of Social Sciences, Science and Education got eight new Professors, respectively. The new Professors for Social Sciences are: Sample Amadi, Fidelis Allen, Gladys Emenike, Godly Otto, Monday Robinson, Chimezie Igwe, Clever Gbanador and Otu Ekpeyong.

For Faculty of Science, the newly-promoted Professors are: Edith Noutcha, Chukwuemeka



Ag VC, Prof. Stephen Okodudu

Ehirim, Chimezie Ogugbue, Abosede James, Felix Nte, Osarolube Eziaku, Chad-Umoren Enobong and Kenneth Monago. Similarly, Faculty of Education has Professors

Elias Aruma, Williams Cheta, Ganiyu Adekola, Victoria Onyeike, Grace Awujo, Gospel Kpee, Veronica Odigie and Anthonia Nwanekazie.

The seven new Professors in the College of Health Sciences are: Maclean Akpa, Bassey Fiebai, Ibeanusi Sydney, Peace Opara, Braimoh Omoigbera, Tamunopriye Jaja and Kagbo Delesi.

The Faculty of Agriculture has Professors Aminanyanabo Asimiea, Olopade Alaba and Peter Ekunwe, while Faculties of Engineering and Pharmaceutical Sciences have two new professorial promotion, respectively. Faculty of Engineering has Professors Roland Uhumwango and Ugochukwu Kamalu, while Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences has Jonah Aprioku and Lucky Nwido.

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GUIDE POST

APPOINTMENT

Dr Florence Asagba, offered *Pensionable Appointment as Lecturer II* in the Department of Educational Management, Faculty of Education, effective on assumption of duty.

Dr Larry-Love Nduonofit, offered *Pensionable Appointment as Lecturer II* in the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, effective on assumption of duty.

Mr Kingsley Ugwuagbo, offered *Pensionable Appointment as Assistant Lecturer* in the Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, effective on assumption of duty.

Mrs Nnurum Uzoma, offered *Pensionable Appointment as Assistant Lecturer* in the Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, effective on assumption of duty.

Dr Friday Nwafor, Department of Theatre and Film Studies, Faculty of Humanities, re-appointed *Acting Director, Institute of Arts and Culture*. The two-year re-appointment will terminate on April 27, 2023.

Dr Obari Gomba, Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities appointed *Associate Dean of the Faculty*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect will terminate on April 25, 2023.

Dr Joy Olotu, Department of Human Anatomy, Faculty of Allied Medical Sciences appointed *Interim Associate Dean of the Faculty*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect will terminate on May 16, 2023.

Dr Theanyi Okonko, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science appointed *Associate Dean of the Faculty*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect will terminate on April 25, 2023.

Dr Friday Onuodu, Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science appointed *Acting Head of the Department*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect will terminate on June 4, 2023.

Dr Lucky Nwido, Department of Experimental Pharmacology and Toxicology, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of the Department*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect will terminate on April 28, 2023.

Mrs Winifred Abah, University Demonstration Primary School, appointed *Acting Headmistress of UDPS*. The appointment lasts until a substantive Headmaster or Headmistress is appointed to head the School.

SABBATICAL

Dr Dorcas Otto, Registry Department, granted a one-year *Sabbatical Leave* to Financial Advisory and Investment Consultants, Abuja, effective June 4, 2021.

Dr Benedict Agbo, Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, granted a one-year *Sabbatical Leave* to Edwin Clark University, Kiagbodo, Delta State, effective April 20, 2021 to April 19, 2022.

Dr Onyenekenwa Eneh, Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, granted a one-year *Sabbatical Appointment* to the Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, University of Port Harcourt, effective on assumption of duty.

VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT

Professor Wellington Wotogbe-Weneka, Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted *Voluntary Retirement*, effective November 10, 2021.

Freshers, Final Year Team Lift LINCOMSSA Games Trophies

By Otikor Samuel

Year One 'A' Team of the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies beat its Final Year counterpart to emerge winner of the final football encounter in the female category at the LINCOMSSA Games/HoD's Cup last month. The match ended with two goals to nil. Conversely, the Final Year Team beat the Third Year Team to win the male category at the final match in penalty shoot-out after the full-time encounter which ended in a 1-1 draw.

