

Pro-Chancellor, Principal Officers Attend Funeral Service Of Late Council Member, Adokeme

By Sam Kpenu

Pro-Chancellor and Chairman, Governing Council, Senator Andrew Uchendu led Council Members and Management of the University to the funeral service of the late Member of the Governing Council, Chief Chris Adokeme on Friday, September 17, 2021 at Isampou in

Ekeremor Local Government Area of Bayelsa State. Chief Adokeme was also the National President of the University of Port Harcourt Alumni Association. Condoling the family, the Pro-Chancellor stated that: "Adokeme was a Member of the Governing Council representing the Congregation and made sterling contributions to issues and ideas towards

the growth and development of the University. He was a consummate gentleman, calm in disposition and very result-oriented. The Governing Council will sorely miss his supportive and alternative view on issues."

The Chairman of Council said his death though peaceful would undoubtedly create a vacuum that would be very difficult to fill, noting that his services to the University, Alumni, his community and the country at large would be sorely missed. He enjoined the family to take solace in the fact that the late Adokeme lived a fulfilled life and death is the way of all mortals, adding that their former Member bowed out when the ovation was loudest.

Earlier in his sermon, the Senior Regional Overseer of the Mountain of Fire and Miracle Ministries, South South Region, Okaka, Pastor Taiwo Oladimeji, said that: "death is a debt which everybody must pay." The clergy urged Christians to live their lives in a manner that would earn them heaven when they die.

He said that one's status would not earn one heaven unless one lived a worthy life. The Pastor thanked God for the 'impactful life' of the deceased as a Christian father. "He lived a humble life to the service of God and humanity," he said.



Pro-Chancellor, Senator Uchendu (5th left), flanked by the widow, Justice Adokeme (left), the children, some Council Members, Principal Officers and PRO, Sam Kpenu (right)

UniPort Pulls Out 12 Academic Generals

By Otiakor Samuel

Following their successful retirement from active service, the University of Port Harcourt has pulled out 12 'Academic Generals' at the 12th Valedictory Senate Session. This was the sole agenda of the 461st Extraordinary Meeting of Senate held on Wednesday, September 22, 2021.

The Academic Generals are: Professors Abi Derefaka, Henry Bell-Gam, Bernard Efiuvwevwere, Roseline Konya, Enuvie Akpokodje and John Enaohwo. Others are Lawrence Igwe, Adewale Dosunmu, Kio Abo, Anthonia Okerengwo, Ambrose Obiechina and Ndubuisi Eke.

In his tributes to the Valedictorians, the Chairman of Senate and Vice Chancellor, Professor Ogunari Georgewill, who was represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Clifford Ofurum, showered praises on the retirees for contributing meritoriously towards the growth of the University during their years of active service.

The Chairman of Senate disclosed that Professor Akpokodje secured employment with the University as a pioneer staff in 1976, rising through the ranks to become a Professor of Engineering and Environmental Geology in 1994. The Chairman noted that Professor Enaohwo was also a pioneer staff employed on August 24, 1976 and became a Professor of Economics of Education in 1987, while Professor Konya was employed in 1979 and she rose to become a Professor of Animal and Environmental Biology in 2003. He said that Professor Efiuvwevwere, who joined the services of the University in 1981, became a Professor of Microbiology in 2000.

The Vice Chancellor recalled that Professor Derefaka joined the services of the University as Lecturer I in 1984 and was promoted a Professor of African Archaeology and Early History in 2005, while Professor Henry Bell-Gam joined the University in 1986 and became a Professor of Theatre Arts in 2005, adding that Professor Eke got pensionable



The Valedictorians (in gown), some representatives and Principal Officers

employment with the University in 1989 and rose to the academic peak of a Professor of Surgery. Professor Georgewill disclosed that Professor Igwe joined UniPort in 1991 and became a Professor of Educational Management in 2006, while Professor Dosunmu transferred his services to the University in 1991 and was promoted a Professor of Petroleum Engineering in 2006. The Chairman of Senate told the gathering that Professor Okerengwo secured employment with the University in 1993 and retired as a Professor of Immunology. Obiechina, who is a Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon, transferred his services to the University to help nurture the emergent Faculty of Dentistry, while Professor Abo took appointment with the University in 2011 as a Professor of Pharmacognosy and Phytotherapy where he also provided quality leadership.

Speaking on behalf of the Valedictorians, Professor Konya, who recalled some of the experiences at the early stage of her career in the University, charged younger colleagues to always give of their best to the system. She commended Senate for recognising their contributions to the University by honouring them through the Valedictory Session.

