

Side Bar

Professor Ben Ndukwe
of the Department of Plant
Science and Biotechnology
delivered the 96th Inaugural
Lecture last Thursday.
Details next week
-Editor

Rosemani Memorial Lecture

Osokoya Tasks Stakeholders On Basic Education

The path to sustainability of Universal Basic Education (UBE) in Nigeria lies in avoiding the mistakes of the past universal education programmes and provision of solutions to the current challenges facing the project,

reports *Humphrey Ogu*.

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Notable Dramatist and Literary Critic, Professor Julie Okoh of the Department of Theatre Arts, has stressed the need for gender equality in Nigeria. Professor Okoh gave the charge during the 95th Inaugural Lecture titled: "Towards Feminist Theatre in Nigeria", delivered at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, last Tuesday.

Okoh, who recalled that her interest in drama performance started from childhood, said that the representation of women in literature had always pricked her curiosity from her secondary school days, defining feminism as "a collective term for systems of belief and theory that pay special attention to women's rights and women's position in culture and society."

Tracing what she described as the evolution of patriarchy and the devaluation of women to the devaluation of goddesses in primitive societies, Okoh noted that "gender discrimination was first institutionalized with development of city states in ancient Greece," explaining that "today, women in America and Europe have the same social, political, financial and legal rights as men, even though there



Okoh Advocates Gender Equality For National Development

By Humphrey Ogu

still exists to some extent 'glass ceiling attitudes'. She wondered why Nigerian women are yet to enjoy basic equal rights with their male counterparts.

"Nigeria is still basically rooted in patriarchal social structures. And as such, violation of women's basic human rights is prevalent. It is a stark reality that affects a percentage of women across the country and it

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UNI^{PORT} Distributes Relief
Materials To Flood
Victims
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Air Force, UNI^{PORT},
To Collaborate On
Aircraft Design



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Mgt Opens Contractors Bid
For Dame Jonathan
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Senior Staff
Club
Plans
Guest
House,
Computerized
Security



Story on p5



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Between Barbarism And Civility

By Williams Wodi

unspeakable acts of horrifying cruelty assail our sensibilities as we go about our businesses with scornful intent. "For what do we live, but to make sport of our neighbours and laugh at them in our turn?" asks Jane Austen. It is quite obvious that life is defined by clamour, clutter and endless jostle by mellifluous entities in all human societies.

Man's ferociously barbaric nature necessitated the coming into being of the political society by means of a compact amongst free individuals, who wished to escape the original state of nature,

described by Thomas Hobbes as *solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short*. Thus, good men could be aided in their goodness, while bad men would be coerced into being good. After all, law is command, not counsel. In the latter half of the seventeenth century, Hobbes, John Lock and Jean Jacques Rousseau took a deeper look at the bestial nature of man and sought the means by which his base instincts could be tamed for the good of society. Hobbes advocated a strong government to maintain law and order—man being naturally selfish in pursuit of his rapacious appetite and wild passion.

Lock recognized that freedom is not license to do as we wish in exercise of our freewill. The natural law of reason commands us not to impair the life, health, freedom and possession of others. Even then, Lock still recognized the state of nature as "full of fears and continual dangers", making man's enjoyment of rights "very insecure". So, the community is supreme over government.

As for Rousseau, man is basically good and sympathetic in his best elements. But in uniting himself to a community, man must be allowed his freedom as in the pre-state so long as he conforms to the general will. Therein lies the contradiction. Under the theory of force, however, the State becomes the result of the subjugation of the weaker by the stronger. History teaches us that extremity of deception always produces extremity of disillusionment and reaction.

Whatever philosophers may say, cruelty continues to define the actions of man in a troubled world of

competing values. The Spanish Inquisition and Christian Crusade are well-advertised examples of man's bestial nature. Add to that the propensity of Roman Emperors, who enjoyed the devouring of prisoners by ferocious lions at their command. Queen Elizabeth I ordered the display of the heads of serious criminals at the Southwark end of the famous London Bridge as a grisly reminder to potential trouble-makers of the cruel fate that awaited them! Famous English authors such as Ben Jonson and Christopher Marlowe, regularly killed their fellow citizens and were in turn killed in violent duels in Elizabethan England—Marlowe in a drunken scuffle!

Mary, Queen of Scotland was executed in a most brutal manner in 1587 for allegedly plotting to kill Queen Elizabeth, thus, triggering the dispatch of the Spanish Armada during which no less than seventeen thousand men were either massacred or decimated by the lashing English gale. *Joan de Arc* was burnt at the stake in the Old Market Place of Rouen in 1431 for dressing up as a boy and fighting for the French in the Hundred Years War against the English! Never mind that the French won the war. One *Mme Manon Roland* was marched to the scaffold for desiring to be learned! Those who merely spoke evil of European Kings and Queens were either dispatched to the guillotine or had their slippery tongues slashed as a reward for their indiscretion.

