

Nigerian Army, Police Force To Beef Up Presence In UniPort

By Sam Kpenu

The General Officer Commanding 6 Division of the Nigerian Army, Major General Sani Gambo Mohammed has expressed his determination to strengthen security surveillance around the University of Port Harcourt. The assurance was made when the Pro-Chancellor, Senator Andrew Uchendu led Council members and Management on a courtesy visit to the Division at Bori Camp on Wednesday, October 13, 2021.

The GOC reiterated the commitment of the Nigerian Army to respond to the University's security demand at all times, saying they were in the state to protect and serve the people.

"I want to thank you for the critical services you are providing for the state and the nation at large and I assure you that the Army will readily intervene whenever we are called upon. This visit will further boost and foster good relationship between the Army and the University," Mohammed said.

Speaking earlier, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill said they were in the 6 Division to officially notify him of the change in leadership structure of the University and to cement the already existing cordial relationship between it and the Division.

He informed the GOC that the Institution is a community of over fifty thousand residents and requested the Army to always respond to its call whenever there was any escalating situation that requires urgent attention.

"Let's keep and maintain our relationship. I want us to partner on security issues to ensure the safety of our children in the Institution. I want the GOC to reactivate and revitalise the Army Unit in Emohua Local Government to serve as reinforcement in case of any escalating situation beyond the Nigeria Police," Georgewill said.



Pro-Chancellor, Senator Uchendu (4th right), VC, Prof Georgewill (5th left), R/S CP, Eboka (5th right), Principal Officers and Senior Officers of the Nigeria Police Force and the University

In a related development, the Nigeria Police Force has promised to establish an Anti-Kidnapping Unit to provide adequate security for the University community and its environs.

The Rivers State Commissioner of Police, Eboka Friday made the disclosure when the Pro-Chancellor, Council members and Management team visited him at the State Headquarters, Moscow Road, Port Harcourt, on Tuesday, October 12, 2021. The Police boss said the Unit which would replace the defunct SARS, assured his guests that the Unit would be strengthened to provide quick security response to the University within the shortest possible time.

The Commissioner of Police informed his visitors that the issue of incessant harassment of the students of the institution by the Police has been laid to rest, noting that he had given marching orders to the various formations within the Command to put a stop to that ugly incident that is capable of

tarnishing the image of the Force.

"UniPort has a cordial relationship with the Nigeria Police Force and we will not fail to reciprocate the gesture. We lost nine gallant officers during the heat of the crises and we appreciate the fact that you are also here to commiserate with us. Thank you for your kindness," the Commissioner added.

Speaking earlier, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Georgewill, said the Management of the Institution came to cement the already existing cordial relationship with the Force and to thank the Command for establishing its presence around the University, which he said, has led to the peaceful and tranquil atmosphere being enjoyed by the University.

"I want an increased security presence in the University. We will provide logistics and support to your men to ensure effective policing of the University," the Vice Chancellor said.

Also speaking, the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman, Governing Council, Senator Andrew Uchendu, had sympathised with the Police Command over the death of their men who lost their lives in the line of duty. He assured the Commissioner that the Institution would always provide the needed support to ensure effective policing in the University.

The Pro-Chancellor was accompanied on the visit by the Management and some members of the Governing Council.



Pro-Chancellor, Senator Uchendu (5th left), flanked by the GOC, Major Gen Mohammed, VC, Prof Georgewill, Council Member, Prof Nnenna Frank-Peterside (right), Principal Officers and Senior Officers of the Nigerian Army and UniPort

UniPort Gets More Professors, As Senate Approves Results

By Otiakor Samuel



462nd Senate Meeting in session

Five new Professors have joined the Senate of the University as statutory members. They are: Laetitia Onyegbue of the Department

of Computer Science, Kaine Orubite-Okorosaye (Pure and Industrial Chemistry), Oluseyi Babatunde (Preventive and Social Medicine),

Grace Robinson-Bassey (Nursing Science) and Chukwuogwu Paul (Human Anatomy).

The Vice Chancellor and Chairman of Senate, Professor Owunari Georgewill, made the disclosure in his briefing at the 462nd Extraordinary Meeting of Senate held on Wednesday, October 5, 2021, at the Senate Chamber inside Senate Building, University Park. The Chairman congratulated them on their promotion.

During its deliberations, Senate considered and approved with modifications the report of a request by a Doctoral Candidate, Okwudiri-Ibe, Nieme Carolyn to be granted waiver to conclude her programme in the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences.