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VC Unveils New Lab



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Microbiologists Seek Ways To Reposition Nigeria



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A Publication of the Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria

173rd Inaugural

Kilani Promotes Islam, Advocates Religious Diversity In Nigeria

By Humphrey Ogu

Promoting the understanding and acceptance of Islam as a religion of peace was the thrust the 173rd Inaugural Lecture delivered by Professor Abdulrazaq Kilani of the Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Thursday, September 16, 2021.

Kilani, who spoke on the topic: "The Dialogue of Monotheism and the Struggle to Surrender," noted that the main focus of his Lecture was to remove the veils of ignorance and of prejudice against Islam. "It is the veil of great misunderstanding of Islam as a global religion. It is the veil from those who understand Islam as Hausa religion. The veil of hate which pervades the social media has also made some people not to see Islam as an equal player with Christianity or Judaism," he explained.

Citing the misconceptions in some quarters that Shari'ah legal system was politically motivated

and conceived as a means to punish the poor, Kilani stated that Shari'ah legal system was neither discriminatory nor meant for non-Muslims. He observed that Islam

without Shari'ah is impracticable. "In Islam, Muslims do not change themselves to conform with the laws and creeds as enjoined

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Council Confers Emeriti Professors On Abbey, Enaohwo, Eheazu

By Otiakor Samuel



In recognition of their contributions and relevance to the mentorship of younger colleagues in their areas of specialisation and respective Departments, the Governing Council has appointed three retired scholars as Emeriti Professors in the

University. They are: Professors Bene Willie Abbey, John Enaohwo and Benjamin Eheazu.

The Acting Registrar and Secretary to Council, Mrs Joyce Tamuno, made the disclosure in separate letters to the new

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Georgewill Unveils New Lab Equipment, Bus, Green Farm For OTI ...Commends Partners For Intervention

By Otikor Samuel

It was a bumper harvest for the Offshore Technology Institute as the Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill led his deputies to officially unveil the high-tech laboratory equipment including a 14-seater HiAce bus. The items which were estimated at about N150 million naira were donated by the Shell National Exploration and Production Company (SNEPCo). The unveiling ceremony held on Thursday, September 23, 2021 at the ETF Building, Temporary Office of the Institute.

The laboratory equipment and the bus were made



A group photograph of guests after the event



DVC (Acad), Prof Owunari Georgewill cutting the tape to unveil the Farm, while others watch

available courtesy of the tripartite arrangement between the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), SNEPCo and Technip FMC Nig. Ltd. SNEPCo, under its Bonga North West Project, provided the fund, the intervention was done on behalf of the University by the NCDMB, while Technip FMC Nig. Ltd supplied the equipment.

In a related event, the Vice Chancellor formally opened the Green Technology Farm which is a solar-powered demonstration farm for renewable energy technology to generate solar-water energy and biogas for practical training in the Institute. The Farm was sponsored by the Institute.

In his speech, the highly elated Vice Chancellor, Professor Georgewill, disclosed that he flew in from a trip and mobilised the three Deputy Vice Chancellors as a demonstration of the premium his administration placed on the productive partnership with the University. The Vice Chancellor, whose address was later read by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Clifford Ofurum, said the equipment would contribute immensely to the global visibility of the Offshore Technology Institute.

Presenting his welcome address, outgoing Acting Director of the Institute, Dr Tobinson Briggs, also showered praises on the donors. He added that the laboratory equipment would provide hands-on training for students of the Institute and allied disciplines.

In her remarks, the Managing Director of Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company Limited, Mrs Elohor Aiboni, expressed delight with the successful handover of the equipment to the University. Mrs Aiboni, whose speech was read by the Manager,



VC, Prof Georgewill unveiling the bus, while others watch

Social Performance and Social Investment, Dr Gloria Udoh, noted that the partnership with OTI was not a coincidence as SNEPCo is into Deepwater exploration which is part of the mandate of OTI.

Others who spoke included the General Manager, Strategy who represented the Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board, Engr Simbi Wabote; Manager, Subsea Services, Technip FMC Nig. Ltd, Francis Ofule and incoming Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Professor Roland Uhumwangho. Highlights of the event were tour of facilities and unveiling of the equipment. Equipment supplied include: OWI Robotic Arm Edge, PLC Controllino, Fluke 117 Electricians True RMS Multimeter, Handheld Digital Solar Power Meter, CanaKit Raspberry, Elegoo Mega 2560 Project kit, Global Specialties R680 Banshi Robotic Arm, Tensile Testers, Nvis 5001A TechBook and Nvis 5004B-ARM7 Development Platform with zigbee module.