At Onitsha or Ariaria markets in South-East Nigeria, sundry criminals are known to have been either burnt alive or benefitted from six-inch concrete nails driven down their occipital regions before they were allowed to go home. Mob action had always been part of the tragic obscenity of man at his bestial worst. Our collective denigration in these parts was advertised on 5th October, 2012, when the muffled cry of anguish of four students of the University of Port Harcourt shattered our accustomed peace. In the aftermath of that horrendous incident, many hurriedly contrived legends filled the vacuum created by an initial lack of information on the mob murders that raised global revulsion.

The dynamic chaos created by the killings turned out to be the first act in a tragic drama that unfolded on a global scale—thanks to the popular social media. The students, who were led rather mulishly to the slaughter, re-established our human credential to be wicked. Bedraggled villagers of Omuokiri and Aluu clan, who were mere pawns in the unfolding drama, got caught up like birds in the complex web of a tragedy they had no hand in spinning. The University also took undeserved drubbing from an unsparing public opinion that was goaded on by a sensationalist media with an eye on increased circulation figures. The nuisance play by intemperate elements of the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) further elevated the crisis into a category one storm that blew through the neighbourhood. Their verbal inelegance before the Vice-Chancellor complicated that terminal moment—especially on the East/West road where they held court to advertise their grievances—both real and imagined. There is a niggling suspicion that the ensuing chaos was pre-planned by sinister forces as an incendiary intentional act calculated to drag the University to the mud.

If we wish to show ourselves as part of the civilized world, we must dispense with primordial barbarism that governed the pre-state as was exhibited at Omuokiri by that irate mob of blood-thirsty monsters. We must learn to live symbiotically with our neighbours in a post-social jungle that is characterised by due process and respect for the sanctity of life. We must guard against the pernicious effects of social disorder; lest we return to the social jungle where might was right.

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Mohammed Abubakar, IGP

keen observers of human actions are in total agreement that cruelty cuts through the very heart of human behaviour. Man's stone-age instincts are essentially predicated on his desire to gain territorial edge and acquisitive superiority over his kind and the lower species. Evolutionary Biologists and Conservationists have long tried to find out why upon all the animal species created by God or came into being through the evolutionary process; man is the only one that kills to satisfy his sadistic instinct. All other animal species chase, catch and kill to assuage their hunger or in self-defence.

Love, lust, adventure and ultimate death are the basic transient frailties of man that are associated with his crass materialist nature. In the unpredictable human theatre, the survival instinct is ever a grim struggle between forces of light and darkness. The wayward capabilities of man have exacted a painful penalty in both the pre-state and modern societies. On daily basis,

STUDENTS' Meets Precious Osmond, ANGLE Part One LCS Student

With a prospect to impart knowledge to society, she sought for a Nigerian university that is well-disposed to fully prepare her for the future task. At her backyard was a state-owned University, but she traveled a few metres away to the University of Port Harcourt to acquire knowledge that would make her useful in society. That was the beginning of the journey of Precious Osmond to the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities, first as a student in the Certificate programme and now undergoing a bachelor's degree course. She spoke with our Correspondent, OTIKOR SAMUEL.

"I chose UNIPORT because it has more qualified Lecturers in my discipline. The University is really focused on its mandate of imparting knowledge on students. Strike action is not a routine business here unlike some institutions that embark on strike in almost every semester. UNIPORT graduates are also competitive in the labour market, so these are some of the factors that influenced my choice", Miss Osmond said, adding that her prospect to become an academic also informed her choice.

On the use of Library facilities, she acknowledged that she was presently deficient in exploring opportunities available in the Donald Ekong Library to widen her intellectual capacity. "The first time I visited the Library, I was asked to present my Library Identity Card before entry and ever since I have not gone back to the Library to process the ID Card"

A former student of Lao Russell Memorial Secondary School, Miss Osmond, whose hobbies are reading, dancing, drawing and painting, expressed satisfaction with her experience in the University so far, enjoining Management to put all necessary arrangements in place before reopening the University as a result of the unfortunate closure following the killing of four students at Omuokiri, Aluu and two other incidents where a student of her Department and a graduate of the University, as well as an ex-corp member gunned down at Rumuchakara in Choba.



Miss Osmond

Cont'd from p1

This was the submission of Dr Israel Osokoya while delivering the 10th Memorial Lecture of foremost Educationist, Late Professor Jaiyeola Kosemani titled: "Five Decades of Free Universal Basic Education in Nigeria and the Challenges of Sustainability", at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, last Tuesday.

