

Chancellor Mourns Slain UNIPOINT Students

The horrendous murder of four students of the University has continued to attract wide-spread condemnation from well-meaning Nigerians, who are appalled by the gory nature of the incident that drew global attention when it was uploaded on the YouTube social media, reports Williams Wodi.

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Side Bar

Professor Julie Okoh of the Department of Theatre Arts delivers the 95th Inaugural Lecture this Tuesday. Details next week -Editor



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Pro-Chancellor Calls For Restraint On Omuokiri Killings

By Williams Wodi

Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council, Rev (Dr) Walter Eneji, has commiserated with families of four students of the University, who were murdered by an irate mob at Omuokiri community in Aluu clan on 5th October.

In a statement made available to *UNIPOINT Weekly*, Rev Eneji who decried what he described as the mindless killing of students of the University, however, called for maximum restraint by all sides to allow law enforcement agencies apprehend and speedily bring the suspects to book. He expressed satisfaction that some persons have so far been arrested and charged to court for their alleged involvement in the gruesome murder of the students, hoping that others who may still be at large would

be similarly made to face the long arm of the law. "I am very saddened by the wicked act in which four promising young students of the University were tortured and subsequently burnt to death in a most callous manner in Omuokiri community. Whatever magnitude of crime alleged against the students should have been reported to law enforcement agencies, rather than people taking the laws of the land into their own

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UNIPOINT Shines At NUC Research Fair



Aluu Communities Assure
Staff, Students Of Safety



Fourth
Year
Student
Develops
Snailery



Institute Ends W'Shop
On Service Delivery



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The Right To Be Different

By Williams Wodi

Social activism that is anchored on the need to expand the frontiers of human freedom has a dignified ancestry that dates far beyond Thomas Paine and his famous book entitled: *The Rights of Man*. The man of self-propelled principles is usually torn between standing alone in times of crisis, while still claiming membership of the society he opposes. Therein lies the dilemma of the social crusader. Even Prospero had to find his own Man Friday in the Shakespearean thesis!

In times of crisis, the path of least resistance is to dress up platitudes in super clothing, but personal principle cannot be an end in themselves as they appeal to other variables that may be outside our limited control. To a melodramatic character, everything could be either morally black or all white. As we all know, *truth* is usually tugged away somewhere in-between.

In times of uncertainty, men and women of unquestioned values take a stand that may not necessarily please everybody. For instance, those in positions of authority must make painful decisions that may not be palatable to some people. But a leader has an abiding responsibility to make that decision in the overriding interest and happiness of the greater number of people. That was exactly what the Vice-Chancellor did on the floor of Senate as the appointing authority of positions in the University.

When an irate mob made barbecue of four energetic young men, who later turned out to be students of the University at an Omuokiri neighbourhood in Aluu clan, nobody thought that the situation would be an easy proposition to explain or manage by even the most gifted conflict resolution experts. As was to be expected, it resulted in an encircling chaos that affected the rules of engagement and established relationships.

Friday to Tuesday afternoon of the gory incident, the University authorities were in full control and consultations with relevant stakeholders; but when elements of the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), weighed into the equation, there was trouble in paradise! NANS, no friends of due process and officialdom, became an incomprehensible abstraction in the equation. For although the Athenians, who fathered modern democracy disapproved of life that was devoid of direct involvement in rulership, students must realize that they have to graduate first before becoming leaders. The potent dangers of mob rule may have justified Thomas Hobbes' fear of anarchy and wild nature in pre-state configurations



Dr Efemini (right) in a warm-hearted chat with Editor of UNIPORT Weekly, Williams Wodi

of power and followership.

As we all know, freedom is both positive and activist at the same time. Hobbes, however, worried himself to no end on how people can be protected from themselves and others in the exercise of their freewill. The conquering hero mentality of some university students these days is becoming a combustible equation on many campuses. The vertical mosaic of students and youths that took over the intersection of the East/West Road on became a countervailing compulsion against the best efforts of the University authorities to manage a highly combustible situation on that grisly Tuesday afternoon.

There have been several reactions to the crisis since then. Reacting to his suspension as Acting Head of the Department of Philosophy by the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Andrew Efemini believed that he ought to be commended, rather than being condemned for his effort to contain the irate students, who later unleashed the same vandalism they claimed to be protesting against. See how two wrongs knocked out a right in an effort to translate consent into compulsion. When I finally had a chance to speak with Dr Efemini last Tuesday, he was understandably unhappy with my interpretation of the Vice-Chancellor's statement on the floor of Senate.