Others are: Rhopoint Instrument, Sonocon B flaw detector and accessories, Teren-CM-8823 Portable Eddy Current N Probe Coating Thickens Gauge Meter Tester, FV-2009 Portable LED X ray Film Viewer Radiographic Testing Flaw Detect 110, Yushi Yut2600 portable digital ultrasonic flaw detector, MXBAOHENG YFD300 NDT



7th VC, Prof Ajenka supported by others cutting the tape for the new Lab

Equipment Digital Ultrasonic Flaw Detector Portable Flaw Detection Material Velocity 1000-15000m/s, VTSYIQI VTS-500N-200mm electric push pull tensile test station and 3D Printer/Laser engraver stepcraft and accessories.

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GUIDE POST APPOINTMENT

Professor Atuboyedia Obianime, Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Basic Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, appointed *Vice Chancellor's Representative/Chairman, Governing Board of the College of Continuing Education (CCE)*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect will terminate on September 1, 2023.

Professor Roland Uhumwangho, Department of Electrical/Electronic Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, appointed *Dean, Faculty of Engineering*, effective September 29, 2021 to September 28, 2023.

Professor John Yesibo, Department of Theatre and Film Studies, Faculty of Humanities, appointed *Acting Dean of the Faculty*, effective September 2, 2021 until further notice.

Dr Joachim Odigie, Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Basic Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, appointed *University of Port Harcourt Business Manager*, effective September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2023.

Dr Fabara Bobmanuel, Department of Human Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, appointed *Assistant Director, University of Port Harcourt Foundation*, effective September 2, 2021 to September 1, 2023.

Dr Nkoyo Nuen, Department of Chemical Pathology, Faculty of Basic Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, appointed *Assistant Director, Ashgrove Academy*, effective August 9, 2021 to August 15, 2023.

Dr Sunday Edum, Department of Theatre and Film Studies, Faculty of Humanities, appointed *Associate Dean, Student Affairs Department*, effective September 15, 2021 to September 14, 2023.

Dr Uche Osokogwu, Department of Petroleum and Gas Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, appointed *Assistant Director, Emerald Energy Institute*, effective September 15, 2021 to September 14, 2023.

Dr Gideon Ugboegbulam, Department of Management, Faculty of Management Sciences, appointed *Assistant Director, Entrepreneurship Centre*, effective September 15, 2021 to September 14, 2023.

Dr Tobinson Briggs, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, appointed *Assistant Director, University of Port Harcourt Technology Park*, effective September 15, 2021 to September 14, 2023.

Dr Onyinyechi Wariboko, Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, appointed *Associate Dean (Female), Student Affairs Department*, effective September 15, 2021 to September 14, 2023.

Professor Caroline Mbonu, Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, appointed *Head of the Department*, effective September 6, 2021 to September 5, 2023.

Dr Josephine Onyido, Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, appointed *Acting Head of the Department*, effective September 23, 2021 to September 22, 2023.

I'm Impressed With SGS Achievements, VC Tells Dean

By Otikor Samuel

Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill, has expressed satisfaction with the achievements recorded by successive administrations of the School of Graduate Studies in the University. He described the growth of the School as a product of innovative ideas.

Professor Georgewill made the observation when the Dean, Professor Barisua Nwinee, led other members of the management team of the School on a courtesy visit to the Vice Chancellor in his office on Tuesday, September 7, 2021.

"I listened to you with rapt attention knowing that the Graduate School is key to the development of any university. You succeeded in x-raying the strengths and challenges of the School. Just as you said, Management will be waiting for the position paper that will come from you, so we can take appropriate measures to tackle the challenges. I am impressed with the achievements of the School. As the School of Graduate Studies develops, UniPort develops," the Vice Chancellor told the delegation from the School.

Earlier, Dean of the School, Professor Nwinee,

who congratulated Professor Georgewill on his appointment as the ninth Vice Chancellor of the University, enumerated the achievements and some of the challenges of the School under his watch. He promised to do an official memo to outline them to enable the Vice Chancellor tackle some of the pressing needs.

Other members of the School of Graduate Studies team on the visit were the Associate Dean, Professor Olufemi Adesope, Graduate Studies Officer, Mrs Flora Iyagba and Admissions Officer, Mrs Ime Ibanga.



VC, Prof Georgewill (centre), flanked by Dean, Prof Nwinee, GSO, Mrs Iyagba (right), Admissions Officer, Mrs Ibanga and Associate Dean, Prof Adesope (left)

UniPort Launches Online Entrepreneurship Prog

By Sunny Dada

In an effort aimed at enhancing its entrepreneurial vision, the University of Port Harcourt, on Monday, September 6, 2021, launched its 'Online Nigeria Sustainable Entrepreneurship Programme,' which is an initiative that promotes virtual entrepreneurial learning.

The programme which was launched by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill, took place at the Open, Distance and E-Learning (ODEL) Centre. Dignitaries from the Nigerian entrepreneurial landscape and government functionaries attended the event.