The 462nd Senate received the report of the Certificate Verification Committee in which the Committee reported that a total of 3,383 students were verified with 3,163 of them cleared and 220 pending cases. The Committee verified up to Year Two of 2018/2019 set and seized two suspected fake certificates.

Senate approved recommendations from the Faculties of Humanities, Social Sciences, Science, Education, Engineering, Management Sciences, Pharmaceutical Sciences and Law. The august body also approved recommendations from the School of Science Laboratory Technology, College of Health Sciences and School of Graduate Studies.



Nnabuo Emerges New ANUPA Chair
Story on p2



VC Receives Emergent Communication Faculty Team
Story on p3



Engineering Gets New Dean
Story on p4



More Graduate Students Get Scholarship
Story on p7

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VC Holds Thanksgiving To Celebrate Victory



By Sam Kpenu

Following his appointment as the 9th Vice Chancellor on 12th July, 2021 which he attributed to the intervention of God, Professor Owunari Georgewill held an Interdenominational Thanksgiving Service to express appreciation to God for the miracle of his

emergence.

The thanksgiving Service which held at the Convocation Arena on Sunday, October 10, 2021, witnessed a massive turn out of guests including members of the judiciary, the traditional institution, Royal fathers, the political class and academic community.

In his Address, Professor Georgewill

expressed profound gratitude to God whom he said, made it possible for him to emerge as the 9th Vice Chancellor of the University at a critical time in the history of the University. He said he and his family were thanking God for his kindness, unfailing love, faithfulness, countless favour and

More on p6

UniPort Graduates Clinch President's NYSC Honours Awards

By Humphrey Ogu

Three former students of the University of Port Harcourt were among 110 ex-members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) that distinguished themselves by winning the 2018/19 President's NYSC Honours Award. Receiving the Award-winning ex-students, at his office on Monday, September 27, 2021, the Vice



Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill, welcomed them on behalf of the Governing Council, Management, Senate, staff and students of the University. He also commended the former students for distinguishing themselves and making the University proud. On her part, Acting Registrar, Mrs Joyce Tamuno, who also congratulated

More on p3



Kpolovie Wins Global Scientific Competition

PAGE
2

By Sam Kpenu

A former Director of Academic Planning, Research and Control, Professor Peter Kpolovie, has won the global Scientist of the Year 2021 award. Kpolovie was among the eight winners of the global competition organised by the International Achievements Research Centre (IARC) located in Montreal, Canada.

UniPort News gathered that the competition is open to scientists, engineers, researchers and innovators from all over the world and everyone who has notable scientific achievements is eligible to apply.

IARC designed the event to foster the professional growth of talented scientists, engineers, and researchers from various regions of the world through showcasing the latest results of their work, their notable discoveries and breakthroughs that advance the frontiers of science and technology.

The Director, IARC Competition, Dr Michael Finnen, in a letter, congratulated Kpolovie on the award, stating that Professor Kpolovie's impressive accomplishments over the years and his commitment to excellence inspired the Centre to recognise him as a winner in the Natural Sciences/Computer and Information Sciences category.

Addressing Kpolovie, the letter said: "Studying plenty of nominations received from different countries of the world for the 'Scientist of the Year 2021' Open International Competition, our international experts and the Judging Committee have thoroughly evaluated the potential and track record of each candidate, as well as the scientific value and impact of his/her works on the modern world and human being.

"The impressive accomplishments that you have been demonstrating over the years, along with your commitment to excellence inspired us to recognize you as a Winner 2021 in the 'Natural Sciences/Computer

and Information Sciences' competition category.

"To maximize the visibility of your works and achievements on the international level, your personal 'Scientist of the Year 2021 Winner' web page with a unique URL containing your name has been created and published on the official website of the 'Scientist of the Year' Open International Competition'.

"Honoring your leadership and outstanding professional achievements, we present you with a Certificate of Recognition. The

Certificate contains a QR-code with the link to your personal web page mentioned above.

"As a Winner, you are granted a perpetual right to use the emblem "Scientist of the Year 2021 Winner" that promotes your accomplishments and highlights your international recognition.

"You can use the Emblem in your own publicity, print it on your books, articles, and monographs, place it on your website and official pages on social networks, display it in your office, and many other ways. Also, as a winner, you receive the privilege to publish your informational or scientific article in the "International Tribune" section on the IARC official website free of charge."

Reacting to the award, the elated Professor Peter James Kpolovie, said the recognition was based on his copious research publications and international books on rare scientific works before and during the advent of COVID-19 pandemic.