Osokoya identified political stability and social mobilization, true federalism, adequate funding and proper data collation and storage as panacea for sustainable basic education, noting that "a constant assessment of a country's educational programme must be considered necessary, if the nation is to develop and make progress economically, socially, politically and technologically."

Tracing the first national attempt at providing access to primary education to 1976, the Guest Lecturer regretted that in spite of better economic climate at its inception, it was also not sustained, adding that "this second effort at introducing Universal Basic Education nationwide could not have come at a better time."

Speaking at the Lecture, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, commended the Faculty of Education, particularly the Department of Educational Foundations for organizing the lecture to commemorate the contributions of Professor Kosemani to the Faculty. Represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, the Vice-Chancellor re-emphasized the need to pay attention to Basic Education in line with the recommendations made by the Guest Lecturer, especially data-keeping and retrieval, which, according to him, were crucial for proper planning at all levels of education.

Professor Joe, who also recounted his personal loss in the death of Kosemani, said he was not just a colleague in the Faculty, but also a companion in England, where they both lived and studied together, adding that "if we have an educated society, we would be able to solve most of the problems we face in our society today."

In his remarks, Chairman of the occasion,

Osokoya Tasks Stakeholders On Basic Education

Emeritus Professor Otonti Nduka, who described the late Professor Kosemani as a distinguished academic and philosopher of education, recalled that he taught him at the University of Ibadan, where he majored in the History of Education in the 1970s.

"He made his mark in the Faculty of Education in the field of Philosophy of Education generally. We are here to honour his memory and his works, bearing in mind that he operated in the field that had the great philosophers from ancient Greece, from Socrates to Aristotle right to the Classics, the age of Enlightenment, Newman and so on," Nduka, who was pioneer Dean in the Faculty, pointed out.

Also speaking, former Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, described the late Professor Kosemani as a reliable ally, who offered him invaluable advice while in office as Vice-Chancellor, adding that his advice were useful, accurate and never self-seeking, a situation, he said prompted him to call on the late Professor whenever he needed unbiased counsel.

Meanwhile, it was a blaze of encomiums as speaker after speaker paid glowing tributes to the late educationist. One-time Vice-Chancellor of Delta State University, Abraka, Professor John Enaowho, Director, Normadic Education Centre in the University, Professor Ben Ehezue, Director, Centre for Malaria Research and Phytomedicine, Professor Omotayo Eboog all described the late Kosemani as an honest, selfless, disciplined and committed scholar, whose character is worthy of emulation, especially by the younger generation of scholars.

Commending participants at the Lecture for their various contributions towards its success, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Ebi Bio Awotua-Efebo thanked Professors Nduka and Briggs, promising to keep the memory of Kosemani alive as a worthy legacy for those he left behind. Wife of the late educationist, Dr Christiana Kosemani and children were on hand to lend support to the organizers, led by Professor Okorosanya Orubite.



Wife, children of late Kosemani and senior academics at the Lecture

UNIPOINT Distributes Relief Materials To Flood Victims In Rivers, Bayelsa States

By Otikor Samuel

As part of efforts aimed at alleviating the plight of flood victims in Rivers and Bayelsa states, the University of Port Harcourt has distributed 1,000 pieces of mattress to flood victims in the two States. Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, who appointed Dean, Student Affairs Department, Professor Henry Bell-Gam and Deputy Registrar (Information), Williams Wodi to coordinate the distribution of the items to the victims, also called on the University Community to

make generous donations to the victims to reduce their sufferings occasioned by the devastating impact of the flood.

Speaking to newsmen at the various camps in Abua/Odual, Ahoada-East and Ogbia/Egbema/Ndoni local government areas in Rivers State, Dean, Student Affairs, Professor Bell-Gam, urged chairmen of the affected local governments and members of flood committee to ensure that the items got to the actual victims, who

needed assistance at this period, conveying the sympathy of the Vice-Chancellor to the displaced persons.

Earlier, Deputy Registrar (Information), Mr Wodi, has said that the distribution of mattresses was the first phase of measure initiated by the University to assist the flood victims, stating that the Institution would embark on other interventions for the advancement of its mandate of teaching, research and community service.

Wodi further disclosed that the University through the Centre for Disaster Risk Management and Development Studies (CDRMDs), would undertake post-flood and shoreline studies to ameliorate or possibly forestall a recurrence of the disaster, pointing out that it was high time Nigerian universities positioned themselves to solve societal problems.