In his welcome remark, the Vice Chancellor, who was represented at the event by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Clifford Ofurum, expressed appreciation to the Acting Director of the Centre, Dr Barilee Baridam for his efforts towards the successful launch of the NSEP initiative. He stressed the need for the inculcation of all dimensions of entrepreneurship into the NSEP Model.

The Vice Chancellor expressed the readiness of Management to provide the needed support to enable NSEP deliver on its mandate, stated that the initiative was a demonstration of the University's commitment towards the full actualisation of its entrepreneurial vision.

Earlier, the Chairman of the event and Founder of Genesis Group, Dr Naeeto Orazulike, commended the Management for the initiative. He expressed the hope that NSEP would contribute to the development of the Nigerian economy.

Dr Orazulike, who described entrepreneurs as the drivers of any economy, revealed that there are currently a lot of opportunities for businesses in Nigeria. He urged students to take advantage of the programme, pledging the support of the Genesis Group towards the success of the programme.

In his keynote address, the Managing Director of the Bank of Industry (BOI), Mr Olukayode Pitan, who was represented by the Regional Manager South-South, Mr Irabor Pacqueens, observed that entrepreneurship in Nigeria must recognise the significance of micro, small and medium-scale enterprises (MSMEs). He said MSMEs are one of the vehicles driving entrepreneurship and contributing meaningfully to the GDP of Nigeria.

Speaking on the topic: 'The Role of Sustainable Entrepreneurship in National Economic Development,' the Managing Director said "with about 40 million MSMEs contributing almost 40% to the country's GDP, and being responsible for about 80% of employment, the narrative about entrepreneurship in Nigeria starts and ends with MSMEs."

He however, regretted that despite the central role of entrepreneurs to the economy, "Nigerian entrepreneurs continue to face far ranging challenges that hamper their survival and growth." Some of the challenges, he listed include, difficulty in accessing finance due to high cost of lending, poor knowledge on how to run a business, infrastructural deficit which impacts operating cost, lack of access to modern technology, challenges related to high customs costs, inadequate planning, poor execution, unstable foreign exchange rate, limited intellectual copyright protection, and a host of others.

Calling for solutions to the myriad of challenges, Mr Pitan said "within the Nigerian context, the concept of sustainable entrepreneurship can be argued to imply a focus on identifying the challenges MSMEs face and implementing solutions to drive their success in the country."

Also speaking, the Honourable Minister of State for Agriculture and Rural Development, Hon Mohammed Sabo Nanono who was represented by the South-South Regional Director, Mr M.A. Brooks, extended the Ministry's solidarity to the NSEP initiative, stating that the programme has the potential to provide participants with sustainable income and self-reliance. He said the initiative was in tandem with the plan of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture to create 'agri-business incubation centres' in designated universities as special centres of excellence. He said the centres would support sustainable value-added food security for Nigeria through the development of viable agribusiness and entrepreneurship across the country.

He therefore called for stakeholder collaborations to create conducive business environment and increase private sector participation in order to expand value chain activities that will raise the contributions of the agricultural sector to the country's gross domestic product.

On his part, the Acting Director of the Open, Distance E-Learning Centre (ODEL), Dr Barilee Baridam, informed that NSEP was conceived out of a "desperate need to revive the centre and offer business solutions to the myriad of needs" of the country's growing population. He said NSEP which will cost N10,000 per participant, is a 10-module training package that runs for a maximum timeline of 10 weeks, stating that graduates of the programme will receive a University of Port Harcourt Certificate of Completion.

Highlights of the event was the official launch of the programme by the Vice Chancellor and the award of some dignitaries for their support towards the development of the University of Port Harcourt and the Nigerian economy.



VC, Prof Georgewill (arrowed), flanked by Principal Officers, Ag Director, Dr Baridam (6th left) and others

Kilani Promotes Islam, Advocates Religious Diversity, Tolerance

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by Allah and that is the true meaning of submission or surrender," the Professor of Islamic Studies explained. "The Ivory Tower is a centre of conversation among divergent views in order to promote understanding and demolish the terror of ignorance. Societies are grown and developed by diversities. This is the way to define our humanity," the Inaugural Lecturer, who has been the Imam of the University of Port Harcourt since 1994, pointed out. He called for the sanctity of lives and the avoidance of scapegoatism among Nigerians, noting that humanity is one.

As a way of disabusing the minds of non-Muslims and deepening the understanding of Islam in Nigeria, Kilani, who called for the regulation of the activities of religious bodies and addressing of security threats and resource war between the herders and farmers, stressed the need for the media to demonstrate professionalism by reporting with objectivity, accuracy and truthfulness.

"There is a predominant media narrative that asserts that Islam is inherently violent, Muslims are dangerous and that the rest of the world should remain alert and suspicious of them," Kilani observed, advising that Nigerians should avoid religionisation of politics and politicisation of religion in the public space. He explained that when political issues are religionised, the public space becomes weaponised.