Speaking before the kick-off to mark the official opening of the Game on Thursday, June 10, 2021, Head of the Department, Professor Aniefiok Udoudo, showered praises on the President of the Linguistics and Communication Studies Students Association



HOD, LCS, Prof Udoudo (3rd right), flanked by LINCOMSSA President, Mr Okonkwo, VP, Lucy Barigbinee (left) and Lecturers

(LINCOMSSA) for organising the competition, despite paucity of fund. He promised that the Department would make it better in subsequent times.

In his speech, President of LINCOMSSA, Livinus Okonkwo, said the competition was organised to unite students of the Department, as well as showcase talents. He disclosed that other activities which featured in the event included 100m race, egg race, sack race, 4.100m relay race, chess, scrabble, play station and table tennis competitions with winners in all the events. He expressed gratitude to the leadership and staff of the Department for the successful hosting of the Game.



Winners of the Male and Female Categories

PSB Gets Seeding Lab Equipment

By Kelechi Edebatu, Uchechukwu Eebatu and Oyinyechi Udechukwu (Interns)

The Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology in the Faculty of Science, has won a competitive grant proposal which fetched it some scientific equipment from a United States-based Seeding Labs.

Representative of the Dean of the Faculty, Professor Chimezie Ogugbue and Acting Head of the Department, Dr Josephine Agobua took delivery of the equipment on Tuesday, June 22, 2021. Briefing *UniPort News* Interns, Professor Ikechukwu Agbagwa, disclosed that he

and Dr Blessing Odogwu earlier wrote a proposal in 2018 which did not scale through but that without losing hope, they followed up in the 2019 cycle of Seeding Labs Instrument Access and it turned out successful.

Professor Agbagwa further revealed that 14 universities from 10 countries received the 2019 equipment. The equipment were estimated at about three hundred and fifty thousand dollars. The representative of the Dean thanked the Seeding Labs for the donation, promising that the equipment would serve the purpose intended by the donors.

The equipment included: refrigerator, laminar flow, polymerase chain, reaction (thermocycler) machines, trinocular microscope, binocular microscopes, flow cytometer, pipettes and electrophoresis system.



Senior academics taking delivery of the equipment

Nigeria Has No Reason...

Cont'd from Page 1

"I make bold to say that we, as a nation have refused to move faster than we should by not putting the policies right."

According to him, Nigeria has a highly diversified agro-ecological condition which makes it possible for the production of a wide ranging of agricultural products. "In Africa and particularly Nigeria, Agriculture is the bedrock of the nation. Food is a necessity in life and with teeming and growing population, the demand for food far exceeds supply," he added.

"Agriculture remains the main source of employment to the generality of Nigerians, who by the way live in rural and peri-urban areas. Agricultural Extension aims to help improve livelihoods through provision of reliable agricultural information," the Professor of Agricultural Extension pointed out.

Defining Agricultural Extension as extending agricultural information related to food and nutrition to those who primarily produce food, Professor Adesope noted that "The Agricultural Sector still holds the key to sustainable food and nutrition security in Nigeria, and Agricultural Extension services are indispensable in the process."

Adesope identified the availability of youth, land resources, high population, cassava, rice fisheries and forestry sectors as some of Nigeria's development potentials that should be optimised for the benefit of the country. "Over 150,000 young Agriculturalists are churned out from the Faculties of Agriculture in Nigerian universities yearly, and enter into the labour market, yet engage non-professionals in Agricultural Extension-related facilities," he said.

On his contributions to scholarship, the Inaugural Lecturer, who has put in over 27 years as a teacher, facilitator, educator, researcher and administrator, said: "My research focus which was interlaced with community services began with livelihood and

enterprise development. I focused on cooking banana adoption at a time when adoption of this product was very low, not minding its usefulness, snail domestication and yam mini-sett development."

Adesope also listed agro livelihood enterprise development, youth development studies, information and communication technology in Agriculture, adoption studies, livestock fisheries extension studies, food security assurance study, amongst other commissioned research activities as part of his contributions to agricultural research and community services.