Mayor of Yenagoa Local Government Area, Hon Mike Ogbolosingha, received five hundred mattresses for camps in Bayelsa State, while Hon Udi Odum, Chairman, Abua/Odual took delivery of 200 on behalf of the local government. Mr Justice Uhor, Chairman of Flood Committee in Ahoada East received 128 pieces on behalf of Ahoada East and Ahoada West Local Government Areas, while Ogbia/Egbema/Ndoni got the balance of the 500 pieces of mattress for Rivers State.

Meanwhile, in recognition of community service as part of its core mandate, the University authorities are appealing to public-spirited staff to donate materials at the O.B. Lulu-Briggs Health Centre, for onward distribution to internally displaced persons in the affected communities.

In response to the Vice-Chancellor's plea, Faculties, Departments, Institutes, Centres, Units and public-spirited groups and individuals are already making donations at the Health Centre for onward transmission to the flood victims.



Two truck loads of the items

In a bid to boost technological development in line with global trends to meet the mandate of defending the country's airspace, the Nigerian

Air Force, UNIPORT, To Collaborate On Aircraft Design

By Otiokor Samuel

Air Force has indicated interest in collaborating with the University of Port Harcourt in the

area of research and manpower development to tackle internal security challenges.

Speaking during a courtesy visit on the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph



V-C, Prof Ajienka (right), making a presentation to Air Commodore Ikpe

Ajienka, last Monday, Director of Manual Standards and Evaluation Branch, Abuja, Air Commodore Frank Ikpe, who led other officers, stated that the proposed partnership would cover areas such as aerodynamics, aircraft design, avionics, robotics, guidance and control, simulation and diagnostics, cyber-security, artificial intelligence and communications and information technology, amongst other areas of interest.

"Fabrication of non-critical parts, technology acquisition through reverse engineering, development of training aids, including simulators and manpower development are the short term goals of the proposed collaboration", Air Commodore Ikpe said, adding that the long-term goals would include manufacturing of aircraft, ground support equipment, systems design and implementation and fabrication of critical parts.

The proposed partnership, according to leader of the delegation, was in consonance with the vision of the Chief of Staff, Air Marshal Alex Badeh to position the Nigerian Air Force for sustained employment of air power to meet joint national defence imperatives, as well as provide swift response capabilities for emergencies and internal security challenges.

Air Commodore Ikpe, who further

disclosed that the Force had succeeded in assembling an aircraft platform in collaboration with Cranfield University, UK, regretted that even though the assemblage was carried out by Nigerians, the Force was denied full operational right, which is part of the reasons the Air Force was now seeking partnerships with capable universities in the country to perfect the design and manufacture of the *Amebo UAV* version for intelligence gathering. In his response, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajienka, who appointed Visiting Scholar, Professor Monima Briggs of the Faculty of Engineering to coordinate the collaboration on behalf of the University, pointed out that research and knowledge transfer are the driving force of his administration. He expressed the readiness of the University to partner the Force on relevant policy research. Professor Ajienka, who made a PowerPoint presentation on the profile of the University, stated that the Institution would mobilize academics in relevant disciplines such as Faculty of Science and School of Graduate Studies, which he said, have now been upgraded to Colleges, as well as the University of Port Harcourt Business School to actualize the partnership.

Describing the Institution as the most national University in terms of accommodation of intellectuals from every part of the country, the Vice-Chancellor expressed optimism that it would deliver on the partnership.

In a bid to create high level conscientiousness, right attitude to work and ethical conduct amongst academic staff, the Faculty of Science organised an Orientation Exercise for junior academic staff, last Tuesday at the Faculty Common Room, Ofirima Complex, University Park.

Speaking at the event, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, commended the Faculty for the initiative, noting that it was a laudable exercise which would ensure that academic staff conformed to right conduct in the discharge of their duties.

Professor Ajienka, who was represented by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, said that no organization can survive in an environment ravaged by unethical conduct. "Once a country has a high level of corruption, every other thing will decline, from productivity to discipline", he stated. Nduka, who suggested that in order to ensure transparency in the grading of results, the Faculty could adopt the practice in institutions such as the University of Cape Town, where already graded answer scripts of students are made available to them for assessment, noting that it would build confidence in the system, as well as dismiss claims that they were unfairly graded by vindictive lecturers.

In his presentation on Professionalism and Ethics, Director Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QAQC), Professor Anthony Arinze, advised staff to imbibe the right ethical conduct in the discharge of their duties, warning them against actions that impugned the integrity of the University. Professor Arinze, who acknowledged that individuals take on various professions for various reasons,

Faculty Of Science Holds Orientation For Junior Academics

By Obinna Nwodin

observed that some lecturers in the University do not have any business in the classroom, resulting in their inability to conform with highly-regarded principles of academics. He said that an academic without ethics is prone to compromise, indulgence, corruption, sale of grades, indecent conduct, amongst others, advising them to be above board in their dealings. According to him, they must have personal integrity, before they can talk about the integrity of the University.