The Islamic scholar called for the establishment of a Centre of Excellence in Islamic Studies in the University of Port Harcourt, explaining that "the Centre of Excellence, when established can collaborate with the Department of Finance and Banking in the Faculty of Management Sciences in the areas of Islamic Banking and allied products derivable from Islamic Studies."

Citing the successful introduction of Islamic Bond into Nigeria Capital Market and the commencement of Jaiz, Taj and Lotus Bank for non-interest banking businesses in Nigeria, he noted that viable areas of collaboration with similar centres exist globally. "The Centre, when established, can attract additional research and funding

opportunities to the University of Port Harcourt," he pointed out, adding that the vision could be modelled after School of Oriental and African Studies, London, which is a world-class Centre of Islamic Scholarship that is attracting scholars from across globe.

Speaking after the Lecture, Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill, commended the Inaugural Lecturer, Professor Kilani, for a very enlightening Lecture on the misconception of Islamic Religion. He described the Lecture as a five-star performance by an erudite scholar, noting that it had enlightened the audience on what Islam means. Responding to the Inaugural Lecturer's call for the establishment of a Centre of Excellence in Islamic Studies, the Vice Chancellor requested him to submit a proposal for possible consideration. Meanwhile the 174th Inaugural Lecture entitled "Feed my Flock" will be delivered by Professor Ibisime Etela at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Thursday, September 30, 2021.



173rd Inaugural Lecturer, Prof Kilani (arrowed), flanked by VC, Prof Georgewill, Ag Registrar, Mrs Joyce Tamuno, DVC (R&D), Prof Iyeopu Siminialayi (right), DVC (Acad), Prof Kingsley Owete (left) and other Professors

Microbiologists Research Ways To Position Nigeria For Development

By Humphrey Ogu

Positioning Nigeria for rapid development through research formed the thrust of the 43rd Scientific Conference and Annual General Meeting of the Nigerian Society for Microbiology

up the national executive. "Let me, on behalf of the Council, Management, Senate, Staff and Students of the University, welcome you to UniPort. While here, you will enjoy the usual hospitality of the University. We hope that the conference will go smoothly," he said.

In his address, NSM President, Professor Mohammed Yerima, noted that the Conference would address some of the recent advances in Microbial Technologies in order to identify the best approach to make Nigeria's agriculture sustainable and ensure food security, while also contributing in

improving the country's health, environment and industrial sectors. "Microbial Resources surpass any other resources. It is, therefore, high time that Nigerian government began to exploit microorganism in repositioning, restructuring and revitalising our economy," he observed.

Delivering the keynote address on the theme of the conference, Professor Nduka Uraih, who enumerated the roles of microbiology in medical, environmental, industrial and agricultural sciences, said: "If we must make a rapid development in Nigeria, the government, private organisations, industries and even the end-

users of our researches must be on ground to support the course without prejudice. We must all be ready to make progress and the time is now."

Major highlights of the Conference were the presentation of recognition awards and conferment of NSM Fellowship on deserving microbiologists. Among the seven recipients of the Fellowship were Governor of Cross River State, Professor Ben Ayade and a former Commissioner for Education in Rivers State, Professor Ngozi Odu of PAMO University of Medical Sciences, while three others received recognition award.

The Vice Chancellor, who later declared the Conference open, noted that NSM was a very unique association, where many professors still engage in research. "Most scholars forget that research is a very important mandate in the academic business. Once they become professors, they stop engaging in research. In this University, we don't just teach, we place premium on research. We also encourage community service where people from our host communities benefit from teaching and research activities," the Vice Chancellor said.



VC, Prof Georgewill (arrowed), flanked by DVC (Acad), Prof Owete and National President, Prof Yerima and other members of National EXCO and LOC

(NSM) held at the University of Port Harcourt from Monday, 6 to Friday, September 10, 2021. The Conference, which was tagged: "UniPort 2021", had "Microbiology in the New Decade: Positioning Nigeria for Rapid Development," as its theme with participants drawn from various parts of the country.

Welcoming members of NSM to the University during a courtesy call on him, Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill expressed satisfaction with the calibre of persons that made

Council Confers Emeriti Professorship...

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appointees dated September 3, 2021. Mrs Tamuno further revealed that the Governing Council made the appointment at its 176th Meeting held on Wednesday, August 18, 2021. The appointment was sequel to the recommendations

of the Appointments and Promotions Committee (Academic) at its 146th Meeting on Tuesday, June 22, 2021.

Professor Willie Abbey was appointed Emeritus Professor of Nutritional Biochemistry in the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science,

while Enaohwo is now Emeritus Professor of Educational Planning in the Department of Educational Management and Eheazu, Emeritus Professor in the Department of Adult and Non-Formal Education, Faculty of Education.