Adesope, who made recommendations on how best to optimise Nigeria's development potentials through Agricultural Extension called for investment in the training of Agricultural Extension personnel on the use of ICT and social media, stating that that would save cost in terms of logistics for Agricultural Extension services. He also made case for the establishment of agro processing centres in Faculties of Agriculture and every local government area in Nigeria.

Speaking after the Lecture, Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu, described Inaugural

Lectures as one of the flagship events in the University, where Professors share with the public what they have been doing in terms of teaching, research and community service.

Represented by Co-ordinator, Academic Affairs, Professor Abdulrazaq Kilani, the Acting Vice Chancellor described the Inaugural Lecturer, as a round peg in a round hole. Commending him for his contribution to the optimisation of the development of Nigeria through agricultural extension.

"As Professor Adesope has told us, the fact remains that Agriculture is the bedrock of Nigeria, a major force to be reckoned with in the development of the nation. If you are conversant with the media you will notice the rising cost of food in the country. This is because we are a consuming nation," he noted, adding that policy somersault has been the bane of development in Nigeria.

Meanwhile, the 171st Inaugural Lecture entitled "Accident of Nature: Survival and Sequelae" would be delivered by Professor Angela Frank-Briggs of the Department of Paediatrics, College of Health Sciences, on Thursday, July 29, 2021.



170th Inaugural Lecturer, Prof Adesope (arrowed), flanked by other Professors before the Lecture

AVC Inaugurates Research Group In ACE-PUTOR

By Humphrey Ogu

In line with its mandate of driving quality research and innovations aimed at solving health-related societal problems, the Africa Centre of Excellence in Public Health and Toxicological Research (ACE-

representative of the Acting Vice Chancellor said. Earlier in his remarks, Centre Leader, ACE-PUTOR, Dr Daprim Ogaji, said: "we draw inspiration from the biblical revelation linking plant-based remedies to the

healing of nations. Judging from the remarkable advancements in other fields such as renewable energy for sustainable development, we are poised to push this agenda further by the inauguration of a multi-disciplinary team of experts that would be supported by the Centre."

Also speaking, Provost, College of Health Sciences, Professor Iyeopu Siminialayi, who is a member of the team, noted that the having such a research team is in line the University's entrepreneurial vision, expressing joy that he was part of the team.

On his part, leader of the research team and foremost Toxicologist, Professor Orish Orisakwe, said: "We have assurances that ACE-PUTOR, will support us as a team. This group is made up of experts from different professions. I believe that the University will fall back on this group for answers in future."

Other members of the team include Drs Kenneth Ezealisiji, Kenneth Ugoeze, Amaka Awanye, Kingsley Patrick-Iwuanyanwu, Anthonet Ezejiofor and Professor Ibisime Etela, while Mr Confidence Igwe serves as Secretary.



Coordinator (Academic Affairs), Prof Kilani (5th left), flanked by members of the Team and ACE-PUTOR officers

PUTOR), has put together a research team known as Nutraceutical and Plant Derived Food Grade Substances Group. The objectives of the team include drafting a cookbook and standard operating guideline of Nutraceutical and plant derived food grade substances, customising the cookbook, developing the farm for the cultivation of the plant and sourcing of funds/partnership for the development of the cottage industry. Performing the Inauguration Ceremony on Thursday, June 10, 2021, on behalf of the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu, Co-ordinator, Academic Affairs, Professor Abdulrazaq Kilani, described the group as a goal-oriented multidisciplinary research group that will make the University more visible globally. "When you have a team spirit you will go places. Management will continue to encourage you to build a business model that will benefit the University stakeholders and society at large,"

STOP PRESS Ngochindo Heads Ethics C'ttee

The Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu, has appointed Professor Raphael Ngochindo of the Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry as the new Chairman, Professional Ethics Committee. The Committee is to among other things check unethical practices amongst staff and students, investigate all reported cases of unethical conduct by staff and students, create awareness amongst staff and students on its existence and submits its reports to Senate through the Vice Chancellor. Other members of the Committee are: Professors John Agberia, Francis Minimah, Grace Awujo and Morufu Oyebamiji. The Acting Registrar is expected to appoint a Secretary to the Committee. The two-year appointment of members of the Committee will terminate on May 30, 2023.