He named some of the books written in collaboration with eight top global brands as IBM SPSS Statistics Excellent Guide; Correlation, Multiple Regression and Three-Way ANOVA; Factor Analysis – Excellent Guide with SPSS; Statistical Approaches in Excellent Research Methods; Excellent Research Methods; Handbook of Research on Enhancing Teacher Education with Advanced Instructional Technologies; and Education Management in Developing Economies; among others.

Kpolovie commended the International Achievements Research Centre for organising the "Scientist of the Year 2021" Open International Competition. Meanwhile, the Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Owanari Georgewill has congratulated Professor Kpolovie on his award, noting that the feat has added to the growing recognition of the University globally. He urged him not to rest on his oars.



Prof Kpolovie

ANUPA Elects Nnabuo New Chairman

By Otikor Samuel



Acting Registrar, Mrs Joyce Tamuno (seated centre), flanked by the new ANUPA Chairman, Dr Nnabuo (right), Ex-officio, Dr Mite (left), and other members of EXCO on a familiarisation visit to the Ag Registrar after the election

Faculty Officer of the Faculty of Agriculture, Dr Caroline Nnabuo, has emerged the new Chairman of the University of Port Harcourt branch of Association of Nigerian University Professional Administrators (ANUPA). Dr Nnabuo, who was hitherto, the Vice Chairman of the Association, polled 66 votes to defeat her co-contestant, Dr Helen Mmeha who scored 55 votes. The election held at the Amatu Braide Hall on Thursday, September 30, 2021.

Chairman of the Electoral Committee, Mr Promise Simeon, who commended members of the Association for turning up en masse for the election, declared the process as transparent, fair and credible. The election was witnessed by Chairman and Secretary of the Rivers

State branch of the Association, Promise Woka and West Kennedy who were delegates from the national body.

In her acceptance speech, Dr Nnabuo, thanked members for entrusting her with the responsibilities of leading the Association for the next two years. She pledged to consolidate on the past achievements of the body, calling for support from members to ensure rapid growth of the Association in the University.

Earlier, in her farewell speech, the immediate past Chairman of ANUPA, Dr Ngei Mite, expressed gratitude to Management and members of the Association for the cooperation given her administration to succeed. She urged members to avail themselves of the window of opportunity made available by the

national body to fully register their membership as the Association was undergoing the process of becoming a chartered association.

Other members of the new Executive Council are: Lilian Divine-Chiorlu (Vice Chairman), Monday Nwile (Secretary General), Emmanuel Ogbu (Assistant Secretary General), Osawe Williams (Treasurer), Anthonia Onyekwelu (Financial Secretary), Modestus Obinatu (Training Officer) and Ethel Timi-Johnson (Publicity Secretary). Immediate past Chairman and Acting Secretary, Dr Mite and Justice Ewelle are Ex-Officio members.

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News

GUIDE POST APPOINTMENT

Professor Mary Iwundu, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Faculty of Science, appointed *Member, Degree Results Verification Committee (DRVC)*. The appointment which takes immediate effect is until further notice.

Dr Yusuf Abdulrahman, Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, appointed *Member, Degree Results Verification Committee (DRVC)*. The appointment which takes immediate effect is until further notice.

Dr Gideon Ugboegbulam, Department of Hospitality Management and Tourism, Faculty of Management Sciences, appointed *Assistant Director, Entrepreneurship Centre*, effective September 20, 2021 to September 19, 2023.

Dr Obari Osara, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, appointed *Deputy Director, Centre for Peace and Security Studies*, effective September 30, 2021 to September 29, 2023.

Dr Ifeanyi Chukwu Edeh, Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, upgraded from *Coordinator to Acting Head of the Department*, effective October 1, 2020 to October 22, 2022.

Dr Christopher Ochonogor, Department of Journalism and Media Studies, Faculty of Communication and Media Studies, appointed *Acting Head of the Department*, effective October 11, 2021 to October 10, 2023.

Dr Obiagere Ohiagu, Department of Public Relations and Advertising, Faculty of Communication and Media Studies, appointed *Acting Head of the Department*, effective October 11, 2021 to October 10, 2023.

Dr Ntense Usua, Department of Broadcasting, Faculty of Communication and Media Studies, appointed *Acting Head of the Department*, effective October 11, 2021 to October 10, 2023.

Dr Friday Nwafor, Department of Film and Multimedia Studies, Faculty of Communication and Media Studies, appointed *Acting Head of the Department*, effective October 11, 2021 to October 10, 2023.

