

AIESEC Int'l Battles Cancer With Project Pink

AIESEC, an international student organization has launched Phase II of its Project Pink campaign to raise awareness on breast and cervical cancer in collaboration with its University of Port Harcourt affiliate branch reports **Ethel Timi-Johnson** *More on p3*

Side Bar

Professor John Okoli of the Department of Mechanical Engineering delivers the 37th Inaugural Lecture this Thursday. Details next week -Editor

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134 Doctors Take Physicians' Oath, As MDCN Lifts Suspension On Admission

By Humphrey Ogu

It was harvest time and celebrations galore last Friday, as parents, friends, colleagues and well-wishers took over the expansive Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium to witness the 31st Induction of 134 Medical Doctors trained by the College of Health Sciences. Also, more cheering news trailed the ceremony as the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN) announced restoration of admission into the Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) Degree programme of the University that was suspended on account of oversubscription by candidates taking advantage of the quality medical training offered in the College of Health Sciences.

Welcoming guests to the colourful ceremony, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiienka, said that the Induction of the new Doctors was "a clear testimony of our inherent capacity to train high-level manpower for the critical health sector of our country which is in dire need of qualified Medical personnel," noting that "an Induction Ceremony offers us a rare opportunity to appraise the progress made so far in the implementation of policies of the University, especially as they relate to Medical School."

The Vice-Chancellor congratulated the Inductees for believing in themselves and their capacity to pull through the most difficult phase of their lives, charging them to be worthy ambassadors of their *Alma Mater*—the Unique University of Port Harcourt—wherever they may find themselves.

"I encourage you to strive towards the ideals of

diligence and excellence in service to humanity. You must ensure that the best operational industry practices are maintained at all times as you step into the Medical profession after this ceremony. I also charge you to engage in continuous professional training to bring your practice up-to-date with global benchmarks which define the new knowledge society that has no room for stagnation," Professor Ajiienka said, advising the young Doctors to take

their knowledge beyond general practice by specializing in any branch of Medicine of their interest.

In his address, Provost, College of Health Sciences, Professor Chris Akani, stated that "the MBBS programme of the College has over the years produced high quality medical graduates, who are

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New Doctors taking Physicians' Oath (inset: BGS, Dr Ogbonna-Njoku)

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Exploring Nigeria's Livestock Resources

By Humphrey Ogu



Prof Njoku, President, NIAS

Prior to the exploration and exploitation of oil, Nigerians were oblivious of the existence of the black gold in their land, let alone its capacity to oil the engine of the country's economy and water its socio-political development. That same oil has, for several decades now, remained the predominant foreign exchange earner for the country.

Hues and cries by political and economic experts that deliberate efforts be made to diversify the economy has remained a theoretical proposition that is yet to see the light of day. Solid minerals, arts, culture and tourism as well as agriculture, have at different times and *fora* been canvassed as alternative sources of revenue for the country. Yet, oil and gas remains the darling of the rather conservative leaders of Nigeria, who appear to be living in a fictional universe.

Nevertheless, major stakeholders in the nation's agricultural sector, have not given up on the campaign to turn attention to agriculture which was the mainstay of the Nigerian economy in the pre-oil and gas era. They hinge their argument on the dwindling employment opportunities in the country, the need to boost food production, as well as the revenue-yielding potentials of agriculture.

Professor Placid Njoku is the President of the Nigerian Institute of Animal Scientists (NIAS); he was in the University of Port Harcourt to admit Graduates of Animal Science in the South-South Zone into the Institute. Despite being treated with inexplicable levity by successive policy-makers in the sector, according to him, agriculture has a huge potential to contribute substantially to Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), with livestock currently contributing 2.7%.

Njoku, who coordinated the national technical working group of the Vision 20:2020 in Agriculture, told *UNIPORT Weekly* that "if we fully explore and exploit the livestock resources of Nigeria, it will contribute more than oil and gas put together; poultry industry alone will employ as much as the oil and gas industry currently does. The dairy industry alone, when fully explored and exploited, will employ more than the combined manpower currently employed by the oil and gas industry."

He explained that what is hindering it is that the country has not quite developed the value chain in the livestock industry, defining value chain as all the factors involved in agriculture. "Once the value chain is fully developed, we can be sure to double what we are currently getting from oil and gas. Even without much effort by the government, agriculture is able to contribute 42% of the GDP. You can then imagine what will happen if the government makes honest effort in that direction. That means that the manufacturing sector will also be increasing. Agriculture holds the magic wand. The government has been talking about agriculture, but I am more interested in seeing it implement the policies," he stated.

The underlying meaning of Professor Njoku's position is that if properly harnessed, Nigeria's livestock industry has the potential to replace oil and gas not just as a source of foreign exchange earner, but also as the mainstay of our economy, as well as a major employer of labour, a fact corroborated by the Registrar of NIAS, Dr Godwin Oyediji, who also exchanged views with this writer.

The Registrar, who identified inadequate funding, poor infrastructure, ill-equipped laboratories, dearth of animals for research and teaching as some of the factors militating against optimal operation of the livestock industry, regretted that the graduates are not properly trained, adding that no university in Nigeria has a standard laboratory, although



Dr Oyediji, Registrar, NIAS

some are better than others.

"Even as graduates are coming out, they don't know how to do feasibility studies. The curriculum is obsolete. Universities are concerned with attaining minimum academic standards set by the National Universities Commission (NUC). The issue of professional standards lies with professional bodies. We are working towards improving on the quality," he pointed out.