Pro-Chancellor Inspects Facilities At CCE, Business School, ODeL

By Sam Kpenu

The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council, Senator Andrew Uchendu led other Council Members and Principal Officers of the University on an inspection tour of facilities to College of Continuing Education (CCE), University of Port Harcourt Business School and Open, Distance and E-Learning (ODEL) Centre. The extensive inspection exercise took place on Wednesday, June 9, 2021.

Speaking during the exercise which kicked off with the inspection of facilities at CCE, the Pro-Chancellor praised the Management of the College for providing quality leadership that has helped to deepen scholarship and bridge the gap in manpower need of the society.

"I am very impressed with what is going on at CCE aimed at bringing education to the doorsteps of the people, thus boosting



Ag Director, ODeL Centre, Dr Baridam welcoming Pro-Chancellor, Ag VC and others



Director, CCE, Prof Abraham welcoming Pro-Chancellor and his entourage

manpower development," the Council Chairman remarked. Senator Uchendu, who challenged the Director of the College and his team to come up with new approaches to market the CCE programmes, stressed the need to give the College a facelift by providing the ambience which would attract more students.

"I want you to revitalise the Centre and make it more attractive by giving the environment a facelift. In marketing, people love to associate with brands, so I want you to collaborate with foreign universities to attract students to the College," the Pro-Chancellor added.

Speaking earlier, the Director of CCE, Professor Nathaniel Abraham disclosed that the College, which was established in 1983, currently runs pre-degree programmes in Humanities and Education, an

Advanced-Level School known as Ashgrove Academy, as well as a secondary school. The Director decried the low level of patronage in all its programmes. He called for the support of the Council and Management to exempt CCE from Treasury Single Account, build an integrated laboratory, classrooms and offices amongst others.

At the University of Port Harcourt Business School, Senator Uchendu said, he was impressed with the facilities on ground, describing the Business School as a very highly organised school. He urged Professor Ijeoma Okereke and his team to continue to work in line with the objectives of the University.

"I want you to link up with leading universities abroad to attract high profile individuals in the society to the Business School," the Pro-Chancellor charged authorities of the School.

Speaking earlier, the Director of University of Port Harcourt Business School, Professor Okereke, had expressed appreciation to the Pro-Chancellor, Council members and Principal Officers for the visit, disclosing that the School is financially solvent and self-sustaining.

Similarly, the Pro-Chancellor, has promised the Open, Distance and E-learning (ODEL) Centre that the Governing Council and Management would continue to support the Centre by creating more enabling environment for staff and students to give of their best.

Conducting the Pro-Chancellor, Council Members and Principal Officers round the facilities, the Acting Director of the Centre, Dr Barilee Baridam said the Centre now has a state-of-the-art Recording Studio, Teleprompter for News Casting/Presentation and other facilities that would stimulate and encourage teaching and learning and appealed to the Pro-Chancellor to focus attention on the Centre by providing the needed facilities to enable it deliver on its core mandates.



Pro-Chancellor, Senator Uchendu (arrowed), flanked by Ag VC, Prof. Okodudu (left), other Council Members and Senior Officers at UPHBS

African Students Union Honours Okodudu, UniPort

By Otikor Samuel



ASUP Dep Speaker, Mensha (right) handing over the Plaque to Prof Okodudu

African Students Union Parliament (ASUP), has honoured the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu with a Pan-African Prize for Excellence. The Union also presented a corporate award to Management of the University for striving towards excellence in the delivery of the core mandate of teaching, research and community service. The presentation of awards took place at the Vice Chancellor's Committee Room on Friday, June 18, 2021.

Reading the prepared text of the Speaker of ASUP, Kewul Abel, the Deputy Speaker, Dominic Mensha, said Professor Okodudu was chosen for the award in recognition of his remarkable achievements and contributions to the promotion of pan-Africanism.

"Professor Stephen Okodudu...is contributing more than a building block towards the

advancement of the noble cause of pan-Africanism through human capital development which is a prerequisite to national development," read part of the text by the Speaker.

Responding, the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Okodudu thanked the African Students Union Parliament for promoting the ideals of pan-Africanism, which he recalled, was started by young people who desired rapid development in Africa.

"I want to thank you for rising to the occasion of also enlightening young people on the danger of drug abuse which is part of the challenges of modern world. Once you bond yourselves as a team, many things will work easily. So, I wish you success and thank you for the recognition," the Acting Vice Chancellor said.