"You have a lot of powers as lecturers and if such powers are misused, they pose grave consequences to the larger society", he stated.

Also making a presentation, the MacArthur Foundation Liaison Officer in the University, Dr Henrietta Otokunefor, encouraged staff to imbibe the culture of using electronic resources in research activities, adding that the Library afforded them requisite services to carry out their researches.

Also speaking, Director, Academic Affairs, Mrs Dorcas Otto, who addressed the

junior staff on the topic: "Academic Administration, Rules and Responsibilities", said that as academics involved in administration, there was need to apply the rules as contained in the statement of academic policies.

Earlier in her address, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Nnenna Frank-Peterside, said that the aim of the exercise was to give the younger academics the necessary orientation in order to guide their conduct. The event which featured a question and answer session also had in attendance some senior academic staff of the Faculty.



From R-L: Director Academic Affairs, Mrs Otto, D V-C Admin, Prof Nduka, HOD Biochemistry, Dr Eka Essien and MacArthur Foundation Liaison Officer Mrs Otokunefor. Inset: Dean, Science, Prof Frank-Peterside



Mgt Opens Bid For Dame Jonathan Gender Studies Centre

L-R: Dean of Education, Prof Awotua-Efebo, DV-Cs (Acad & Admin) Profs Joe & Ndaka, Mr Wabali, Ag Director of Works, Jubrin Inede and others

Prospective bidders for construction of the Dame Patience Jonathan Centre for Women Development and Gender Studies in the University have been assured of total compliance to due process to ensure transparency in the final selection of contractors to execute the project. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Ndaka, who gave the assurance while addressing the bidders during the tender opening session last Wednesday at the Governing Council Chambers, University Park, pledged Management's resolve to enforce the core values of fair play, transparency and honesty in selecting the eventual winner of the contract for the construction of the new building.

"Concerned stakeholders, including a representative

of the National Universities Commission and consultants have been invited to ensure that the selection process is not flawed or compromised", Professor Ndaka disclosed, adding that the "joy of the eventual winner of the contract should be the execution of a project that would stand the test of time, as well as add value to the developmental efforts of the University". He stressed the need to ensure speedy completion of the project when it is finally awarded to the most competent bidder. Acting Director of the Physical Planning and Development Unit, Mr Edinhoman Ewa, who supervised the opening of the tenders, noted that the bidders were selected following a pre-qualification

exercise that held about five months ago, disclosing that the Centre would have world-class facilities, including an Auditorium, office spaces and lecture halls.

Bidders present at the tender opening session included Chris Joe Nigeria Limited, Em-Plan Integrated Limited, Glo Construction Limited, Global Powerpac Limited and Krispal Limited. Also in attendance were the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Igho Joe, Director of Personnel Affairs, Mr Roland Wabali, who represented the Registrar, Dean, Faculty of Education, Professor Ebi Bio Awotua-Efebo, Director, Council Affairs, Dr Dakoru Charles-Granville and representatives of the Unions on Campus, amongst others.

OMUOKIRI KILLINGS

UPWA Condolences UNIPOST Authorities ... Redeems Pledge to SSC

By Obinna Nwodin

The University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA), has commiserated with the authorities of the Institution over the gruesome murder of four of their students by a irate mob at Omuokiri village in Aluu clan, last October.

President of the Association, Mrs Mercy Ajenka, conveyed the condolences when she led members of her Executive Committee on a visit to the Vice-Chancellor in his office, last Wednesday.

Mrs. Ajenka said that "as mothers, we are unhappy with the development in the past few weeks. We are here to let the Management know

that we are behind it in prayers so that the Institution would overcome these trying times".

Responding, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, thanked UPWA for the visit and support to the Administration. "We are all part of the experience. For me, it is a necessary exposure needed for ones maturity", noting that "the University has been in the news not for any significant invention, but for a barbaric act that claimed the lives of four of our students".

Professor Ajenka expressed dismay that a lot of people in the society were insensitive to acts of barbarism, warning that nothing good comes out of a mob action. He commended them for their activities which have impacted positively on the

University community. "The kind of activities you have engaged in shows a lot of commitment to community service" he stated, advising them to consider rendering assistance to charity homes and women who are in need of assistance. It is when you do this that the prayers you offer on our behalf will continue to help us", he said.

Also speaking, Public Relations Officer of the Association, Dr Celestina Harry, said that UPWA has been able to respond to the needs of the society, especially in visiting charity homes and was planning to donate items to victims of the recent flood in some parts of Rivers and Bayelsa States. She commended the Vice-Chancellor for steps taken in the heat of the development, reassuring him of the prayers of members of the Association. Also present at the visit were: Prof Florence Ndaka, 1st Vice-President, Mrs Caroline Nnabuo, Secretary, Mrs Esther Shaka, Financial Secretary and Mrs Gladys Amadi, Ex Officio.