Oyediji, who expressed displeasure that people use goats for buffet, without removing the skin, disclosed that "the value of the skin is much more than the value of ten goats. You can make five lady shoes, using one goat skin. And each of these shoes could sell for as high as N20,000.00. That is why we have been mounting serious campaigns against consumption of animal skins, especially those of goats and cows, among others. The slogan is: 'Stop eating *kpomo*'. It has no nutritional value; it's like eating rubber."

He explained that Summits have been organized for various categories of practitioners in the livestock industry to find out their problems, which oftentimes has to do with selling raw materials, adding that values were added to make farmers earn more from their livestock in line with the Transformation Agenda of the Federal Government. He said that "the major challenge is adequate funding to execute our mandate as contained in the Institute's Acts No 26 of 2007, which states that we have power to regulate all matters pertaining to livestock industry in Nigeria, as well as regulating the professional practice."

The onus of repositioning the livestock industry to yield revenue for the country, meet the food production needs of the people and reduce unemployment, does not lie in the hands of NIAS, policy-makers and farmers alone. Those who hitherto consider goat or cow skins as delicacy would need to make a little sacrifice by making consumption of the aforementioned food a meal of the past.

I, therefore, join the major players in the industry to say: desist from eating *kpomo*! Help the Nigerian economy by helping the crucial livestock industry to grow in everybody's interest. So, stop eating *kpomo*!

PhDs: What Model Works For Developing Countries?

By Devi Tewari

Doctoral research is often dubbed the 'primary function of universities'. It supplies important academic training with the main focus on creating a highly skilled and knowledgeable labour force with great competence in influencing the ideas of wider society. The acquisition of a PhD has become the yardstick for measuring the quality of research output in countries, as well as contributing new research-oriented ideas.

The models, practices and procedures for the awarding of a PhD degree have been extensively transformed since its introduction in Germany in 1810 at the University of Berlin. At that time, the awarding of a PhD meant a candidate had to attend and contribute at seminars, submit a self-written and acceptable dissertation or thesis characterised by originality and creativity, and pass a comprehensive oral examination.

Between the 1860s and 1930s PhD studies permeated North America, Canada, Australia and Britain as well as other parts of Europe. In North America, Yale was the first university to commission PhD studies and was later joined by other institutions, including Harvard and the Universities of Michigan and Pennsylvania.

In the United States, the requirements for the awarding of a PhD were extended to include undertaking a set of specialised courses, enrolling for three years, demonstrating a reading knowledge of at least one foreign language, passing a comprehensive examination, submitting a dissertation and passing an oral examination.

Australia and Britain adopted and modified the American system in accordance with their indigenous conditions. The methods of examination for PhDs were therefore part of the warp and weft of the traditions and cultures of these countries.

By the close of the 1950s, two highly distinguished models of examining PhD dissertations had emerged and were practised by, first, Britain, Australia and some Commonwealth nations and, second, universities in the US and Canada.

The quality of a PhD dissertation depended on the nature of supervision and the models used to examine it. In the American system, supervision was administered by a team of academics led by a principal supervisor. In the British system, only one supervisor undertakes the whole moderation process.

PhD candidate status is granted only after the student has

passed a comprehensive examination under the American model, but under the European model PhD, candidacy is granted upon the successful defence of a research proposal.

The American PhD system has many checks and balances to control for quality. For example, a PhD student must pass a set of coursework covering the duration of about 12 to 18 months, in addition to the comprehensive examination.

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AIESEC Battles Cancer With Project Pink

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Spokesperson of the team, drawn from universities in Kenya, Brazil and Taiwan, Sharon Chepkoech, stated this during an interactive session with *UNIPOINT Weekly*, penultimate Friday.

She noted that the six-week project slated to hold in the University kicked off with an awareness campaign, training of facilitators, step-down training for participants and a rally, with sponsorship from a Non-governmental organization, Preventive Healthcare Initiative and GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals (GSK) and endorsements from the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), College of Health Sciences and the Rivers State Government through the Commissioner of Health, Dr Samson Parker.

Disclosing that the last phase of the Project would include free testing and screening for cancer and fund-raising to help affected persons, Chepkoech, explained that AIESEC would also embark on Projects YES and GREEN for young entrepreneurs and environmental sustainability, later in the year.

Addressing participants at the Awareness Campaign and launching of the Project, last Monday at the International Students' Centre, University Park, Chairman, Governing Board, AIESEC UNIPOINT, Professor Mark Anikpo, lauded the Group for flagging off Project Pink with primary focus on two major leading causes of death among women - breast and cervical cancers. He also commended them for efforts aimed at educating and enlightening women on the causes and measures aimed at preventing the deadly disease that afflicts all classes in society.

Senior Lecturer in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Port Harcourt Teaching



L-R: Dr Fiebai, Prof. Anikpo (in suits) with AIESEC UNIPOINT members and the Visitors

Hospital, Dr Preye Fiebai, urged participants to adhere to health rules that would enable them prevent the disease, stressing that regular self-breast examination and abstinence from multiple sex partners are critical to staying cancer-free. He lauded the AIESEC Group for the initiative aimed at focusing attention on a serious societal problem that devastates families, while tasking them to move the campaign to the grassroots.

Fiebai, who also described it as a bold step that should be emulated by other groups in the University, called on public-spirited individuals and organizations to support the Project meant to fight breast and cervical cancers which, he said are preventable through early detection and treatment.

Noting that the first phase of the Project centred on community mobilization for the campaign against breast and cervical cancers, Project Director, AIESEC UNIPOINT, Henry Umunakwe, said that Alakahia, Aluu, Omokiri and Omoko communities, have so far benefitted from the campaigns and seminars initiated by the Group.

The participating universities in the AIESEC Project Pink are the Tsing University, Taiwan, Federal University of Sao Carlos, Brazil, Universidad De Sao Paulo, Brazil and Moi University, Kenya. Participants at the awareness campaign included students of the University and members of the University's host communities.