Others who joined the Deputy Speaker at the presentation of award included Eph Pablo, Austin Kobeyi, Blessing Morgan and Temple Ozim.

Onajin-Obembe To Speak At Anaesthesia Congress

By Sam Kpenu

Consultant Anaesthesiologist at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital and Lecturer in the Department of Anaesthesiology, Faculty of Clinical Sciences in the College of Health Sciences, Dr Bisola Onajin-Obembe, has been scheduled as the Plenary Speaker at the 17th edition of the world's largest and most influential Scientific Congress for Anaesthesia Professionals in Prague, Czech Republic from September 1 to 5, 2021. The Congress christened *Euroanaesthesia*, is an annual event geared towards education, knowledge exchange and innovation in anaesthesia, intensive care, pain and perioperative medicine, as well as platform for immense international visibility for scientific research.

The letter of invitation to Dr Onajin-Obembe which was made available to *UniPort News*, stated

that she would speak on the topic: *Anaesthesia Workforce Pipeline: Pass on the Baton*, during the plenary session of Robert Macintosh Lecture.

Dr Onajin-Obembe, who is the Lead Consultant Anaesthesiologist for maxillofacial surgery, otolaryngology, and ophthalmology at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), believes that medicine and anaesthesiology, leadership and management must be leveraged for an effective surgical and anaesthesia healthcare system.

Dr Onajin-Obembe is serving her second four-year term as a Council Member of the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA). She is a scholar, researcher, and an international speaker. She is a Permanent Council Secretary and Director, Global Alliance for Surgical, Obstetric, Trauma and Anaesthesia Care (G4Alliance).



Dr Onajin-Obembe

Tanzanian Envoy Makes Case For Swahili Language In UniPort

By Otikor Samuel



Dr Bana handing over a Souvenir to Prof Okodudu

High Commissioner of the United Republic of Tanzania, His Excellency, Dr Benson Bana, has stressed the need for the reintroduction of the teaching and learning of Swahili language in the University of Port Harcourt. The Envoy made the assertion on Thursday, July 1, 2021, when he led a team consisting of the Economic Affairs Officer in the Commission, Edna Sylvester on an exploratory talk on how to reintroduce the language in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. Dr Bana stated that he saw a record showing that the University of Port Harcourt has had a partnership with the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania for the teaching and learning of Swahili language, adding that his visit was to reinvigorate the partnership for the promotion of Swahili language to facilitate the reintegration of African countries. He noted the modest

achievements recorded by the Acting Vice Chancellor in stabilising the University of Port Harcourt to sustain the towering growth among its counterparts in Nigeria and Africa.

Responding, the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu, who stated that language plays a major role in cultural identity, expressed the readiness of the University to fast track the process of reintroducing the teaching of the language.

Speaking earlier, the Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Professor Kingsley Owete, said the visit was aimed at reawakening the partnership between UniPort and the Tanzanian university. He commended the High Commissioner for working tirelessly to ensure the realisation of the partnership for the mutual benefit of not just the institutions, but also the countries.

Stakeholders Gather For Gender Inclusion In Climate Change Adaptation

By Otikor Samuel

Research initiatives aimed at mainstreaming gender issues into climate change adaptation for enhanced productivity amongst farmers in the southern part of Nigeria received a major boost, as key stakeholders converged on the IPS Auditorium, University of Port Harcourt for the commencement of the project.

Speaking at the Commencement Workshop for Gender-Responsive Climate Change Adaptation Initiative in Nigerian Agriculture (G-CAINA) project on Tuesday, June 29, 2021, Project Lead and Lecturer at the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension in the Faculty of Agriculture, Dr Clara Ifeanyi-Obi disclosed that the G-CAINA project runs from May 2021 to May 2022 as its research cycle.

Dr Ifeanyi-Obi stated that the project was meant to address the vulnerability of farmers with specific objectives to identify gaps and barriers to climate change adaptation in agriculture among women crop farmers in Southern Nigeria and map actionable pathways to enhanced adaptation. Other objectives, according to her, are to document challenges for effective advisory services and suggest strategies to ameliorate practices of social exclusion, as well as conduct capacity building workshops to mainstream survey outcomes, synthesise knowledge and improve climate change adaptation capacity in agriculture.