In a related development, UPWA has redeemed the pledge it made to the Senior Staff Club during the opening of the renovated bar of the Club, last year.

Redeeming the pledge, President of the Association, Mrs Ajenka, expressed satisfaction with the changes made in the Club, adding that "we are fully in support of what is happening here and we will continue to support you as you strive to provide a befitting environment for relaxation and interaction by Club members".

Responding, President of the Club, Dr Tammy Orunaboka, thanked the Association for the gesture, noting that whatever money received by his Executive Committee has so far been judiciously put in use, disclosing plans to build a new Guest House and computerize security access into the Club to ensure safety of members and other visitors.



V-C, Prof Ajenka (5' from left), flanked on the right by UPWA President, Mrs Ajenka, DV-C (Admin), Prof Ethelbert Ndaka, University Librarian, Dr Obiageli Nwodo & other members of UPWA EXCO

Cont'd from p1

Okoh Advocates Gender Equality For National Development



A cross section of Professors before the Lecture

cuts across boundaries of age, culture, religion, wealth and geography. It takes place in homes, schools, workplaces, markets, religious circles and on the streets," she lamented.

Okoh, who is the Director of the Institute of Arts and Culture, observed that "the level of violence against women is shockingly high, yet it is rarely documented officially or even talked about at the tables where policies are made," citing forced marriage, human trafficking, preference for the male child, paedophilia and superstition as examples of discriminatory practices that hold women down.

According to her, a combination of factors contribute to the rising rate of violation of women's human rights in Nigeria, listing lack of protective laws, institutional support, economic independence, and safe refuge. Others include cultural, traditional, religious practices, conspiracy of silence and prevalence of 'glass ceiling' attitude that exclude women from mainstream society.

On efforts made to reverse the trend, the Feminist scholar, said: "in terms of public awareness, women groups in different professions and disciplines have been organizing seminars and workshops to sensitize Nigerian women to political self-awareness, full and effective participation in the democratic process at the rural and urban levels."

Okoh noted that "as far back as the 1980s, works by Nigerian Feminist writers such as Omolara Ogundipe, Chikwenye Okonjo-Ogunyemi, Mary Kolawole, Helen Chukwuma, Gloria Chukwukere, Grace Okereke, Catherine Acholonu, Chioma Opara, have been in existence," adding that there is a plethora of critical works of female critics such as Iniobong Uko, Theresa Njoku, Emilia Oko, Mabel Ewiewhoma and Julie Okoh, today.

Describing Feminist Theatre as "an art that is devoted to advocating women's autonomy and identity," Okoh, explained that this advocacy is found not only in plays written by women, but also by male dramatists and critics, adding that the primary aim of feminist theatre is to sensitize women and society on the need to treat female folks on the basis of equality with men.

On her contributions to knowledge, the Inaugural Lecturer said she had published more than 30 articles on women, both in English and French in and outside Nigeria, adding that "as a theatre practitioner, I have systematically used the theatre to speak against such crude practices as widowhood rites, gender discrimination, child abuse, sexual harassment, childlessness and female circumcision."

She called on stakeholders to join in the war against gender discrimination, recommending the

domestication of international treaties, feminization of power, enlightenment campaigns, funding of theatre practice, amongst others, as measures that would check gender discrimination in the Nigerian society.

Professor Okoh used dramatic interludes to add colour to the Lecture and also drive home her argument. The playlets, which were performed by Theatre Arts students, focussed on the

oppressive practices against women and the need for their liberation from patriarchy.

In his remarks, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who described the Inaugural Lecturer as a writer-professor, observed that "in any community, where you have just one creative writer, it calls for celebration, because these are individuals capable of enriching the culture of the people."

"Professors and writers have delivered Inaugural Lectures in this University. Professor Julie Okoh, belongs to a special class in this community. Her works are recommended not only in Nigeria, but also in other parts of the world. And so her lecture is a celebration and harvest of creativity," the Vice-Chancellor pointed out, adding that women have their rights which should not be trampled upon.

According to him, people should not just see feminism as women's fight for equal rights with men. "If you look at men and women, you will see that they are different. One of the problems we have is that women contradict themselves. The day women change, everything will change. They are the ones involved in female circumcision, which they ironically criticize. My perception of the woman is that she is different from the man. We must distinguish between the role of women and men as given by the Almighty. We complement each other and not in competition," he added.