INRES To Commence Academic Programme October



Prof Akpokodje, Director, INRES

The Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainable Development (INRES) in the University is preparing grounds for the take-off of its first Postgraduate programme in natural resources and environmental management this October.

Pioneer Director of the Institute, Professor Eneue Akpokodje, who stated this in an interview with *UNIPOINT Weekly* last Wednesday, said that the Institute is committed to producing competent manpower capable of providing solutions to environmental and natural resources management challenges, enforcing sustainable and efficient environmental practices and using an integrated approach to carry out environmental impact assessment management and restoration, especially in the Niger Delta region.

Akpokodje pointed out that the programme which enjoys partnership of three Nigerian universities and the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, has the National Centre for Marine Geosciences and the Environment and Development Policy Centre for Africa as collaborators in the key areas of teaching, joint research in environment-related issues and manpower development through short courses for professionals in government and industry.

Disclosing that the Institute is a centre of excellence for research, consultancy education and training in the management of natural resources, environment and sustainable development, the Director said that the admission process is on-going for the multidisciplinary programme, which he said would run on full-time basis for 12 calendar months, using the modular system of learning.

Expressing hope that graduates of the Institute currently funded by the MacArthur Foundation would function efficiently in natural resources-related ministries, private and public sectors, including the oil and gas industry, Akpokodje revealed that the Institute would eventually expand its academic activities to include doctorate degree programmes.

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

UNIPOINT Equipped Me For Quality Service, Says Award-Winning Corper

By Otikor Samuel

Another Graduate of the University, Nwonodi Wosu, who received the NYSC Lagos State Commendation Certificate Award for meritorious service during the Passing Out Ceremony for 2011 'B' Corps Members this July, has said that the training he received from the University contributed in earning him the award, which is one of the category prizes in the National Youth Service Corps scheme.

Wosu, who graduated from the Department of Petroleum and Gas Engineering, served with Oil Flow Servicing Nig. Ltd in Lekki, where he was rewarded with a Community Shield Award by E-Green Services, a company operating in



Wosu displaying his Awards

the area, for executing numerous projects as his Personal Community Development Service.

The projects he executed included: organizing Surulere Ward G3 MDGs 5 Aside Football Competition, netting of 50 traders at Onitire Market/Sensitization on Malaria and HIV prevention, training 1,000 individuals selected from students, youths, traders and organizations on Millennium Development Goals, MDGs Awareness Creation in the Media on Entrepreneurship and sensitizing commercial bus drivers on safety measures at Garage Park, Lagos State.

The ex-Corps Member explained that the football cup competition was aimed at infusing into the youth career skills in football, while the net project was targeted at malaria prevention. "It is better to be uncomfortable under the net than to be infected with malaria", was the slogan on awareness for the use of insecticide-treated net. Wosu, who stressed that the Scheme availed the youths an opportunity to render service to their fatherland, advised prospective Corps Members from the University not to pass out from the Scheme without impacting positively on their State of deployment, pointing out that he effectively utilized his service year to engage in community outreach programmes and develop himself as a Petroleum Engineer in his place of primary assignment.

"I will advise prospective Corps Members to make good use of their service year to deliver quality service to the fatherland. They should add value to the country and be optimistic about the Nigerian project, irrespective of the area of deployment", he advised prospective Corps Members.

Ugiomoh Tasks Graduate Students On Research At GSA Week

By Humphrey Ogu

In a view of the dwindling employment prospects in the country, Professor Frank Ugiomoh of the Department of Fine Art and Design has called on Graduate Students to embrace research that could lead to innovations and entrepreneurship. Ugiomoh made the observation in a Lecture he delivered as part of activities marking the 2012 Graduate Students Association Week at the MBA Hall, Faculty of Management, penultimate Wednesday.

Speaking on the topic: "Research Considered within the Framework of Entrepreneurship: A Pragmatic Approach", which was also the theme of the Week, the Guest Lecturer observed that the era in which graduates got employment with ease was no more, stating that "though vacancies still exist today in government establishments, but recruitment to such positions has either become politicized or it may no longer be economically viable to grow and expand government bureaucracy inordinately."

"Education has one important value for any nation, which is to hike its development index to progress driven by knowledge. It then means that the educated must pull his or her resources together to actualize the goals of development. The important index is the expropriation of the inherent values of education to strategically locate one's self to drive development," he explained.

Ugiomoh, who described an Entrepreneur as "that individual whose instincts when actualized often brings about new industrial ventures or revitalizes dying companies or industries," said: "the core idea in the wake of entrepreneurship is the development of new businesses. They lead to creation of opportunities for oneself and others."

Innovations do not fall from the sky; they are products of painstaking research engagements; research on the other hand is an academic or scientific examination or inquiry into a problem, according to him. "New innovations which such activities beget meet the objective of improving our society. It turns out that products of researches are often invested in only for the investor to discover that as end products, they require further refinement or that they are inimical to human and ecological sustenance. The university is a veritable centre of research," he told the Association.

The Guest Speaker said that "the entrepreneurial spirit therefore is the soul of the university as an educational institution designed to help humanity attain the ultimate good life which is the goal of a purpose-driven education."

Speaking through the Director, Centre for Research Management, Professor Onyewuchi Akaranta, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development), Professor Bene Willie-Abbey, charged the students to buy into the entrepreneurial direction and avail themselves of the research-friendly environment of the University.

In her remarks, Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Professor Roseline Konya, who stressed the need for students to take their studies seriously, stated that it is no longer fashionable for them to stay on a particular programme for many years, warning that those who stay



R-L: President GSA, Mr Isaac, Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Prof Konya, Director, CREM, Prof Akaranta, Wife of V-C, Mrs Ajienka and Guest Lecturer, Prof Ugiomoh

beyond the stipulated time on any programme stand the risk of being asked to withdraw.