He did not like my magisterial opinion that described his action on the East/West Road as "unbecoming of a lecturer". I also objected to his attempt to bring me to the centre of the Omuokiri incident which we both agreed to be more significant than any of us. We have since papered over our disagreement which was mostly contingent to necessity, rather than a calculated effort to run anybody

down. I hope that Dr Efemini would be pacified by my statement that the Vice-Chancellor did not use the exact words I attributed to him.

But as an Editor, the rules of gate-keeping permit me to expand, contract and clarify statements. That is standard practice in journalism which space constraints would not allow me to further explain. I leave it at that for the sake of peace and long-standing friendship. Let me add that in modern Public Relations practice, a spokesman is also a combatant in a conflict situation. The messenger cannot be divorced from the message in a charged situation. I rest my case.

Dr Efemini has insisted that his intervention saved the day on the East/West Road. But even the road to hell is paved with good intention too! That was what the Vice-Chancellor meant by advising him against endangering his life in the exercise of his freewill. The bottom line is this: he was free to advertise his grievances. Dr Efemini was once a famous bus conductor, and also took over the same East/West Road last January to protest arbitrary increases in the pump prices of petroleum products. On both occasions, nobody prescribed a diet of calculated indifference for him. The Gordian knot must be in something that was attributed to him by some fellow in the Press. Wish he had refuted same immediately to set the record straight!

I agree with Dr Efemini that "the University needs healing and peace and normalcy". As for his "insistence that the Vice-Chancellor should come to the East/West Road so that the students can leave...", I leave that to him and the general public.

Yes, the government appears to be buying temporary peace by the 'lofty' idea of paying ex-militants to secure the oil pipeline. However, there are many unanswered questions that the transaction has left unanswered;

1. Is there a limit to the number of ex-militants in a community that would be given the contract or would a particular warlord now lord it over all the other militants. Again, will there be a time limit on the tenure of the warlord turned pipeline protection contractors?
2. Will today's non-militants in a community remain law-abiding and impoverished, while so-called ex-militants get wealthy from the effort of a common agitation?
3. Will there be no gang warfare and rivalries to displace those currently enjoying the lucrative pipeline contracts?
4. Has the government run out of ideas on how to solve or, at least, attend to the issue of securing lives and property?
5. If the govern



Prof Anusiem

Ex-militants And Security Of Oil Pipelines

By Alphonsus Anusiem

ment settles oil pipeline vandals, how would it settle those who buy the products, who will be thrown out of job if the arrangements stop oil theft? Will they not hire pipeline vandals at a higher cost?

The root cause of Nigeria's problem is the monumental corruption which is brazenly perpetrated by the privileged few, who no matter the number of panels and probes, are ever ready to rubbish any outcome of such panels and probes. We need not give examples. This leads to serious deprivation and abuse of the suffering masses, who lack employment and have no way of earning a legitimate living. 'A hungry man is an angry man'. I believe that, at least, ninety per cent of those, who have guaranteed daily bread will find little or no time to be vandalizing pipelines.

The truth is that the youths of Niger Delta as well as their counterparts elsewhere, find themselves deprived and marginalized that the oil bunkers find them a useful tool in their business. After all, what percentage of the loot do the 'vandals' get compared to those of the sponsors.

Rather than continue to agonize, let me proffer some suggestions as to what government should look into rather than glorifying militancy that will have no end.

1. The so-called contract money (call it settlement money) should be used in improving life in these oil polluted communities through massive infrastructural development.

2. More jobs should be created with the settlement fund by employing youths into the Police Force and other security agencies, since it appears that

these established security agencies are short of manpower and cannot cope with the current problem. By so doing, those employed will be under a disciplined agency and perform their functions under strict supervision.

3. The government and oil companies should seriously consider setting up mini or moonlight refineries at strategic locations in oil-producing communities. This would employ youths in the communities. The government might consider the Biafra model in the establishment of such refineries. This will not only provide employment but generate commercial activities to the benefit of the communities. This will be a more permanent arrangement than 'bribing' ex-militants that would generate more militants and make the government and oil companies run out of 'bribe' money in the long run.

Professor Anusiem is a retired Chemist from the University

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Chancellor Mourns Slain UNIPORT Students

Cont'd from p1

The latest round of condemnation came from Chancellor of the University, His Majesty, *De Wheno Aholu Menu Toyi 1*, the *Oba Akran* of *Badagry* in Lagos State. The royal father, who made known his disapproval of the mob action that resulted in the death of the students in a condolence letter he addressed to the Vice-Chancellor through his Special Adviser on Political and Media, Elder Mike Whetode, decried the rising acts of impunity that had engulfed the nation in recent times. Commiserating with the Pro-Chancellor, Rev (Dr) Walter Eneji and the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, on the mob action that caused so much anguish around the world, the Chancellor condemned what he described as "the gruesome murder of the four students of the University that took place at Omuokiri community in Aluu clan, one of the host communities of the Institution". The