Senior Staff Club Plans Guest House, Computerized Security

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The present Management of the Senior Staff Club of the University is committed to ensuring judicious application of funds at its disposal, says Dr Tammy Orunaboka, who also disclosed plans to computerize security to make it a safe environment for relaxation and meaningful interaction.

Speaking to a *UNIPOST Weekly* Correspondent last Wednesday, Orunaboka said things were beginning to be done right in the Club with high-level commitment and team work among top executive and staff as key indices for change. "For us, there is every reason for change to ensure that members get good value for money invested into rebuilding the Club by creating an atmosphere for relaxation and recreation after the day's work", he stated, explaining that as part of efforts aimed at providing better services for members, the Club has embarked on massive renovation exercise

which he said is responsible for attracting more members, who now see the Club as a true place of relaxation and interaction.

Disclosing plans to computerize security in the Club, the President said the project is necessitated by the need to checkmate the use of facilities by non-members or infiltrators. Stressing that the security system would set up a database of all senior staff of the University, including their names and postings, he noted that the security personnel would be trained by the Information Technology and Communication Centre on the use of the gadgets.

"The enormous challenge of transforming the Club requires the involvement of all stakeholders", the President said, appealing to persons, who made donations during the commissioning of the main bar to redeem their pledges. He also revealed plans for the construction of guest houses and eateries in the Club as part of his Administration's campaign

promises on assumption of office, adding that a new *Suya* spot, Information Centre have been completed for use by members.



Dr Orunaboka

GUIDE POST

APPOINTMENT

Professor Sylva Kalu, Department of Marketing, Faculty of Management Sciences, re-appointed *Dean of Faculty*. The appointment takes immediate effect and terminates on 22nd October, 2014.

Dr I. F. Asiegbu, Department of Marketing, Faculty of Management Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of Department*. The appointment takes immediate effect and terminates on 23rd October, 2014.

Dr L.C. Micah, Department of Accounting, Faculty of Management Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of Department*, effective 15th November, 2012 and terminates on 15th November, 2014.

PROMOTION

Dr Christopher Obiorah, Department of Anatomical Pathology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Dr Letorn Akinola, Department of Animal Science & Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2012.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Professor E.S. Erondu, Institute of Agricultural Research and Development, granted *Sabbatical Appointment* with Federal University of Technology, Owerri, effective 1st November, 2012 to 1st October, 2013.

AWARD OF FELLOWSHIP

Professor John Enemugwem, Department of History & Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Humanities, invested *Fellow of Historical Society of Nigeria* in recognition of his advancement of knowledge in the discipline on 29th October, 2012 at Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, Lapai, Niger Delta.

Mrs Helen Onhonda-Wopara, Bursary Department, invested *Fellow Certified National Accountant (FCNA)* on 11th October, 2012, having satisfied necessary conditions prescribed by the Association of National Accountants of Nigeria.

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT

Dr Gonenwa Amue, Department of Marketing, Faculty of Management Sciences, confirmed *Staff of the Department*, effective 16th August, 2007.

Mr Solomon ThankGod, Works and Services Department, confirmed *Artisan Grade III (R/A)*, effective 20th May, 2010.

Mr Emmanuel Herbert, Works and Services Department, confirmed *Artisan Gd III*, effective 20th May, 2010.

Mr Sejiike Ikpe, Works and Services Department, confirmed *Artisan Gd III*, effective 5th May, 2010.

Mr Chimaogu Okagbo, Works and Services Department, confirmed *Artisan Gd III (R/A)*, effective 20th May, 2010.

Mr Onu Chima, Works and Services Department, confirmed *Plant Operator*, effective 12th March, 2010.

Mr Ikpe Progress, Works and Services Department, confirmed *Plant Operator*, effective 11th March, 2010.

Mr Nwibari Sunday, Works and Services Department, confirmed *Painter (Artisan Gd III)*, effective 5th May, 2010.

Mr Awari Louis, Bursary Department, confirmed *Senior Driver*, effective 15th July, 2010.

Mr Enyi Ernest, Student Affairs Department, confirmed *Porter*, effective 19th January, 2009.

Mr Kingdom Amadi, Works and Services Department, confirmed *Artisan Gd III (Welder)*, effective 10th May, 2010.

Miss Nwinee Christian, Science and Engineering Workshop, confirmed *Computer Operator*, effective 3rd June, 2009.

Mr Abel Ektator, Works and Services Department, confirmed *Artisan Gd III (Plant Operator)*, effective 11th March, 2010.

Mr Ikpe Progress, Works and Services Department, confirmed *Plant Operator*, effective 11th March, 2010.

Mr Enyinda Kenneth, Works and Services Department, confirmed *Plant Operator*, effective 3rd March, 2010.