Also speaking, outgoing President of the GSA, Balogun Isaac, expressed delight that his tenure as President of the Association enjoyed a very cordial relationship with Management of the University, a situation, he said made it possible for his Executive to record remarkable achievements in office.

The weeklong activities, which began with a rally, featured a charity visit to Old People's Home, Lecture,

Novelty Football Match, Indoor Sports, Awards and Gala Night. The activities were rounded off with a Thanksgiving Service at Our Saviour's Chapel Interdenominational.

Other highlights of the Week were the presentation of plaques to Dean of the School, Graduate School Officer, Mrs Agatha Ataga, and benefactors of the Association by Wife of Vice-Chancellor, Mrs Mercy Ajienka, Professor Konya and President of the Association, respectively.

Oyegun Recounts Tenure As Dean, Seeks Assistance For Faculty

By Obinna Nwodin

Following the end of his tenure, out-going Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Charles Oyegun says that the Faculty made appreciable impact in the realization of its objectives in terms of providing quality academic and administrative leadership, in the last two years.

Professor Oyegun, who assumed office as the 13th Dean of the Faculty in August, 2010, dropped the hint in an interview with *UNI-PORT Weekly* in his office, last Tuesday.

He said that he met a Faculty that was in transition as a result of the retirement of the older and experienced academic staff, but expressed delight that since assuming duty, there has been tremendous improvements in the Faculty. According to him, there has been peace in the Faculty as staff have become a family and their brother's keeper, stressing that everybody is now united in ensuring that set goals are realized within team spirit.

The Professor of Geography said that within his two years as Dean, the Faculty had 12 Senior Lecturers promoted to the rank of Professor in their various areas of specialization, while others have been promoted to Readers, as well as other positions. "We have 12 Professors promoted under my tenure as Dean, and several other academic staff have been promoted to different levels aimed at enhancing productivity in the Faculty," he stated.

On academic activities in the Faculty during his tenure, the pioneer Director of the Centre for Disaster Management, said that the Faculty currently has a Faculty Journal called *Port Harcourt Social Sciences*, which is in its third year of publication, as well as regular Faculty Seminars, adding that shortly after he assumed duty, the Faculty organized an International Conference on the Niger Delta, which was a huge success.

Professor Oyegun stated that in the past two years, the activities of the Centre for Disaster Management has progressed with the graduation of its first set of students, adding that the Bamanga Tukur Centre for International Trade, as well as the Centre for Transport and Logistics, were also established to strengthen research and academic activities in the Faculty.

Speaking on the status of accreditation in the Faculty, the

Dean said that all Departments have accreditation, except the Department of Geography and Environmental Management. He noted that the Department could not gain accreditation because it already had two interim accreditations, noting that the reasons for its loss of accreditation were beyond the Faculty. According to him, one of the requirements for accreditation in the Department is that 70% of the academic staff must have terminal degrees, disclosing that the Department had requested for employment of more academic staff to meet the requirement. He, however, said that as soon as the issues are resolved, the National Universities Commission (NUC) would be invited for accreditation of the Department, adding that the Centre for Disaster Management has also acquired Digital Climate Station that would enhance quality of learning and research.

On the quality of students in the Faculty, Professor Oyegun said that the students are good, noting that reports from External Examiners on the various Departments showed that the quality of students was commendable.

Speaking on the student/staff ratio in the Faculty, the Dean said some Departments have 50:1, while others have as much as 90/100:1, stressing that it was a challenge in the Faculty, as the various Departments would soon face accreditation exercises. He called on the authorities to make frantic efforts to advertise vacant academic positions so that the issue of staff/ student ratio could be addressed in time before the next accreditation.

The Dean said that the Faculty faced the challenge of infrastructural development, pointing out that there was need for more seats at the First Bank building to provide a conducive learning atmosphere for students, adding that the plastic chairs currently used in class and Seminar rooms were donations from friends of the Faculty.

On researches by academic staff, he acknowledged that funding was key to research activities, but added that staff have embarked on individual researches which outcome are papers presented at different conferences and workshops. Said he, "Our academic staff have made presentations at the South-South Forum, the BRACED Commission Conference, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Workshop, and many others as a result of their individual research activities. This shows that we have been active in research activities individually."

On the way forward, the out-going Dean advised his successor to stick to his campaign manifesto. According to him, the Dean-elect should strictly stand by his manifesto, pointing out that "time has come when we should reach out to friends of the Faculty to help us achieve our objectives".

Professor Oyegun said that he had a memorable tenures as Dean of the Faculty, and was fulfilled stepping aside for the younger academics to assume positions of leadership.



Prof Oyegun

As the country continues to experience series of disruptive events that threaten the polity, Professor of Sociology, Mark Anikpo, has described the developments as a stage in the evolution of capitalism, which would persist as long as the leadership continues to follow the capitalist development pattern.

Professor Anikpo made this assertion in an interview with *UNI-PORT Weekly* in his office, last Tuesday. According to him, as long as policy-makers continue to follow the capitalist development track, it would take the country a long time to develop, advising the leadership of the country to mobilize the people towards productive endeavours that would result in employment opportunities, if it sincerely desires genuine change and transformation as stated in President Goodluck Jonathan's electoral campaign manifesto.