Oba, who regretted that the killings happened at a time when the Federal Government was doing a lot to tame insecurity in parts of the country, commended the authorities for shutting down the University as a direct response to the heightened state of insecurity, hoping that normalcy would soon return to the neighbouring communities for full academic activities to resume. The Chancellor, who conveyed the sympathy of the good people of *badagry Kingdom* to the staff and students of the University and the bereaved families, prayed Almighty God to grant them the fortitude to bear the monumental loss that has impacted negatively on the image of the University and Aluu clan following the incident. The *Oba Akran* also used the opportunity to appeal to the host communities of the University to initiate confidence-building measures that would create a conducive atmosphere for staff and students of the University to continue to live in a harmonious relationship in their midst without fear of molestation. He also pleaded to security agencies to increase surveillance and intelligence gathering efforts around Nigerian universities to safeguard lives and property.



V-C, Prof. Ajienka

UNIPORT Shines At NUC Research Fair

Speaking to *UNIPORT Weekly*, penultimate Friday,

Basic Medical Sciences, also took 3rd position in the Individual Award in the Life Sciences and Medicine category for their work which focused on the *Effects of Aloe Vera Plus on the Liver: A*

By Obinna Nwodin

Efforts aimed at stimulating high level research among staff and students have continued to yield impressive results as the University of Port Harcourt took overall 3rd position at the just-concluded 5th Nigerian Universities Research and Development Fair (NURESDEF) 2012 held at the Federal University of Technology, Akure last month. The ten member contingent that represented the University at the Fair was led by Professor Gregory Awiri of the Department of Physics.

Professor Awiri said that the Team exhibited a total of nine items from the Faculties of Engineering, Science and the College of Health Sciences, adding that apart from taking overall 3rd position, the Institution also took 3rd position in University Award category in the Life Sciences and Medicine. He also disclosed that two researchers from the Department of Pharmacology in the Faculty of

Pharmacovigi

lance Study in Rats, while two other researchers from the Department of Human Anatomy won the 3rd Individual Award in the Life Sciences and Medicine for developing a software tool for Facial Analysis.

Professor Awiri said that the experience gained at the Fair was both interesting and challenging, noting that "it would help us improve on our capability to organize future Research Fairs. Having made some impact at the Nsukka Fair in 2011, the University has become a research-intensive Institution to be reckoned with in terms of quality and quantity". He stated that with the experience gained at the event, the University Research Fair Committee was now better prepared for the Second UNIPORT Research Fair and Conference scheduled for February, 2013, calling on researchers, both staff and students, to avail themselves of the opportunity to showcase their research works at the event.

Other works exhibited at the Fair were: *Improvise Byrant's Traction in Treatment of Neonatal Femoral Fractures*; *Electricity Production from Brewery Waste Using Water in a Dual Chamber Microbial Fuel Cell*; *Growth of Chlorella on Flue Gas*; *Production of Liquid Fertilizer and Production of Hydro-phonics Culture Solution by the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS)*, as well as *Studies on Waste to Wealth Generation: Water Hyacinth Resources Potential*. It would be recalled that during the last edition of the Fair held at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, the University of Port Harcourt took 5th position. The Nigerian Universities Research and Development Fair (NURESDEF) is organized by the Nigerian Universities Commission (NUC) to encourage research activities among staff and students in Nigerian universities.



Inset: Items exhibited at the Fair

CDRMDS Installs Weather Observatory To Monitor Flood In N'Delta

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

As the nation continues to battle the ravaging floods that have displaced many communities in over 20 States of the federation, the Centre for Disaster Risk Management and Development Studies (CDRMDS), says it has successfully completed work on its long-awaited Weather Observatory housed in the Department of Geography and Environmental Management (GEM).

Speaking to UNIPORT Weekly on the development last Tuesday, Director of the Centre, Professor Samuel Arokoyu, said that the Observatory which also comprises an Automatic Weather Station (AWS), would enable the Centre to accurately forecast weather conditions through monitoring several parameters, including rain volume, humidity, temperature, wind-chill, dew point, heat index and wind direction. He commended the National

Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) for successfully contributing towards the project, promising that the AWS would be of immense benefit to the Centre in its bid to predict flood in the country.

Disclosing that summary of daily and monthly weather records are now available at the Centre, Professor Arokoyu, who noted that the current flooding was a function of climate change, explained that the Centre was committed to capacity-building, training of experts, who can tackle rising environmental challenges through policy formulation and advocacy. "We have participated in several advocacy meetings in the Niger Delta with NEMA, following predictions of the crises that millions of our country men and women now face as a result of the devastating flood", he said, recommending that the Government must put in place measures that would alleviate the sufferings of the masses before such situations get out of hand.