Mr Simeon Nwiodobie, Works and Services Department, confirmed *Artisan Gd III (Mason)*, effective 20th May, 2010.

Mr Kinikachi Owhor, Works and Services Department, confirmed *Artisan (Welding)*, effective 3rd May, 2010.

Mr Samuel Agba, Works and Services Department, confirmed *Artisan Gd II (Electrician)*, effective 20th May, 2010.

Mr Christian Barinuazor, Works and Services Department, confirmed *Artisan Gd III (Plant Operator)*, effective 11th March, 2010.

HIV/AIDS ALERT

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

BRIEFS FROM OTHER VARSITIES

ABUAD TO COMMENCE PROGRAMME ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

Afe Babalola University (ABUAD), Ado-Ekiti, has been granted approval by the National Universities Commission (NUC) to commence a degree programme on Social Justice starting from the 2012/2013 academic session. The programme is designed to train para-legal officers in order to solve societal problems.

FUAM GETS NEW V-C

Professor Emmanuel Kucha of the Faculty of Engineering has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of Federal University of Agriculture (FUAM), Makurdi. Professor Kucha, who emerged victorious among twelve other contenders, is expected to assume office this November.

NANS MULLS SOLIDARITY STRIKE FOR RSUST

National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), has opposed an impending strike threatened by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) to show solidarity with the Rivers State University of Science and Technology over the re-appointment of Professor Barineme Fakae as Vice-Chancellor of the University. NANS President, Dauda Mohammed, said that the fresh attempt to embark on another strike would disrupt the already

disjointed academic calendar.

GOVT SLASHES AS\$1 BILLION FROM VARSITY SPENDING

By Geoff Maslen

Australian Vice-Chancellors were shocked by the Federal Government's unexpected decision to slash AS\$1 billion (US\$1 billion) from higher education spending over the next five years.

Hundreds of jobs are expected to be lost as universities revise their planned budgets with the Group of Eight research-intensive universities likely to be the most seriously affected.

Professor Fred Hilmer, Chair of the Go8 and Vice-Chancellor of the University of New South Wales, said the cut would mean the loss of 1,450 research positions.

Hilmer said the cut meant the government had reneged on its prior undertaking to boost funding for the indirect costs of national competitive research grants through its Sustaining Excellent Research programme.

He said Go8 universities would bear the brunt of the AS\$150 million cut from 2013 and AS\$500 million over the forward estimates. "While we are relieved the government has not proceeded with cuts to research grants directly, we are alarmed by its decision to erode the research fabric that enables top researchers to do excellent work efficiently," Hilmer said.

-Compiled by Otokor Samuel

STOP PRESS

The maiden Registry Day Ceremony of University of Port Harcourt, holds this Friday, 9th November, 2012, at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park by 10:00am.

The theme of the event which is "REGISTRY, THE LIFELINE OF THE UNIVERSITY: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE", will have former Registrar, University of Ibadan, Mojisola Ladipo, FNIM, mni, as Guest Lecturer, under the chairmanship of Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Port Harcourt. The event will also be used to honour former Registrars and retired Deputy Registrars. All staff and members of the University Community are encouraged to attend

Flood Victims Get Relief Materials From UNI^{PORT}

The University of Port Harcourt embarked on the first phase distribution of relief materials with a total of 1,000 mattresses to flood victims in Rivers and Bayelsa States, penultimate Thursday. Our Correspondent, OTIKOR SAMUEL, who covered the event, also captured the highlights.



Dean, Student Affairs Department, Prof Henry Bell-Gam, (in suit) supervising the three trucks loaded with mattresses



Professor Bell-Gam, Deputy Registrar (Information), Williams Wodi, supervising loading of the mattresses



Coordinators of the distribution; Professor Bell-Gam and Wodi, making logistics arrangement



Some of the mattresses for Abua/Odual LGA



Hon Udi Odum, Chairman, Abua/Odual LGA, sighting the distribution list



Hon Odum, responding on behalf of the LGA



AIT crew interviewing Hon Odum, while Prof Bell-Gam watches the counting of mattresses for the LGA



Prof Bell-Gam (centre), showing the distribution list to Chairman and members of Flood Victims Committee in Ahioda-East LGA



Chairman of Flood Victims Committee in Ahioda-East LGA, Mr Justice Uhor (centre) and others listening to Prof Bell-Gam (2nd from right)



HRM (Dr) Eze Chegimerem commending UNI^{PORT} in an interview with newsmen



Patrick Agha of Theatre Arts Dept (right) conveying the items to Bayelsa State



Dean, Student Affairs responding to questions by AIT's Tienabeso Bibiye



UNI^{PORT} Spokesman, Williams Wodi with AIT crew