Ibe Proposes Mentorship Policy In Varsity System

By Humphrey Ogu



Prof Ibe (arrowed), flanked by DVC (Admin), Prof Ofurum, Ag Registrar, Mrs Joyce Tamuno, Ag Univ Librarian, Dr Emmanuel Owushi (left) DVC (R&D), Prof Iyeopu Siminialayi, Bursar, Dr Felicia Aywo, Deans of Eng, Prof Oghonna Joel, SGS, Barisua Nwinea, Social Sciences, Prince Mmom and others

former Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration) in the University, Professor Anthony Ibe, has called for a deliberate policy that would foster mentorship culture in the Nigerian university system to bridge the knowledge gap between retiring academics and administrators and their younger colleagues.

Ibe, who is of the Department of Electrical/Electronic Engineering in the Faculty of Engineering, made the observation at the 21st Valedictory Lecture in the University at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Tuesday, September 14, 2021.

Delivering the Lecture entitled: "Mentorship: A

Game Changer for the University System," Ibe defined mentorship as "a relationship between two people where the individual with more experience, knowledge and connections is able to pass along what he has learned to a more junior individual within a certain field. Mentoring can also be looked at as a reciprocal and collaborative relationship between a senior and junior employee for the purpose of the mentees's growth, learning and career development," he noted, adding that mentorship has become an indispensable management tool for sustainable growth of many corporate organisations today, and so, the University should not be an exception.

"In fact, the University, because of its peculiarities, needs

mentorship more than other corporate entities. The introduction of a deliberate policy by the University of Port Harcourt will go a long way in addressing most career-related problems and the creation of a more conducive atmosphere for serious academic work," Ibe explained.

The Valedictory Lecturer, who proposed various mentorship programmes, said that such programmes should be tailored to allow Faculty members to thrive in different aspects of their careers. He also said the programmes should ensure that all Faculty members understand expectations of career advancement, help develop research productivity and teaching excellence.

Speaking after the Lecture, Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill, who was represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Clifford Ofurum, described the Lecture as a five-star presentation. "We did not expect less from the Valedictory Lecturer. This is a lecture on mentorship coming from a great mentor himself," he said, adding that in listing the qualities of a good mentor, Professor Ibe seems to be describing himself as he clearly possesses the qualities he mentioned.

Again, Tanzanian High Commissioner Visits UniPort

By Otokor Samuel

In furtherance of his earlier visit to propose reintroduction of the teaching and learning of Swahili language in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Faculty of Humanities, the High Commissioner of the United Republic of Tanzania, His Excellency, Dr Benson Bana, has paid a follow-up visit to the University.

Speaking when he paid a familiarisation visit to the Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill in his office on Friday, September 10, 2021, the Tanzanian envoy said he decided to visit again to ascertain the extent of progress made on the proposal.

"The last time I came to the University on July 1, I was told that the Governing Council was finalising the process of

appointment of a new Vice Chancellor, so I congratulate you on your emergence. My purpose of visiting is for the University to reintroduce the teaching of Kiswahili language in UniPort. We met with the Dean, Faculty of Humanities and the Head of Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and I shared the synopsis with the counterpart University of Dar es Salaam. I am here to know the extent of the proposal," Dr Bana told the Vice Chancellor.

Responding, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Georgewill, who welcomed the High Commissioner to the University, described it as a great honour to have the Tanzanian envoy in the University. "You are not only promoting Swahili language, but you are also promoting partnership between Nigeria and Tanzania. I am yet to see



VC, Prof Georgewill (2nd right), flanked by His Excellency, Dr Bana, DVC (R&D), Prof Siminialayi (left) and Mwandobo (right)

the document arising from your last visit, but I will make the necessary inquiry and ensure that the process is attended to promptly," the Vice Chancellor assured his guest.

The High Commissioner was accompanied on the visit by a Counsellor in the Commission, Elias Mwandobo. The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Development), Professor Iyeopu Siminialayi was also on hand during the visit.

UniPort Opens Counselling Centre

By Otikor Samuel

Staff and students who are in need of counselling services can now get them for free at the University of Port Harcourt Counselling Centre. This follows the official opening of the Centre located at Ofrima roundabout, University Park on Friday, September 10, 2021.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Clifford Ofurum, who emphasised the need for a counselling centre, recalled that a good number of persons had died of depression due to lack of encouragement and guidance from professional Counsellors.