Professor Anikpo said that there must be complete transformation in the way and manner things are done in order to evolve equitable distribution of available resources in the country. "The system must obviously be restructured towards equitable distribution of available resources", he stated, noting that as long as the imbalance in society persists, there would always be a problem in moving Nigeria forward. The Director of the Centre for Ethnic and Conflict Studies (CENTECS), said that the solution is not in creating agencies for poverty reduction, but that the leadership has to transform the system by stimulating factors that would enhance production and distribution of goods and services, advising that this should start with the workers, who are primarily involved in the production process. He regretted that the current situation has led to corruption, violence and restiveness in the society, decrying the current situation in which those who produce do not eat, while those who eat do not produce.

The former Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) advocated the introduction of a social security scheme that would give the less-privileged a sense of belonging. According to him, there is no reason why the government cannot pay some stipend as unemployment allowance to school leavers who are unable to find jobs. This would go a long way to reassure those who are not able to find jobs at the moment that the government is actually concerned about their welfare; a fact that would motivate them to work for the interest of the State.

Professor Anikpo said that all that the government should do is to focus on creating employment and increase productivity, pointing out that immediately it is done, the system would begin to take a turn for the better. "There is

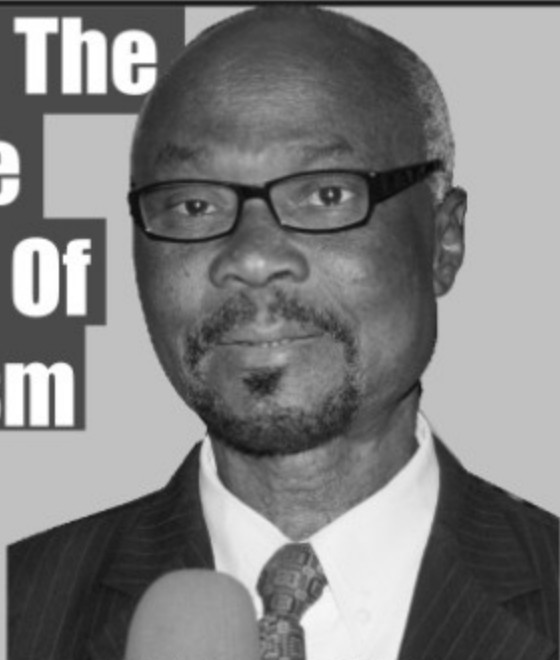
Crises In The Polity Are Features Of Capitalism -Anikpo

By Obinna Nwodin

need to eradicate the system of inequality that currently exists. It is far too glaring. Unless we alter this structure, the system will remain the same and there is nothing the leadership of the country can do about it", he warned.

The Professor of Sociology said that the issue of population increase should be of great advantage to the country. He said, "People may think that we are too many. There is nothing called over-population. In development, the first capital is the human capital. If you can get the human capital right, you will get every other thing right. It is the responsibility of the leadership to do this in order to achieve peace and stability in the polity".

Speaking on the issue of Boko Haram, Anikpo described the phenomenon as a distortion of religious value, adding that it is not a consequence of poverty as some people argue. "To use religion to create this kind of insecurity is very dangerous because it deals with the fundamental path of our existence, that is our faith". "I believe that politicians are manipulating certain religious sentiments to achieve their political objectives. You cannot say that it



Prof Anikpo, Director, CENTECS

is as a result of poverty because if everybody who is poor begins to kill the other person, then nobody will remain in Nigeria, because virtually everybody is poor", he argued. Professor Anikpo said that the current leadership has not done enough in moving the country forward. According to him, nothing much has been done for quite some time, particularly the Boko Haram insurgency. He stated that, "If you do not have peace, you cannot have development or you will have it at a high cost. Apart from the power sector, which in recent times has given us a glimmer of hope, the assessment of our political leadership is depressing", adding that the educational and health sectors have not received the necessary attention they deserve in a nation that desires to join the comity of developed states.

Manager Evaluates UNI-PORT Step-B Project Says Malaria Centre Is Key To Project

By Otiakor Samuel

Centre for Malaria Research and Phytomedicine which coordinates activities of the collaborative Step-B Project in the University, has been described as central to the realization of the objectives of the project, just as activities on the projects were critically discussed to highlight areas that would enhance its sustainability.

Project Manager, World Bank-Assisted UNICAL/UNI-PORT Step-B Project, Professor Emmanuel Ezedinachi, who made the observation while meeting with University Officers on the Project last Wednesday at the Basic Studies Unit, University Park, said strategies for Malaria prevention and control which constitute the focal point of the Centre are effective measures in ensuring functionality of the Project, calling on the schedule officers to assist in policy formulation that

would reduce the disease burden amongst the populace.

Professor Ezedinachi, who earlier visited the World Bank Technical Team Leader, Dr Tunde Adekola and other administrators in Abuja, inspected instruments housed in the Centre which include: Conference Room equipped with tele-conferencing equipment, inverter, Internet Service Provider (ISP) amongst other equipment. He promised that more tertiary diagnostic equipment would be provided to facilitate the project in the Port Harcourt Centre.

Speaking, Director, Centre for Research Management (CREM), Professor Onyewuchi Akaranta, commended the Project Manager for the visit to appraise the state of the project, pointing out that the present administration of the University is fully committed to realizing the objectives of the Project. Professor Akaranta advised the Project Manager to facilitate measures aimed at making it viable and sustainable in order for the University to maximize usage of the Centre.

Director, Centre for Malaria Research and Phytomedicine, Professor Omotayo Ebong, who also lauded Professor Ezedinachi for the visit, recalled that the Centre was upgraded from its initial state of a laboratory, expressing optimism that more collaboration amongst other programmes and the Centre would enable the Step-B Project meet its stated goals in the area.