Stressing that the Centre also provides

information and data on risk and disaster management by government and related agencies, the Director listed dredging tributaries and building of more dams on the Rivers Niger and Benue, as proactive

measures that would forestall reoccurrence of floods in the country.

He noted that the new dams would encourage more agricultural activities and dry season farming, which would in turn result in more food production for the citizens. "As part of efforts aimed at contributing our expertise, the Centre is also planning an international conference on managing disasters associated with flooding in the coastal areas of the country that are prone to flooding and other natural disasters. The conference would feature policy formulation and experience-sharing sessions with countries that have experienced similar natural disasters", he added.

Stating that the overall goal was to make the CDRMDS a leading Centre of Excellence for risk and disaster management in Africa, a visibly elated Director, who disclosed that the Centre was ready to graduate her first batch of the professional Masters Degree programme in Disaster Management, noted that admission of new students would commence soon.

Capital Campaign Donors Get Appreciation Letters

University Advancement Centre (UAC), has commenced the publication of names of staff, who made generous donations to the University's Capital Campaign which was launched in June, 2006. This token of appreciation is to encourage staff, who are yet to make contributions to imbibe the spirit of philanthropy.

164	Ephraim C. Abah	Vice-Chancellors Office
165	Ogba Amabebe	Vice-Chancellors Office
166	Mr Chukwunye Amadi	Vice-Chancellors Office
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177	Francisca Osuagwu	Vice-Chancellors Office
178	Mrs. George Comfort, Talibo	Vice-Chancellors Office
179	Udeorah. S.F	Vice-Chancellors Office
180	Caroline. N. Umehiobi	Vice-Chancellors Office

To be cont'd next week

Chiefs and stakeholders in the nine communities of Aluu Clan, have reassured the University of Port Harcourt of the safety of staff and students resident in their communities. They lamented the unfortunate incident of 5th October, in which four students were cruelly killed by a mob, stating that from unfolding investigations by security agents so far, the act was carried out by non-Aluu indigenes, contrary to widespread speculations that painted Aluu in bad light in and outside the country. The Aluu Clan gave the reassurance when the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, led a delegation of Senior Officers on a stakeholders' meeting with the communities penultimate Friday at Omahuwo, Aluu, regretting that the ugly incident which took them by surprise was capable of denting the existing cordial relationship between the University and Aluu, which is one of its host communities. Speaking through Mr Gershon Benson, the Clan recalled that "UNIPORT has brought development to our people and communities. Some of our children got the

Aluu Communities Assure Staff, Students Of Safety ...As V-C Calls For Return To Better Days

By Otiakor Samuel

privilege of attaining university education because one was sited just in our neighbourhood, so we regret and condemn what happened on the outskirts of Omuokiri, which is occupied mostly by strangers". He observed with dismay that the incident which was neither masterminded nor carried out by indigenous residents had painted Aluu people in bad light.

"We want to reiterate our position that security operatives should carry out thorough investigations to fish out those behind the ugly act; we are sure that a thorough investigation would exonerate Aluu communities because we abhor spilling of human blood. We see those murdered students as our own children. Who knew what they would have become in future? They would have contributed

towards the growth of our communities when they would have remembered that they had once lived in our midst", the people said, condoling with the bereaved family for their unfortunate losses.

They restated their call on the Federal Government and the Nigeria Police to establish an effective security station to ensure safety of residents in the area, praising the Vice-Chancellor for his maturity in handling the unfortunate incident. "We salute you for responding appropriately to the condemnable killings; your pronouncements show maturity. You are truly a statesman", they said, counting the adverse economic effects of the closure of the University on their traders, who depend mostly on the patronage of staff and students of the University for their livelihood.

Earlier in his speech, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajenka, had said that the visit

was aimed at getting reassurance from the Aluu host communities that staff and students would be safe to return to live in their midst, sympathizing with them on the negative publicity which the ugly incident caused them.

Professor Ajenka appealed to the communities not to allow the roles played by a former President of the Student Union of the University, Mr Rhino Oworkhire, to cause disaffection among them as he took sides with the students during the protest against the killings, despite being an indigene of Aluu. He urged continued mutual relationship between the two communities to heal the wounds that were inflicted by the gory killing of the four students both on the University and the community.



The newly-built Weather Station
Inset: Prof Arokoyu



A group photograph of Senior Officers of the University, Chiefs and Opinion Leaders of Aluu clan (V-C, Prof Ajenka arrowed)



Dr Agaviezor... her lecturer

her entrepreneurial ambition, she utilized the practical skills gained from one of her courses to establish a snail farm, adding that "the farm is doing very well. I actually started with five snails in August last year, now I have over 400 of them within one year."