Dr Fubara Egbono, Department of Information Technology, Faculty of Computing, appointed *Acting Head of the Department*, effective October 5, 2021 to October 4, 2023.

Dr Friday Onuodu, Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Computing, appointed *Acting Head of the Department*, effective October 5, 2021 to October 4, 2023.

Mrs Martha Musa, Department of Cyber Security, Faculty of Computing, appointed *Coordinator of the Department*, effective October 5, 2021 to October 4, 2023.

Dr Thompson Alalibo, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, appointed *Coordinator, Department of Physics Electronics/Production Technology (SSLT)*, effective October 26, 2021 to October 25, 2022.

Dr Achugasim Ozioma, Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Science, appointed *Coordinator, Department of Industrial Chemistry/Petrochemical Technology (SSLT)*, effective October 25, 2021 to October 24, 2022.

Mrs Martha Musa, Department of Cyber Security, Faculty of Computing, appointed *Coordinator, General Studies (GES) 101—Computer Appreciation and Application*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect will terminate on September 19, 2023.

Dr Steve Omeodu, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science, appointed *Coordinator, Department of Medical Biochemistry/Chemistry Technology (SSLT)*, effective October 26, 2021 to October 25, 2022.

20 Graduate Students Get SGS Scholarship

By Otikor Samuel

Another set of 20 Graduate Students across the various disciplines have benefitted from the 2019/2020 session of the School of Graduate Studies scholarship scheme. The beneficiaries consisted of 12 Doctoral and 8 Master's students.

Speaking before handing over the cheque to the beneficiaries on

September, 27, 2021 at the Seminar Room of the School, Associate Dean, Professor Olufemi Adesope, who stood in for the Dean, Professor Barisua Nwince, congratulated the students for emerging victorious in the highly competitive selection process.

"Times are hard, we understand, no doubt we received several applications from our students, but we can't attend to everybody with the lean resources

available for the scheme. So, those of you who were selected from the highly competitive process should be grateful that you got the scholarship. For us, the only way you can show gratitude is to work harder and graduate within your period of residency. Then, in the future, you can give back to society as there are many needs begging for attention," the Associate Dean said.

He showered praises on members of the School of Graduate Studies Scholarship Committee particularly, the Chairman, Professor Martin Ifeancha and the Secretary, Professor Christie Omeo, for sustaining the scheme.

In her remark, Secretary of the Committee, Professor Omeo, disclosed that 20 applicants were selected from over 60 applications. She enjoined the beneficiaries to use the money strictly for the purpose for which it was meant to serve.



Associate Dean, SGS, Prof Adesope (3rd right), flanked by Prof Omeo (left) and some of the beneficiaries

UniPort, U&C MFB To Strengthen Partnership

By Humphrey Ogu

Issues bordering on strengthening collaboration and repositioning U&C Microfinance Bank for excellent service delivery were the subjects of discussion when the Bank's Management team paid a courtesy visit on the Vice Chancellor, Professor Owanari Georgewill on Monday, September 27, 2021.

Receiving the Management team of the Bank, at the Vice Chancellor's Committee Room, Professor Georgewill, who is also the Board Chairman of the Bank expressed joy at the visit. The Vice Chancellor noted that he would consider the issues raised after he shall have been properly briefed. He assured them of his willingness to ensure that the bank attains greater heights on his watch as Board Chairman.

Earlier in his address, the

Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Bank, Dr Paul Nnaji, who led the delegation, said that he and his team had come to felicitate with the Vice Chancellor on his appointment. "Your appointment as Vice Chancellor conferred on you many responsibilities among which is the Chairmanship of the U&C Microfinance Bank Limited based on the UniPort's controlling interest in the bank and the stipulations of our 2018 Board Charter," he said.

Nnaji who gave a brief history of the bank, sought the Vice Chancellor's intervention in a number of areas including increasing service charges on UniPort Students' fees, prompt payment of contractors, discouragement of serial borrowing from multiple sources among staff, which adversely affect repayment of loan and enhancing the recapitulation exercise by injecting fresh capital to achieve the N1 Billion

target in shareholders fund to retain UniPort's control, among others.

In receiving the U&C team, the Vice Chancellor was joined by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Clifford Ofurum, the Bursar, Dr Felicia Ayuwu both of who made some useful professional contributions and the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Kingsley Owete.