Coordinator of the UNICAL/UNI-PORT Step-B Project in the University, Professor Anthony Okpani, expressed optimism that the Project would be better positioned when the tertiary diagnostic equipment are supplied to boost activities at the Port Harcourt Centre, charging members of the Team to sustain efforts aimed at achieving the set goals.

Others present during the meeting included: Dr Ogbonna Okorie, Dr Charles Tobin-West, Dr Ibilola Orupabo and Mr Oyunda Woko.



L-R: Director CREM, Prof Akaranta, Project Manager, Prof Ezedinachi, Director, CMRP, Prof Ebong, Ag Director, Basic Studies Unit, Dr Orupabo, UNI-PORT Project Coordinator, Prof Okpani (seated) and others after meeting on the Project

MDCN Lifts Suspension On Admission

Cont'd from p1

making giant strides in Nigeria and all over the world," disclosing that admission into the programme, which was suspended on account of oversubscription by candidates, would resume in the 2012/2013 Academic Session.

"To become a Doctor is hard work but to remain a Doctor within the confines of professionalism requires that we overcome the numerous oddities that appear to be engulfing today's Nigeria and world economy. If, therefore, we have to create a better health structure for our tomorrow, then we must start now to build our human capacity and improve in infrastructure by investing in quality medical training. Government cannot do it all alone," he pointed out, appealing for support from well-meaning individuals and corporate bodies to facilitate the building of a befitting structure for the College.

"We need to complete Phase II of the Medical Hostel for the comfort of our students and a dedicated structure for our Institute of Maternal and Child Health among others," the Provost appealed, urging public-spirited individuals and organizations to leave a legacy that would immortalize their names by providing some of the needs of the College.

In an Address on Ethical Guidance, Acting Registrar, Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN), Dr Udugba Ileybare, disclosed that the MDCN is a Parastatal of the Federal Government which is under the Federal Ministry of Health, established by an Act of Parliament, with the mandate to regulate training and practice of medical, dental and alternative medicine practices in Nigeria.

Ileybare, whose address was read by Assistant Registrar and Head, Registration Department, Dr Victor Gbenro,

disclosed that MDCN's mission is "to regulate the medical profession in the most efficient manner that safeguards the health of the public", urging the Inductees to ensure that their patients come first in the practice of their noble profession in all circumstances.

According to him, ethical guidelines are a set of standards which all medical professionals have to abide by and which could be used against them in courts of law if they breached any of the provisions, stressing that "this makes it very important that young Doctors are well informed of the ethics guiding the practice and they must be acquainted with the Code of Medical Ethics in Nigeria, 2008."

Dr Gbenro, who also administered the Physicians' Oath on the new Doctors, warned them against stepping beyond the terms of their Provisional License, saying: "You must note that your Provisional Registration allows you to practise under close supervision of your Consultants and not independently. Learn and emulate good conducts from your senior colleagues as you would definitely come across good and bad Doctors as you move along in practice."

Delivering the Valedictory Speech, Best Graduating Student, Dr Chinwe Ogbonna-Njoku, said that "Medical School is quite an experience. We learnt how to study like we never studied before. We realized that when told to write a short note about something, it entailed writing



V-C, Prof. Ajienka addressing the Inductees

everything you know about it. We were made to understand that our scheme of work in the Medical School is the entire human body. Our physical bodies were also trained to withstand a lot of stress, to the point that we could stand for several hours at a stretch, during our ward rounds and theatre sessions."

The event also featured rendition of the Class Anthem. Other highlights of the ceremony were award of automatic employment to the Best Graduating Students, including Dr Chinwe Ogbonna-Njoku, Benedicta Omennwa, Akpobore Tawari Teim Boyle and Chigozie Efiaka.

Visiting Scholar, Dr Daniel Ogum, has described the University of Port Harcourt as a well-organized and leading institution in the areas of Entrepreneurial education, University-Industry Partnerships, Brain Gain, Town and Gown initiatives, as well as information management and dissemination, especially with the regular publication of *UNI-PORT Weekly*.

Ogum, who made the observation while exchanging views with our Correspondent, following the end of his Sabbatical Leave in the University, said: "I have also observed that the University of Port Harcourt is very well-organized. The Vice-Chancellor does not need to come down from the Senate Building everyday to ensure that things happen in other units. What I see here is bureaucracy that does not go with bottlenecks as it were. My opinion of the University is a very positive one."

"I see University of Port Harcourt as a University in transition, using modern parameters. This is a University that has a clear vision, and that vision manifests in efforts aimed at marrying intellectualism with sustainability. During the period of my stay in the University, particularly in the Department of English Studies, I observed that programmes are being tailored towards social reality and the academic needs of students, that gives me some sort of satisfaction," he pointed out.

"I am aware of the entrepreneurial dimension the University has taken. Come to think of the entrepreneurial thing. That is what the Vice-Chancellor has always talked about; he also talks about that symbiotic relationship between town and gown. Every now and then, I also observed that the University had something to do with outsiders. You see major industry players coming to collaborate with the University, getting involved in signing one MoU or the other. That is within the general purview of ensuring that graduates produced do not go out cap-in-hand as beggars," he noted.

Ogum, who was a Reader in the Department of English Studies, expressed satisfaction that "UNI-PORT has gone out of her way to fish out experts in diverse fields, who left the shores of the country in search of greener pastures. In the Department of English Studies today, we have Professor Molaria Ogundipe, who has become a brain gain to the University. We now talk of brain gain and UNI-PORT is championing a cause in that direction, ensuring that those who left the country come back. Whatever they may have acquired in terms of experience overseas is rechanneled into the system for the benefit of those of us at home."