"My dream about snailery is that I want to go into it as a business. I am looking at a situation where I can raise about 5,000 snails in a year to sell to individuals and major hotels and also provide employment to people. I want to be an entrepreneur in Agriculture," she said, adding that a Year Two course AGF 201.1—Farm Practice, taught by Dr Brilliant Agaviezor fired her interest in entrepreneurship.

"After the course, I was excited because I actually saw how the snails, which we raised for three months, grew. I was equally fascinated by the fact that the feeds were not

only cheap, they are also easy to come by. I discovered that I could do it on my own. I felt going into snail farming will be good," she explained, adding that "snails are expensive; it is, therefore, a very lucrative business and I know some hotels that are actually looking for snails in very large quantities. If I could raise up to 5,000 in the next few years, I will make a lot of money and become self-employed."

Disclosing that she would have established her own farm in the next 10 years, Igoma said "my dream is to focus on three areas of Agriculture namely: mushroom rearing, piggy and snailery. I am a Crop and Soil Science student; I have a mushroom farm too. Ten years from now, my mushroom farm, snailery and piggy would be doing very well. If I get a piece of land, I hope to cultivate maize too."

Igoma, who attributed her success so far to her parents' support, said that "my father has been encouraging me with the provision of initial capital," stating that "if I am opportune to have external support, I will go far and I would like to expand the farm to include maize cultivation. If I sell produce from my snailery, I will acquire a piece of land for my maize farm in the next farming season."

Fourth Year Student Develops Snailery Says: I Want To Be An Entrepreneur

By Humphrey Ogu

Also speaking, the course lecturer, Dr Agaviezor, who noted that Igoma's business inclination is in line with the current administration's entrepreneurial vision, commended the student for applying the skills acquired in the course AGF 201.1: Farm Practice, expressing joy that one of his students is already practising what she learnt in his classroom.



A view of the Snailery

Elizabeth Igoma

Lessons From Omuokiri Jungle Justice

By Obinna Nwodin

In the past three weeks, the University of Port Harcourt has undergone challenging times as a result of the gruesome murder of four of its students at Omuokiri community in Aluu clan. The incident was followed by the destruction of property in the community by aggrieved students and sundry criminal elements, who attempted to exploit the sad situation.

It is still not clear what transpired as law enforcement agencies are handling the matter with a view to unraveling the cause(s) of the incident and speedily bringing perpetrators of the dastardly act to book. No doubt, the incident has dealt a serious blow on the blossoming relationship the University had with its host communities since it was established in 1975. It is obvious that establishment of the University has rubbed-off positively on the host communities. Imagine these communities would have been without University. of four Nigerians be forgotten. It brought to the attention of the

and families of the dead students. This resulted in the declaration of a seven-day mourning period in honour of the slain students and the indefinite suspension of academic activities in the University.

The death of these students calls for serious attention to security of lives and property around our university campuses. It is obvious that there is a lot to be done about effective security not only in the University of Port Harcourt, but all other tertiary institutions in the country. A community of over 30,000 students needs improved security to safeguard their lives and property. It is common knowledge that over the years, the University authorities have grappled with threats to security, ranging from robbery to cultism. The murder of these students has re-awakened the need to beef up the security system on our campuses. This imperative use for research to place, e is d for a eful secure

atmosphere.

No University in the world provides 100 per cent accommodation for its students and staff. Universities have to establish a harmonious relationship between staff, students and their host communities for mutually beneficial purposes. It is also instructive to note that government's stance on the building of hostel accommodation has made it difficult for university managements in Nigeria to build more hostels to accommodate the ever increasing student population. Private investors have complained over the difficulty they face in accessing finance from commercial banks to build, operate and transfer hostels in tertiary institutions. If the process was simplified, more hostels would be built in the universities to accommodate more students on the campuses.

In this regard, government should assist private investors by initiating policies that would make it easier for them to access funds for hostel development. This will go a long way in monitoring and controlling the activities of students, who reside off-campus. As suggested by former Vice-Chancellor of Federal University of Technology, Akure, Professor Adebisi Balogun, who led the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Campus Security on a fact-finding visit to the Institution, authorities of the University should adopt a strategy of documenting major landlords where off-campus students reside, to be able to monitor the activities and welfare of the students wherever they may live henceforth.