Earlier, in her address, Acting Director of the Counselling Centre (Professional), Dr Rosemary Ekechukwu, stated that the Centre had increased awareness among members of the University



DVC (Admin), Prof Ofurum (7th right), flanked by DVC (Acad), Prof Owete, Ag Director of Centre (Professional), Dr Ekechukwu (left), Ag Registrar, Mrs Joyce Tamuno (4th right), Ag Univ Librarian, Dr Owushi, Director of Centre (Admin), Mrs Nnodim (right) and others

community. "We thank the administration of the University for creating this all-important centre to cater for the emotional and psychological needs of our students and staff," she said.

Also speaking, Director of the Centre (Administration), Mrs Matilda Nnodim, said the Centre is an expansion of the counselling services

earlier meant for staff which was created to run at par with the services rendered at the Health Services Department. "The Centre was mooted to run as a support system to attend to challenges of staff who are in need of counselling services," Mrs Nnodim said.

UniPort Unveils First Phase Of Refurbished Youth-Friendly Centre

By Sunny Dada

The University of Port Harcourt has unveiled the first phase of the newly-refurbished Youth-Friendly Centre. The unveiling ceremony which took place on Wednesday, September 15, 2021, at the Delta Park, was attended by the former Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant General Azubuike Ihejirika (rtd), Air Vice Marshall Dick Irunabere (rtd) and Chairman, House Committee on Health Services, Hon (Dr) Yusuf Tanko Sununu.

In his welcome remark, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill, who was represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Clifford Ofurum, described the event as one of the finest moments in the University in recent times.

He stated that the calibre of guests at the event was a demonstration of the commitment of Management to prioritise youth development in the

University. The Vice Chancellor further declared that although the University is limited by resources, Management would do all within its powers to ensure that the Centre delivers on its mandate.

In his address, Acting Director of the Centre, Dr Kelechi Okonta, stated that the Centre was established 17 years ago in response to the request by the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA) to ensure the mental, physical and social wellbeing of students. He disclosed that the objectives of the Centre would be achieved through the offer of specialised services such as: pre-test and post-test counselling; HIV testing; care and support of HIV positive cases in collaboration with other stakeholders; prevention of sexual violence, crimes, and unwanted pregnancy; comprehensive adolescent sexuality package; conflict resolution skills; nutrition and exercise advice; provision of information, education and communication (IEC) materials through a resource library section; provision of

recreational activities; and community services to secondary schools as part of corporate social responsibilities.

Dr Okonta pointed out that the major challenge of the Centre was to get one of its critical partners to honour the Memorandum of Understanding it signed with the University through release of fund, adding that alleged failure to implement the MOU had posed a major setback towards the smooth take-off of the Centre.

Delivering his keynote address, the Chairman House Committee on Health Services, Dr Sununu, who represents Ngaski, Shanga and Yauri Federal Constituency, Kebbi State, commended the University for its cleanliness, religious tolerance and for ensuring a peaceful atmosphere for research and learning.

Dr Sununu, who spoke on the need for a concerted effort to combat the HIV/AIDS scourge, urged youths to take advantage of the Centre to ascertain their status. He stated that knowing their status comes with the benefit of addressing any associated health risk that may become terminal to them. He also stated that his Committee was working with relevant stakeholders to ensure that the national HIV/AIDS prevalence rate which currently stands at 1.5% is reduced to the barest minimum.

While pledging his support towards the enhancement of the Centre, Dr Sununu also assured his host that he would use his position as Chairman of House Committee on Health Services to attract fruitful opportunities to the Centre.

In his remark, the Special Guest of Honour, former Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant General Ihejirika (rtd) commended the Acting Director of the Centre for a job well done. He enjoined policy makers to prioritise the development of youths. The former Army boss emphasised that the nation cannot survive if citizens do not learn lesson from past and present events.

The guests had earlier paid a courtesy visit on the Vice Chancellor in his office.



DVC (Admin), Prof Ofurum (arrowed), flanked by former CoAS, Lt Gen Ihejirika, House of Rep member, Dr Sununu, Air Vice Marshall Irunabere (rtd), Ag Centre Director, Dr Okonta (right) and other guests

Ofurum Heads Electricity Audit, Counselling Centre Functioning C'tees

By Otikor Samuel

Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill, has appointed his deputy in charge of Administration, Professor Clifford Ofurum as Chairman of the University of Port Harcourt Electricity Consumption Auditing Committee. Professor Ofurum is also appointed the Chairman on Proper Functioning of the Counselling Centre.

The Vice Chancellor, in separate letters also appointed members of the two Committees. The Committee for the Proper Functioning of the Counselling Centre which was dated September 9, 2021, has the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor Kingsley Owete, Professor Princewill Stanley, Dr Chima Wokocha, Mrs Mammy Otonnah and Mrs Blessing Korubo-Owiya as members.