Declaring the Workshop open, Director of Centre for Research Management and Development, Professor Samuel Arokoyu, stressed the need for all stakeholders irrespective of gender to rise to the challenges of climate change on humans. Others who spoke at the Workshop included Director, Centre for Disaster Risk Management and Development Studies, Professor Andrew Obafemi, who is also the Director, Project Host Centre and Collaborator and Project Supervisor and Associate Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Professor Olufemi Adesope.

The event had officers of the Rivers State Ministries of Agriculture, Environment and Women Affairs and development partners in attendance.



Project Lead, Dr Ifeanyi-Obi (arrowed), flanked by Directors, CEREMAD, Prof Arokoyu, CDRMDS, Prof Obafemi, Associate Dean, SGS, Prof Adesope (left), and other Guests

Hart Recounts Achievements As SBS Director, Pledges More

By Sam Kpenu

Acting Director of the School of Basic Studies (SBS), Dr Josiah Hart, has recounted his achievements in the first six months in office with a pledge to do more in the remaining part of his tenure to reposition the Unit for greater service delivery to stakeholders.

Dr Hart, who stated this while exchanging views with a correspondent of *UniPort News* on Thursday, June 3, 2021, also revealed that the newly-inaugurated 'Basic Studies Parents' Forum' would stimulate scholarship and attract high impact development-oriented programmes to the school to sustain its leading role amongst its contemporaries in the country.

This, according to him, would be done through working in collaboration with the Management and the Parents' Forum to develop capacity, encourage scholarship, provides local solutions by instituting endowment Fund to assist indigent students on the programme.

"Since my assumption of office as the Acting Director on September 24, 2020, there has been an upsurge in students' enrollment in the programme after its sharp decline in the last few years. This was made possible through determination, hard work and commitment," Dr Hart stated.

The Acting Director said his vision is to take the Unit to greater heights in such a way that it can be compared to what obtains in similar institutions around the world. He promised to provide the enabling environment for the students on the programme to give of their best.

"The programme is well on course. We have lit up the offices and classrooms to create conducive environment for teaching and learning. We have now created two new classrooms of 250-seater capacity each, constructed a library and reading room, purchased and installed interactive smart board in the auditorium, installed Close Circuit Television (CCTV), purchased and installed three 1.5HP Air conditioners in the

NLA Elects Alex-Nmecha New Rivers Chapter Chairman

By Sam Kpenu

The Rivers State Chapter of the Nigerian Library Association (NLA) has elected Dr Juliet Alex-Nmecha, a Lecturer in the Department of Library and Information Science of the University of Port Harcourt, as its Chairman. The new Chairman and her Executive Council were inaugurated at a well-attended investiture ceremony at the 58th and 59th National Conference/AGM of the Association which held in Kano State.

Dr Alex-Nmecha was also honoured at the event by the Young Librarians of Akwa Ibom State for her continuous role in the mentorship of younger Librarians across the country.

In her Inaugural Address, Dr Alex-Nmecha expressed hope that with the support of members, the new Executive would take the Rivers State Chapter of the Association to greater heights. She also stressed the need to intensify awareness campaign among the younger generation on available opportunities in the Library sector in Nigeria.

Recall that in recognition of Dr Alex-Nmecha's dedication to duty and excellence in Library Science in Nigeria, an award was conferred on her by the Nigerian Library Association (NLA), at its 56th Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting which held between 23rd and 26th July 2018. The gathering held at the Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library in Abeokuta, Ogun State, where the award recipient was praised for her immense contributions to the advancement of library practice. Dr Alex-Nmecha was also conferred with the Dr Victoria Okojie Award for Advocacy and Promotion of Library Services



Dr Alex-Nmecha

classrooms to make learning and teaching interesting, while plans are in top gear to set up a computer laboratory," he disclosed.

Dr Hart, who lectures in the Department of Human Anatomy and was the immediate past Coordinator of Post-UTME Programme, expressed his commitment to expose the students to innovativeness in their approaches to learning and leisure. He however, lamented the paucity of fund to carry out more development programmes for enhanced service delivery.



Dr Hart