The Student Affairs Department should take up the responsibility of developing a data-base of all potential landlords around the University. Students can also have their hall officials elected even outside the campus under the supervision of the Student Affairs Department. Under this arrangement, students who wish to reside off-campus could secure accommodation through the Student Affairs Department, which should carry out regular checks to ensure their safety. This will not only ease the stress of accessing off-campus accommodation faced by students, but will show concern by the authorities for the welfare of students whether they reside on or off campus.

It has also become necessary that a Divisional Police Headquarters be established in Aluu to take control of the security concerns of the University's host communities in the area. It is our fervent prayer that such a horrendous incident would never occur again, not in the University of Port Harcourt; not in another tertiary institution in Nigeria.



Mr Mohammed Abubakar, IGP



Prof Julius Okojie, NUC, Executive Secretary

Cont'd from p1

Pro-Chancellor Calls For Restraint On Omuokiri Killings

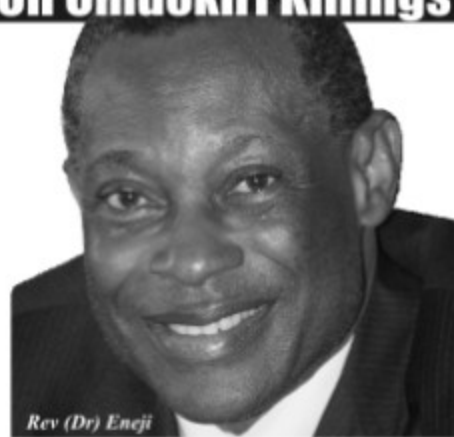
land into their own hands. It is our hope that justice will be done in this case to enable the bereaved families bring final closure to this abominable act that was viewed around the world", the Chairman of Council said.

The Pro-Chancellor, who condemned the renewed killings at Rumuchakara in Choba community barely two weeks after the Choba incident, warned trouble-makers to stay clear from the University to enable it concentrate on its core mandate of teaching, research and community service. According to him, the University which was established in 1975 has impacted positively on its host communities, appealing to the indigenes of the area to continue to maintain a cordial relationship with the Institution.

Rev Eneji also commended Governor Chibuike

Rotimi Amaechi for spear-heading efforts that resulted in stabilizing the situation and gradual return of normalcy to the neighbourhood of the University, pleading with law enforcement agencies to intensify patrols in the affected areas to ensure that such an ugly incident does not repeat itself.

It would be recalled that the Governing Council of the University met last week to take stock of the incident with a view to mapping out measures aimed at returning stability to the Institution to enable it resume normal academic activities. Other external members of Council, who also frowned at the Omuokiri killings, include Chief Dan Orbih, Pharmacist Ebenezer Aremo, Alhaji Abubakar Agae, Mrs Benedita Chingwu and King Turner.



Rev (Dr) Eneji

Theatre Arts Dept Mourns Biringa

The Department of Theatre Arts has commiserated with the family of one of the students murdered in Omuokiri village in Aluu Clan, Chidiaka Lordson Biringa, who until he met his untimely death in the hands of an irate mob on October

5, 2012, was a Second Year student of the Department.

By Humphrey Ogu



A cross-section of staff and students of Theatre Arts Dept during the visit



Dr Umukoro

family a condolence visit to comfort them for what has happened, condemning what they described as "the unwholesome and dastardly act at Omuokiri on October 5, 2012 in which the student lost his life alongside three others."

"Until his gruesome murder, Late Chidiaka Lordson Biringa, was a Year Two student of our Department. The Department was his second home and we were indeed his surrogate parents. Judging from our shock and grief, we can well imagine how devastating the incident has been for your family," the message stated.

"We therefore, wish to commiserate with you and pray God to give you the strength to bear the calamity that has befallen you. Our fervent wish is that the perpetrators of this most inhuman and condemnable act would be appropriately brought to book," it added.

It would be recalled that the Department is a major supplier of talent and manpower to the popular entertainment industry, especially the Nigerian home video industry—Nollywood. According to Dr Umukoro, the deceased was a potential movie star or performing artiste, who was cut down in the prime of his life.

Social Welfare Institute Ends W'Shop On Service Delivery

By Humphrey Ogu

Members of the Institute of Social Welfare of Nigeria were in the University penultimate Friday to brainstorm on ways of providing effective service delivery in society in line with global best practices.

The Workshop, which had "Social Work: Global Trends, Practice Competence and Service Delivery in the 21st Century", as its theme, and organized by the Rivers State branch of the Institute in conjunction with the Department of Sociology, drew participants from the Department and various branches of the Institute across the zones.

Declaring the Workshop open, Chairman of the occasion, Professor Lawrence Ohale, who stood in for the Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Henry Alapiki, commended the Institute for enlightening the public on the importance of rendering service. He pointed out that "social work is all about rendering services in society," calling on Nigerians to cultivate the habit of serving as a means of finding self-fulfilment.