The letter conveying appointment of members of the University of Port Harcourt Electricity Consumption Auditing Committee which was dated September 16, 2021, has Acting Director of the Internal Audit Unit, Dr Boniface Woko, Director of Works and Services Department, Mr Moses Nmelusum, Mr Noble Maclean and Ms Gift Ogbie as members. The Acting Registrar, Mrs Joyce Tamuno is expected to appoint Secretaries to the Committees.



Prof Ofurum, DVC (Admin)

VC Pledges Support For Nematologists Confab In UniPort

By Otikor Samuel



DVC (Admin), Prof Ofurum (3rd right), flanked by DVC (Acad), Prof Kingsley Owete (left), Prof Asimiea, Dr Okereke (right), Prof Imafidor and Dr Zakka (left)

Head of the forthcoming 5th biennial conference of the Nigerian Society of Nematologists (NISON) to be hosted in the University of Port Harcourt between October 17 and 20, 2021, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill, has pledged to support the Local Organising Committee for a successful conference.

The Vice Chancellor, who was represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Clifford Ofurum, made the pledge when he received a four-member delegation of the local branch of the Society in the Committee Room on Tuesday, September 21, 2021.

"We thank the Nigerian Society of Nematologists for granting the University of Port Harcourt the hosting right for the 5th Biennial Conference of the Society. You have the authority of the Vice Chancellor to host the Conference as slated and whatever the University is expected to do within the available resources, it will oblige you to enable the conferees have a successful stay in UniPort," representative of the Vice Chancellor told his guests.

Earlier in his speech, Chairman of the Local

Organising Committee, Professor Aminyanaba Asimiea, disclosed that the University of Port Harcourt got the hosting right for the 5th Conference at its last biennial conference held in Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), Oyo State. He appealed to Management to assist the Local Organising Committee in hosting the Society, revealing that the University of Port Harcourt would be the first to host the conference of the Society in the South-South region.

"The Conference will hold between 17th and 20th October, 2021. We are few so we need the University to come to our aid as we are expecting top dignitaries and students from all over the country," Professor Asimiea said, disclosing the theme as "Nematode Management and Sustainable Agriculture."

Also present at the visit were the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor Kingsley Owete, Head of Department of Crop and Soil Science, Dr Usman Zakka and Chairmen of Welfare and Technical Sub-Committees, Professor Helen Imafidor and Dr Victor Okereke.

VC Assures ANA Of Support In Promoting Literature, Reading Culture

By Humphrey Ogu



VC, Prof Georgewill (6th left), flanked by ANA Rivers Chairman, Mr Wali (right), Prof Priye Iyalla-Amadi, Humphrey Ogu, Sotonye Boyle, Akpojoto Peter, Miesoinuma Minima (left) and others

Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill, has assured the Rivers State branch of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) of his willingness to support the growth of the Association. The Vice Chancellor, gave the assurance when members of the Association paid a courtesy visit on him on Tuesday, September 21, 2021.

Professor Georgewill, who is an Honorary Member of the Association, recounted how his love for literature motivated him to choose Literature-in-English as one of his secondary

school subjects even as a science student. He went ahead to recite extempore two literary passages, including Oswald Mtshali's "Nightfall in Soweto" to the amazement and listening delight of his guests.

"Today is a great day for me. Whenever people who have been associating with me before I became Vice Chancellor visit me I feel great. Let's do our bits to ensure that ANA grows from strength to strength. You will write the story of UniPort," the Vice Chancellor said, reassuring his guests of his willingness to work with them to

restore and reposition UniPort as a leading University in literature in Nigeria through the promotion of literary activities.

Earlier in his address, Chairman of the Rivers State branch of the Association, Adi Wali, who conveyed the goodwill message of the National President of the Association, Camilus Uka, said: "We are here to congratulate you on your successful assumption of office. We are proud of you as our distinguished Honorary Member. We are confident that with you at the helms of affairs this University will return to its past glory as a leading institution in the country, as we pray that God should guide, guard and strengthen you to achieve all your goals."

Recalling that Port Harcourt was the World Book Capital in 2014, Mr Wali noted that the University of Port Harcourt under the leadership of Professor Joseph Ajenka played a critical role in achieving that feat. "Professor Ajenka introduced such initiatives as Writers-in-Residence, with the appointment of Gabriel Okara and Elechi Amadi of the blessed memory and Ifeanyi Aniebo. He also appointed a University Poet and so on. We believe that with you in charge the University can once again reintroduce those laudable initiatives, including mounting a Creative Writing Programme," he said, adding that such initiatives would not only distinguish UniPort as a Centre of Excellence in Creative Writing and Literature, but will also generate revenues for the University.

Also part of the ANA delegation were the Associate Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Dr Obari Gomba, Ex-Chairman of ANA Rivers State, Dr Obinna Nwodim, and Professor Ibiere Ken-Maduako.