Others on the U&C team, were the General Manager, Dr Innocent Bale, Head of Business Development, Mrs Victoria James, Head of Risk and Compliance, Mrs Mary Amadi, Acting Manager, Human Resources, Mr James Isodiki, Head of Information Technology, Mr Samari Edoni, and Head of Internal Audit, Mrs Datoru Tamunodiepreye.



VC, Prof Georgewill (Centre) flanked on the right by Ag. Registrar, Mrs Joyce Tamuno, DVC (Acad), Prof Owete, Bursar, Dr Ayuwu and on the left by DVC (Admin), Prof Ofurum, U&C MFB, MD & GM, Drs Nnaji & Bale and others

VC Holds Thanksgiving...

Cont'd from Page 1

uncommon support in his life and for making him succeed as the Vice Chancellor.

"I am here today with my family to thank God for His mercies and the miracle of becoming the 9th Vice Chancellor of the University. This is our University; let's come together to work for the growth and prosperity of our University. To my fellow contestants, there is no victor, nor vanquish" Georgewill stated.

"I want to invite everybody, staff and students, stakeholders of this University to come together, let us work and take UniPort to greater heights. I have nothing against anybody. God has given us victory, let us work together, so UniPort will be a better place than it is today," he added.

In a message entitled: "The Mystery of Thanksgiving," the General Overseer of the Abundant Life Evangel Mission, Apostle Eugene Ogu, said consistent appreciation and thanksgiving to God attracted redemption to mankind.

The clergy described thanksgiving as a sacred activity that loses its efficacy if it is a mere gathering of people to dine and



VC, Prof Georgewill, flanked by Clergies, making a speech at the event

wine with a heart that is void of the goodness of God or done as a religious ritual that many Christians have taken for granted. He urged Christians to always appreciate God in any condition.

Apostle Ogu said the appointment of Professor Georgewill as the 9th Vice Chancellor was divine, praying God to direct the Vice Chancellor on the right path for the growth, progress and prosperity of the University.

Also speaking, the Pro-Chancellor, Senator Andrew Uchendu said the emergence of Professor Georgewill

was an act of God. The Chairman of the Governing Council described the process leading to the emergence of Professor Georgewill as very transparent.

Senator Uchendu expressed happiness with the Vice Chancellor, stating that he joined him and his family in thanking God for His faithfulness and goodness towards him. He used the occasion to inform him that UniPort currently ranked six in Nigeria, charging him to rewrite the story of UniPort by ensuring that the University takes its rightful place amongst the comity of universities in Nigeria.

ELPU Fetes Exchange Students



ELPU Acting Director, Dr Nwaichi (seated 2nd left), flanked by Dean, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Prof Okorie, Associate Dean, Dr Ugwueze (right), Staff, Tutors and students of FPGOP

No fewer than 15 Nigerian graduates of Pharmacy from various universities in six different countries participated in a farewell Cocktail Party at the Conference Room of the Exchange and Linkage Programmes Unit (ELPU) on Friday, September 24, 2021.

The brief ceremony marked the end of the Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Orientation Programme (FPGOP) organised by the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria (PCN) and hosted by the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Port Harcourt from August 6 to September 24, 2021. FPGOP is an initiative of PCN designed to prepare Nigerians, who studied Pharmacy outside the country, for professional practice in Nigeria.

While in the University, the exchange students, who were graduates of Universities in United Kingdom, United States of America, India, Ukraine, Ghana and Cameroon, went through a nine-week intensive lectures, which were followed by examination to evaluate the success of the programme.

Earlier in her welcome address at the farewell event, Acting Director, ELPU, Dr Eucharia Nwaichi, noted that exchange programmes provide an opportunity to appreciate unity in diversity. "It is a thing of joy to bring you to ELPU. We appreciate our Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill for his leadership. We are also grateful to the Dean,

By Humphrey Ogu

Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Professor Ogbonna Okorie and the Associate Dean, Dr Stanley Ugwueze for the success of the exchange programme," she said, describing UniPort as an Entrepreneurial University, with a formal relationship with universities outside Nigeria.

On his part, Professor Okorie, who spoke on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, and the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, commended the students on how they conducted themselves during the programme, noted that relationships are very important in human life. He informed them that former Nigerian President, Dr Goodluck Jonathan and the ex-Governor of Rivers State and current Minister of Transportation, Rt Hon Chibuike Amaechi were alumni of UniPort. He advised them to be good ambassadors of UniPort and remember to contribute to the growth of the University in future.