Speaking at the Workshop, the Head, Department of Sociology, Professor Kinikanwo Anele, who noted that the Workshop would have been very beneficial to students offering courses in Social Work, regretted that they were not on campus due to the closure of the University on account of the gruesome murder of four of its students.

"Social Welfare is something that should be taken seriously, particularly in this part of the world where there are so many social issues that need to be addressed. We just mentioned the problem of unrest, which

culminated in students being sent packing," he said, adding that the Institute has a crucial role to play by way of providing professional advice to tackle identified social problems.

Corroborating the views of Professor Anele, Professor Paul Eke, also of the Department of Sociology, said that much of what is going on today required the services of social workers, stressing the need to take the profession seriously by sensitizing the public on its existence.

In her contribution, acting Executive Secretary of the Institute, Mrs Oluwafemi Otton, who recalled that the Institute came into being in 2007, said: "Lecturers and

Trainers are very critical to social welfare development in Nigeria," adding that as one of the reasons for holding Workshops in academic institutions.

Also speaking, Zonal Coordinator of the Institute and Lecturer in the Department of Sociology, Dr Daniel Uranta, said: "the Workshop teaches professionals to adopt best practices of delivering social work to clients, including individuals and communities," pointing out that the pre-colonial practice, has become obsolete, necessitating regular professional update to enhance productivity.

On his part, Celestine Oranya of Hamline University of St Paul, Minnesota, USA, who told *UNIPOINT Weekly* that he was in the University to present a paper on *Managing Non-Governmental Organizations* (NGOs), noted that "Social work has a lot to do with Non-Governmental Organizations, because most NGOs intervene on social issues bordering on social welfare of the citizens. And most of the staff working for NGOs are social workers."



L-R: Dr Oranya, Mrs Otton, Profs Anele, Ohale and Eke at the Workshop

GUIDE POST

APPOINTMENT

Dr Cecilia Ekwueme, Department of Curriculum Studies & Educational Technology, Faculty of Education, appointed *Adjunct Senior Lecturer*, effective on assumption of duty.

Dr David Ibadabo, Department of Preventive & Social Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, appointed *Adjunct Senior Lecturer*, effective on assumption of duty.

CONFIRMATION

Dr Sunny Igwe, Department of Marketing, Faculty of Management Sciences, confirmed a *Staff* of the University, effective 6th July, 2009.

Mr Barinuzor Christian, Works & Services Department, confirmed a *Staff* of the University, effective 11th March, 2010.

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Dr Francis Thomas, Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 25th September, 2012 to 24th September, 2013.

PROMOTION

Mr Akpenichi Chimara, College of Health Sciences, promoted *Senior Driver*, effective 1st October, 2011.

Mrs Bridget Nwoka, Academic Planning Unit, promoted *Clerical Officer I*, effective 1st October, 2011.

Miss Gladys Enwukweri, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social science, promoted *Senior Clerical Officer*, effective 1st October, 2011.

Mrs Owhonda Stella, Academic Office, Registry Department, promoted *Clerical Officer I*, effective 1st October, 2011.

Miss Gladys Dioha, College of Continuing Education, promoted *Caretaker*, effective 1st October, 2011.

Mr Toby Festus, Department of Theatre Arts, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Senior Artist Xylophone*, effective 1st October, 2011.

Mrs Elizabeth Ogbu, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Clerical Officer I*, effective 1st October, 2011.

Mr Emmanuel Orluwene, Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Senior Clerical Officer*, effective 1st October, 2011.

Mrs Hope Wali, Department of Pharmacognosy, promoted *Senior Laboratory Assistant*, effective 1st October, 2011.

Mrs Nule Dum-Yoghodee, Department of Hematology, Blood Transfusion & Immunology, promoted *Computer Operator I*, effective 1st October, 2011.

Mr Brighten Baridam, Basic Studies Unit, promoted *Head Driver*, effective 1st October, 2011.

CHANGE OF NAME

MRS OKOCHA BLESSING CHIMEZIE. Former Miss Worlumati Blessing now wishes to be known, called and addressed as Mrs Okocha, Blessing Chimezie. All documents bearing her former names remain valid.

STOP PRESS

STAFF APPRAISAL

In view of complaints from staff and to ensure transparency in appraisal exercises, Reporting Officers are advised to make scores of such exercises known to the staff being appraised and possibly, discuss their performance before they sign the acceptance column.