He, however, noted that there is always room for

Visiting Scholar Lauds UNI-PORT On Entrepreneurial, Brain Gain Initiatives

By Humphrey Ogu



Dr Ogum

improvement, regretting the nonexistence of a Language Laboratory in the Department. "It is difficult to believe that an English Department of the standing of UNI-PORT does not have a Language Laboratory. How do you teach phonetics and phonology? How can the students learn effectively when they do not have acquaintance with laboratory technology with respect to the language component of English Studies? That is one major predicament. The Departmental Library is another place that needs some improvement," he observed.

On staffing, Ogum, who is an alumnus of the Department noted that "staff strength presently is bottom heavy in the sense that junior lecturers are much more in number than their senior colleagues. No thanks to the retirement of very senior professors. Of course, they have to go as one does not work forever. Presently, there are two indigenous professors: Professors Nkem Okoh and Onyemaechi Udumakwu, then Ogundipe. Professor Polycarp Anyanwu has joined as an Adjunct Lecturer. There is need for the assessment of staff that are due for professorial promotion. It will help some Departments, including English Studies."

Ogum, whose academic interest covers language education and curriculum development among others, recommended the revision of the curriculum, "so that the Department of English Studies will be fully compliant with the Town and Gown thing in line with the entrepreneurial vision of the University. I am thinking that the study of phonetics and phonology should have something to do with communication studies, public speaking, minutes writing, English for specific purposes and so on. We need to create such a programme that would enable graduates from the Department functional in society. It shouldn't just be the issue of literary criticism alone," he said.

"The other problem is on the workload of students; the number of courses that students take and the ones they shouldn't take. I think that to meet some of the challenges of entrepreneurial skills development, we should be a bit liberal to enable students choose courses that suit their career needs. We should allow students to make input into the kind of degrees they want, including the nature of courses they would have to offer, so that once in every while, the University should provide the students this opportunity because they have an idea of what they want. These days, knowledge does not belong to the Lecturer alone; it belongs to anybody that seeks it," he said.

GUIDEPOST

BRIEFS FROM OTHER VARSITIES

APPOINTMENT

Dr Betty-Ruth Iraloh, Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, appointed *Head of Department* with immediate effect. The appointment terminates on July 10, 2014.

PROMOTION

Dr Bassey Fiebai, Department of Surgery, College of Health Sciences, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2011.

Dr M.P. Inyang, Department of Human Kinetics & Health Education, Faculty of Education, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2011.

Dr Jonah Nwogu, Department of Educational Management, Faculty of Education, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective October 1, 2011.

Dr Lois Abraham, Department of Curriculum Studies & Educational Technology, Faculty of Education, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective October 1, 2011.

Dr Chioma Chikere, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective October 1, 2011.

Mr Henry Unaeze, Department of Agricultural Economics & Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective October 1, 2011.

Mr Sunny Igwe, Department of Marketing, Faculty of Management Sciences, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective October 1, 2011.

Mr Bolaji Babatunde, Department of Animal & Environmental Biology, Faculty of Science, promoted *Lecturer II*, effective October 1, 2011.

Mr Adesoji Alimi, Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Faculty of Science, promoted *Lecturer II*, effective October 1, 2011.

Mr Tambari Dick, Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer II*, effective October 1, 2011.

Mr Sydney Nzeako, Department of Animal & Environmental Biology, Faculty of Science, promoted *Lecturer II*, effective October 1, 2011.

Ms Margaret Ukwu, Department of Theatre Arts, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer II*, effective October 1, 2011.

Mr Jariel Ikiroma-Owiye, Department of Theatre Arts, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer II*, effective October 1, 2011.

Mr Kenneth Njoku, Department of Theatre Arts, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer II*, effective October 1, 2011.

Mr Chika Onu, Department of Theatre Arts, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer II*, effective October 1, 2011.

Mr Anthony Gyapong, Department of Theatre Arts, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer II*, effective October 1, 2011.

Mr Adikiba Boyle, Department of Theatre Arts, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer II*, effective October 1, 2011.

Mr Michael Mombe, Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer II*, effective October 1, 2011.

Mr Dangor Briggs, Department of Accounting, Faculty of Management Sciences, promoted *Assistant Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2011.

ASSUMPTION OF DUTY

Professor Ndubisi Nwangwu, Department of Electrical/Electronics Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, assumed *Pensionable Appointment*, effective 1st June, 2012.

Mrs Amelia Ofodu, Department of Hospitality Management & Tourism, Faculty of Management Sciences, assumed *Pensionable Appointment* as Graduate Assistant, effective 18th June, 2012.

VISITING HOURS FOR PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

With effect from Monday, 9th July, 2012, Staff of the University, who may wish to visit any Principal Officers are advised to do so on appointment and could only access them within the hours of 2:00pm to 4:00pm, while visitors are allowed only on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the same time. Provost, Deans and Directors are however, exempted from the restriction on visiting hours.

Contact: Mr Roland Wabali, Director, Personnel Affairs

CHANGE OF NAME

MR AMAMAH SYLVESTER JONAH. Former Mr John Eno Jonah now wishes to be known and called Mr Amamah Sylvester Jonah. All documents bearing former name remain valid.

NOTICE OF 385TH SENATE MEETING

The 385th Extraordinary Meeting of Senate is scheduled for Wednesday, 8th August, 2012 at the Senate Chambers, University Park. Time is 10:00am. Heads/Ag Heads of Department are requested to forward 20 copies of the summary of First Semester Examinations results as Senate is primarily sitting to consider the 2011/2012 results.

Contact: Mrs Dorcas Otto, Director, Academic Office

HIV/AIDS ALERT

HIV/AIDS is real. Protect yourself.

Avoid a reckless lifestyle that can expose you to infection.