Also speaking, Dean of Student Affairs, Dr Chima Wokocha, lauded the Director of ELPU for putting the event together, advising the students to make good use of their experience in their professional practice. Speaking on behalf of the students, Eze Ralph Madu of Washington State University, USA, and Stella Obasi of Portsmouth University, UK, praised UniPort for what they had learnt, promising to show appreciation to the University in future.

UniPort Graduates Clinch President's Awards

Cont'd from Page 1

and prayed for the awardees, said: "It gives us great joy to see our children doing well. It gives us great joy to know that three of our former students, went, saw, conquered and returned with victory."

Dr Victor Eze, who graduated in 2015 with a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS), and served in Jigawa State clinched the first position for 2019 batch. Briefing the Management of the University of their success, Dr Eze said: "We are products of this University, trained to be good and to impact on society. We represented the University well in providing leadership, services and driving infrastructural development. Of



VC, Prof Georgewill (centre), flanked by the awardees and some Principal Officers

the 110 corps members that received President's Award for the 2018/2019 batch, three are from UniPort." Dr Eze was accompanied on the visit by Miss Cynthia Aloh, who graduated in 2017 with a Bachelor of Arts in

Religious and Cultural Studies and served in Kwara State. The third awardee, Dr Ijeoma Nwajike, served in Federal Capital Territory Abuja. Dr Nwajike who also holds an MBBS degree was outside Nigeria at the time of the visit.

VC Assures New Communication Faculty Of More Support

By Humphrey Ogu

Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill, has assured the new Faculty of Communication and Media Studies of the University Management's support to enable it grow. Professor Georgewill gave the assurance when he received members of the Faculty during a courtesy visit on him at the Vice Chancellor's Committee Room on Thursday, October 7, 2021.

The Vice Chancellor informed his guests of his efforts towards ensuring the provision of a new building to house the emergent Faculty of Communication and Media Studies. He disclosed that he was in Abuja recently for the defence of NEEDS Assessment projects, which included a Faculty Building for Communication and Media Studies.

Professor Georgewill recalled that on his assumption of duty, he looked at the University Act, and realised that a Faculty cannot be created by the Senate alone without the approval of the Governing Council, adding that it was after the approval that he appointed Professor Walter Ihejirika as the Interim Dean of



VC, Prof Georgewill (seated 3rd left), flanked by Interim Dean, Prof Ihejirika, Acting HoDs, Film and Multimedia Studies, Dr Friday Nwafor, Public Relations and Advertising, Dr Obiageri Ohiagu (right), Profs Shaka and Christie Omega (left), Ag. HoD, Journalism and Media Studies, Dr Chris Ochonogor (standing left) and others

the Faculty. He called on the Interim Dean to nominate well-deserved Faculty members as candidates for the positions of Heads for the four Departments.

Earlier in his address, Professor Ihejirika, who noted that they had come to express their gratitude to him for making their dream a reality, said: "For a long time, we have worked towards making communication, media and film studies in this University conform to international best practices. We are grateful that we can now be like our colleagues in other universities in Nigeria and other parts of the world. We are grateful that you

made this possible, by securing the Council approval." He promised to reciprocate the Vice Chancellor's kind gesture by making him and the University proud.

Also speaking, former Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Professor Femi Shaka, who was visibly elated said: "it is more than 17 years that I have been clamouring for a Department of Film Studies as the first Professor of Film Studies in Nigeria. It took the directive of the National Universities Commission to make that a reality. God has used you to put smiles on the faces of staff and students who have interest in Film. We have the capacity, the resource and the intellectuals that can put the University on the world map. Most youths are surviving through the Nollywood, which is private driven. God bless you."

STOP PRESS

All Returning Undergraduate Students are directed to pay their charges and register their courses accordingly to be qualified as bona fide students of the University. The Acting Registrar, Mrs Joyce Tamuno, in a statement signed on her behalf by Dr Agatha Ataga, enjoined the students to comply with the directive.

Charges Payment Deadline Now Oct 22

"Notice is hereby given that the Student Fee Portal for payment of charges will remain open until Friday, October 22, 2021. All Returning Students who have not paid their charges and those who are yet to pay their first instalment of charges are advised to do so. The deadline for registration of courses is Friday, October 29, 2021. Please comply as there might be no further extension," the statement specified.

BoI Tasks UniPort On Business Hubs ...Expresses Readiness For Partnership

The Managing Director of the Bank of Industry (BOI), Mr Olukayode Pitan, has called on the Management of the University of Port Harcourt to urgently create business hubs in all departments of the institution in order to provide students with necessary industry experience for sustainable livelihood. The Managing Director made the call at the flag-off ceremony of the Online Nigeria Sustainable Entrepreneurship Programme (NSEP) held on September 6, 2021, at the Open Distance e-Learning Centre.