HIV/AIDS ALERT

*HIV/AIDS is real. Protect yourself.
Avoid a reckless lifestyle that can
expose you to infection.*

Counting Economic Losses
Of Omuokiri Mob Action

By Otiakor Samuel

When residents of Omuokiri community in Aluu Clan woke up on the morning of Friday, 5th October, 2012, to witness the parade of four persons condemned to death by an angry mob as *criminals*, little did they know that the incident would change the way they live and do business for a long time to come. The inexcusable jungle justice meted out to the four young men by a faceless mob was justified on the excuse that criminal elements had created an earthly version of hell for residents of the area for a long time. As the story went, criminal activities that blighted the area ranged from robbery to gang rape of young ladies and even married women executed in the full glare of husbands and other helpless family members. Such weighty allegations were capable of maddening the barking dog. And it did; but the victims turned out to be students of the University of Port Harcourt.

The uncontrollable emotions, unfortunately, landed the community and its environs in a huge mess. Known for its liveliness and home to many staff and students of the University of Port Harcourt, Omuokiri has now turned into a ghost town that nobody wishes to live in or do business with, at least, for now. The programmed desertion of the unlucky community is not due to the angry flood which is ravaging and sacking many communities in parts of the State, but for fear of being caught in the crossfire of mass arrests or violent reprisal attacks. The University has sent students home, putting academic activities on hold. Business operators and commercial cab drivers now live by His grace to survive in the absence of their regular customers.

Penultimate Friday, traditional and opinion leaders in the nine villages that make up Aluu Clan played host to the University of Port Harcourt during a visit aimed at re-igniting the excellent relationship that had long existed

between the Institution and its host communities with a view to reassuring staff and students to return to Aluu communities. One of the pathetic revelations was the adverse effect of the absence of students and staff, who patronize petty traders and transporters in the area.

Government and social development experts recognize Small and Medium Scale (SMEs) businesses as the main engine that drives activities of any developing economy. SMEs are known to contribute to improved living standards, bringing about substantial local capital formation and attainment of high level productivity. They are the principal means of achieving equitable and sustainable industrial diversification, as well as major factor in promoting private sector development and partnership.

In Africa for instance, most of the available jobs in rural areas are created by small and medium scale enterprises and in most cases they account for the vast majority of industrial units in operation.

SMEs, according to available records, account for well over half of the total share of employment sales and constitute the most viable and veritable vehicle for self-sustaining industrial development, as they possess the capability to grow an indigenous enterprise. Little wonder then, how traders and business operators, whose source of livelihood are dependent on patronage by the University Community would survive this critical time when flood is dealing mercilessly with the society on the one hand and the need to save for the fast approaching Yuletide are major sources of worry to many homes.

We must learn from the incident at Omuokiri to do things right and be at peace with one another, reminding ourselves of Chuck Palahniuk, who said that "It's so hard to forget pain, but it's even harder to remember sweetness. We have no scar to show for happiness. We learn so little from peace".



Cars burnt during the protest



V-C, Prof Joseph Ajienka and his entourage being received by spokesman of Aluu clan, Mr Gershion Benson



Chief Christopher Amadi (left) presenting traditional kolanuts to the Vice-Chancellor and his entourage

Omuokiri Killings

In the wake of the gruesome murder of four students of the University by an irate mob in Omuokiri community, Aluu clan, authorities of the Institution took steps to restore normalcy in their neighbourhood. The pictures below illustrate the Vice-Chancellor's visit to Aluu clan to meet with Chiefs and Leaders of the community and a Media Briefing to clarify issues on the incident.

Pix: HEADMAN ALU



From left to right: Registrar Mrs Matilda Nnodim, V-C, Prof Ajienka, D V-C (Academic) Prof Igbo Joe, Acting Bursar, Mr Vitalis Alieji at the visit



V-C, Prof Ajienka, addressing the community leaders



A wide-angle view of the meeting between authorities of the University, Chiefs and Leaders of Aluu clan



Chief Richard Kalu addressing UNI^{PORT} authorities



A group photograph of Senior Officers of the University, Chiefs and Leaders of Aluu clan. (V-C, Prof Ajienka arrowed)



V-C, Prof Ajienka (middle), Senior Officers of the University and Gentlemen of the Press stand for the University Anthem at a Press Briefing



A wide-angle view of the Media Briefing on the killing of four UNI^{PORT} Students



V-C, Prof Ajienka (middle) flanked by D V-C (Admin), Prof Ethelbert Nduka, (left) and Mr Mike Mbonye, South-South Zonal Manager, News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)



From left to right: Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim, D V-C (Academic) Prof Igbo Joe, D V-C (Admin) Prof Ethelbert Nduka and V-C Prof Ajienka at the Media Briefing



V-C, Prof Ajienka, addressing Gentlemen of the Press, flanked by Mr Mbonye of NAN



A side view of V-C, addressing Gentlemen of the Press