RSUST HOSTS ANUPA WORKSHOP

The Rivers State University of Science and Technology is billed to host a three-day intensive National Training Workshop on *The University Administration and the Information and Communication Technology (ICT): Transforming the Registry* for Senior Assistant Registrars, Principal Assistant Registrars and Deputy Registrars of Universities, Polytechnics, College of Education and Research Institutes and Centres. The Workshop holds from Sunday, 26th August, 2012 to Wednesday, 29th August, 2012.

UNIUYO V-C CALLS FOR FOOD SAFETY LABORATORY

Vice-Chancellor, University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Professor Comfort Ekpo, has called for establishment of a food safety Laboratory to reduce deaths caused by contaminated foods. Professor Ekpo also called for enactment of appropriate legislation to regulate food vending business.

UI ALUMNI TO RAISE PROJECT FUND

The Alumni Association of University of Ibadan (UI) is set for a fund-raising ceremony for a new Post graduate Hall of Residence in the University on July 27, 2012. A statement by Vice-Chairman of University of Ibadan Alumni Association (UIAA) and Chairman, Central Planning Committee, Otunba Steve Ogundipe, called on members of the Association in Nigeria and in the Diaspora to grace the event.

BRITISH VARSITY PARTNERS OOUTH ON PRE-ECLAMPSIA

Centre for Research in Reproductive Health of the Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital, Sagamu, Ogun State and British Columbia University, Vancouver, Canada, have forged a collaboration aimed at controlling Pre-eclampsia in pregnant women in the State. Pre-eclampsia has been identified as the second leading cause of maternal deaths worldwide.

PAKISTANI VARSITIES OBSERVE 'BLACK DAY' FOR HARSH FUNDING CUT

by Ameen Khan

Monday, 25 June was observed as a "black day" by

universities across Pakistan, to register protest against low funding for the higher education sector. University budgets have been slashed since the country's democratic government came to power in 2008.

The National Assembly on 14 June approved a Rs29.6 trillion (US\$0.3 trillion) budget for the 2012-13 financial year, starting on 1 July, but placed universities under financial stress by allocating only a PKR15.8 billion development budget to higher education. The universities allocation represented a mere 0.053% of the total budget.

The democratic government has cut the higher education allocation since 2009, when it was Rs22 billion. The latest budget gave Rs10 billion less than requested by the Higher Education Commission, or HEC.

The government allocated Rs14 billion in the 2011-12 year ending on 30 June, but Rs6.73 billion

had not been paid to the commission from the previous year, putting many programmes – including the country's overseas scholarship scheme – at risk of closure. HEC Chairman Javid Laghari said that, "The budget amount earmarked for higher education is far less than the scope of work in this field. "This situation will put us under pressure to either reduce the volume of activities or close some important higher education development programmes."

The president of the Punjab chapter of the Federation of All Pakistan Universities Academic Staff Association, Suhail Qureshi, said: "We strongly condemn the

federal government for its short-sighted vision of higher education and for cuts it has imposed on the higher education budget."

"How can we believe in the new budget allocation when a larger sum from the previous year has still not been paid to universities?" he asked. Masoom Yasin, Vice-Chancellor of Islamabad's Quaid-e-Azam University, said that the new budget allocation was a "problem that will show its effects later. But now we are faced with a financial crunch due to non-provision of already-approved funds." The matter of non-provision of funds to universities is so serious that it was taken up by the human rights committee of the National Assembly a day before the new budget was approved.

-Compiled by Otokor Samuel



Prof. Ruqayyatu Rufa'i, Minister of Education

Stop Press

ADMISSION OF STAFF BIOLOGICAL CHILDREN

Staff, whose biological children scored a minimum of 170 in the Post-Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (PUTME) screening test and wish to apply for concessional admission for them, are advised to forward their applications to the Registrar latest Monday, 30th July, 2012. The staff, who may wish to apply should include their Department/Unit, employment status; teaching or non-teaching, senior/junior or pensioner, as well as attach the Post-UTME Result Slip for ease of reference.

NIM Zonal Summit Calling

The 2012 South-South Zonal Summit of the Nigerian Institute of Management holds between Thursday, July 26 and Friday July 27 in Warri, Delta State.

The event scheduled for the Conference Centre of Petroleum Training Institute, Effurun will commence at 9.00am daily.

Meanwhile, Members of the University of Port Harcourt Branch of the Institute have been directed to forward their personal data such as membership number, designation, phone number and current places of deployment to the Interim Coordinator in the Faculty of Social Sciences. Intending members should obtain forms from the same address.

Contact: Mrs Flora Iyagba on 08037255090

AIESEC Int'l Launches Cancer Awareness Project In UNI

AIESEC, an international & Student Organization launched Phase II of its Project Pink aimed at raising awareness on breast and cervical cancers last Monday at the International Students' Centre, University Park. UNI**PORT** *Weekly* ace cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU** was on hand to capture memorable scenes from the event.



Members of AIESEC in an interactive session with IPPR staff



Spokesperson for AIESEC, Sharon Chepkoech of Moi University, Kenya, during the interview with UNI PORT Weekly



AIESEC members in a group photograph with Deputy Registrar IPPR Unit, Williams Wodi



L-R: AIESEC members from Kenya, Brazil and Taiwan, Joao Sampaio, Catrina Lee, Arthur Zechetti and Sharon Chepkoech



UNI PORT AIESEC Board Chair, Prof Mark Anikpo giving the opening address during the Project Pink launch



Participants registering for the event



Dr Preye Fiebai, Senior Lecturer O&G Dept, UPTH, making a speech



Cross section of participants at the Project Pink launch



Members of the high table at the event



AIESEC members in a group photograph with Prof Anikpo and Dr Fiebai



Arthur, Catrina and Chinonso Iwuh



Participants making a presentation