Speaking on the topic: "The Role of Sustainable Entrepreneurship in National Economic Development," Mr Pitan who delivered the keynote address through the Regional



Pacqueens

Manager South-South, Mr Irabor Pacqueens, stated that for Nigeria to witness sustainable growth and development, there must be what he called "disruptive solutions."

The disruptive solutions, he said, must

By Sunny Dada

begin with the university system where every department is made to create business hubs that would prepare students for entrepreneurial experience after their programmes. He argued that it is inexcusable for Faculties and Departments not to create an enterprise from the courses and programmes they offer.

Describing Departments without business hubs as luxury centres, Pitans stated that one of the ways universities can solve the challenges of overdependence on government funding is to become an inclusive commercial entity where both students and the university are entrepreneurially empowered to contribute to the development of the Nigerian economy.

Mr Pitans disclosed that the BOI has partnered the University of Lagos, University of Africa, Bayelsa State, and the governments of Kaduna and Kebbi State governments "to set up incubation centres to provide young Nigerians with practical technological start-up skills from mentors and coaches, as well as to support the development of viable solutions from ideas to enterprises." He commended the leadership of the University for designing the programme, stating that the BOI will fund technology hubs with focus on encouraging and empowering start-ups to scale up to become global brands.

While expressing hope that the initiative will guarantee an educational system that contributes to sustainable entrepreneurship in Nigeria, the keynote speaker reiterated the readiness of the BOI to partner the University of Port Harcourt in its drive towards turning the institution into an entrepreneurial University.

Engineering Faculty Gets New Dean

By Ethel Timi-Johnson



New Dean, Prof Uhumwangho (seated left), his predecessor, Prof Joel (right), other senior academics and Faculty Officer of the Faculty

Following his success at the deanship election of the Faculty of Engineering, Professor Roland Uhumwangho has emerged as the new Dean of the Faculty.

Speaking during a brief handover ceremony which held at the Faculty building on Wednesday, September 29, 2021, the immediate past Dean, Professor Ogbonna Joel commended the Directors, Heads of Department and Coordinators for the support in moving the Faculty to a new level.

"I'm glad that as a Faculty we have come to this point and it will be my greatest joy to see you surpass what I have done. Once again let me congratulate you and hope that you would carry the Faculty to a

higher ground," Professor Joel told his successor.

Responding, Professor Uhumwangho expressed gratitude to the Faculty Board members for electing him as the new Dean, noting that he would consolidate on the gains of his predecessors.

"I would build on what Professor Joel and others have started and add up to it. I am pleading with colleagues to work together so that we could reduce acts that will not grow the Faculty. I wish to thank the immediate past Dean for his efforts in effecting positive change in the Faculty and performing credibly well especially, in the area of staff promotion," he remarked, promising to move the Faculty to an enviable height.

174th Inaugural

Etela Advocates Adequate Livestock Feeding In Nigeria

By Humphrey Ogu and Otikor Samuel

Adequate feeding of livestock to harness the potentials of the livestock value chains in Nigeria were the focus of the 174th Inaugural Lecture delivered by Professor Ibisime Etela of the Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Thursday, September 30, 2021.

Delivering the Lecture entitled "Feed my Flock!", Etela conceded that the title of his lecture could be subjected to different interpretations by different people. "Whichever way it is defined, the meaning still revolves around providing healthy, safe and affordable food in the right quantities, quality and prices for human consumption. This is what food and nutrition security entails," he explained.

The Inaugural Lecturer, who is a Professor of Ruminant Nutrition and Production, said that "there are several reasons why we should bother about what we feed to our livestock, how we feed them and the kinds of residues we leave behind or emit into the environment. This is because, when attention is not paid to this vital aspect, we end up compromising the delicate balance of the ecosystem, which ends up endangering the livestock that in turn poses hazard to humans who might consume such unhealthy animal source-proteins."

Etela, pointed out that "a major obstacle to livestock productivity in Nigeria is inadequate nutrition or feeding, especially in the dry season. Therefore, more attention should be given to this important aspect of Animal Agriculture."

He listed rabbit, beef, dairy, pig, poultry, sheep and goats value chains as the common value chains that if properly harnessed have several windows that would create employment required to curb youth unemployment in Nigeria. Major constraints to livestock value chain development, according to the Inaugural Lecturer, include lack of institutional support and high initial investment cost, amongst others.

Etela, whose contributions to knowledge and society range from studies on dual-purpose food and feed crops to ruminant nutrition and production research issues, disclosed that his future research areas would include exploration of further aspects of farmers and herders perception about crop-livestock farming system and develop strategies for promoting farming system as a



174th Inaugural Lecturer, Prof Etela (left) handing over a copy of the Lecture to the VC

livelihood source due to its relevance as climate and resilient approach. He also cited a collaborative multidisciplinary research with Centre for Information Telecommunications Engineering (CITE), UniPort on smart agriculture.

In his remarks at the Lecture, Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill,

said: "This is yet another memorable day as Professor Ibisime Etela has creditably performed this very crucial academic rites to justify his election to the rank of Professor of Ruminant Nutrition and Production. As Vice Chancellor, I am elated and satisfied with his presentation. In this 67-page document, he took us through his area of specialisation."

175th Inaugural Entrepreneurship Education Should Be Holistic ~ Ofurum

By Humphrey Ogu



175th Inaugural Lecturer, Prof Ofurum (left) handing over a copy of the Lecture to the VC

"Entrepreneurship Education should be holistic and not just classroom teaching and learning as we do today," Professor Clifford Ofurum of the Department of Accounting in the Faculty of Management Sciences, made this observation while delivering the 175th Inaugural Lecture at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Thursday, October 7, 2021.

Ofurum, who currently serves as Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration) in the University, spoke on the topic "Myths and Misconception about Entrepreneurship: Putting the Records Straight." The Inaugural Lecturer identified misconceptions surrounding the concept and practice of entrepreneurship in Nigeria.

"Functional entrepreneurship

programmes in our universities will go a long way in addressing unemployment issues. Therefore, this is the time to think differently from the government to the governed, from school to agriculture, religious organisation to households. Thinking entrepreneurial will change a whole lot," he stated.

"The entrepreneur is not just a successful businessman or investor as most people think," Ofurum who is a one-time Director of the Entrepreneurship Centre in UniPort, said, adding that the activities of an entrepreneur goes beyond investment. He noted that an entrepreneur is highly motivated, whether in business or government, even in a not-for-profit organisation.

He described Entrepreneurs as disruptors of the world orders, listing Thomas Edison, Steve Jobs, Bill Gates amongst others as disruptors that have changed the way the world does

business. The 175th Inaugural Lecturer observed that the ordinary investor and businessman are more interested in preserving the status quo, adding that "they chase after profits, while the entrepreneur follows his passion and invests in those business ideas that fuel his passion."

"Some of the people our society sees as entrepreneurs may be ordinary businessmen working assiduously to satisfy their profit motive. This assertion does not say that an entrepreneur does not seek, or like profit; he does, but profit is never his driving motive," the Professor of Accounting and Finance pointed out.

"Besides seeing what others do not see, the entrepreneur sees most things differently. The ordinary man sees difficulties in every opportunity, whereas the entrepreneur sees opportunity in every difficulty," he said, describing entrepreneurs as pacesetters, who are not scared of competition. "Entrepreneurship and skills acquisition are two different things, and our mandate [as a university] is to inculcate entrepreneurial skills rather than teach skills acquisition," the Inaugural Lecturer pointed out, regretting that some of his colleagues sometimes organise short-skill courses such as soap-making and hairdressing in the name of entrepreneurship.

He noted that an entrepreneurial university cannot come into existence by mere self-declaration. "An entrepreneurial university is a 21st century university that may or may not be a world-class; hence, this recognition/title can best be conferred on a university by the outside world. The outside world and not just the university's management can grant the title of entrepreneurial to the university after considering specific issues/factors," he pointed out.

"We, therefore recommend Triple Helix Pedagogy, especially in our specialised Centres. Under this pedagogy, academics will teach theory, industry personnel will teach practicals, while government workers will teach policies to produce balanced graduates," the former Director of UniPort Business School said.

In his remarks, Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill, commended the Inaugural Lecturer for enlightening the audience on the concept, teaching and practice of entrepreneurship, describing him as an erudite scholar and his lecture delivery as a five star performance. "Our 175th Inaugural Lecturer has cleared the myths and misconceptions surrounding entrepreneurship, thereby putting the records straight. The time has come for us to adopt the best practices in the teaching and learning of entrepreneurship," he said, expressing willingness to give Professor Ofurum's call for appointment of a Director or Dean of Fund-raising a positive consideration.