



Bayelsa Govt, LGAs, Hail UNIPORT On Relief Materials

Bayelsa State Commissioner of Information and Orientation, Mr Markson Fefegha, has expressed profound gratitude to authorities of University of Port Harcourt for being the first Nigerian University to take proactive measures towards ameliorating the plight of flood victims in some States in the South-South region of the country, reports *Otiakor Samuel*.

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Side Bar

Professor Wellington Wotogbe-Weneka of the Department of Religious and Cultural Studies delivers the 98th Inaugural Lecture this Thursday. Details next week -Editor



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97th Inaugural



African Oral Literature Not Inferior To Written Form ~Okoh

By Humphrey Ogu

Contrary to the popular misconception that written African literature is superior to its oral counterpart, Professor Nkem Okoh of the Department of English Studies, has sounded it loud and clear that Oral Literature is not only as valid as the written form, but also displays the same characteristics and is even more cumbersome to collect. Okoh, who made the submission while delivering the 97th Inaugural

Lecture titled: "Of Synergies: Linking Literature, Language and English in Nigeria", at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium last Thursday, observed that there is an erroneous conception of Oral Literature as antiquarian, moribund or anachronistic phenomenon, performed by raconteurs and performers, who engage in no creativity, but rarely function as passive *traditors* or rigid transmitters of a tradition, saying: "whether or not we live in an

electronic or technologically sophisticated world, the synergies and constant interfacing of *orality* and *writing* or print are a *fait accompli*". According to him, the oral medium continues to occupy a prominent place, while various forms are transmitted through the spoken word, employed by radio, television and theatre, among others. "The impact of oral literature is seen in its capacity for propelling the oral

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Need For Sustained Orientation For Staff

By Obinna Nwodin

Recently, the Faculty of Science organized an Orientation Exercise for junior academics in the Faculty. It was aimed at giving them the requisite exposure on the dos and don'ts in the Faculty, as well as position them for increased efficiency. The event which was also interactive was used to ascertain from this category of Lecturers, the challenges they faced on their job schedules. What the Faculty has done is commendable and should be emulated by other Faculties. This is imperative because as staff transit into the system, they need to conform to the approved way of doing things.

It is no longer news that many staff, particularly, those in the teaching cadre transit into the system without proper orientation on the ethics of the academic profession. They find their way into the classroom and sometimes run contrary to their statutory functions. Some of them do not understand the academic traditions of their respective Faculties. Consequently, such individuals do whatever they think is right. This should not be the case as any individual employed into the academic circle must be given appropriate orientation in order to be acquainted with the ethics of the hallowed academic environment. Orientation exercises would enable various Faculty managements to refocus the mindset of these young Lecturers to conform to the principles of the academia.

It is also important to state that the acquisition of a Doctoral degree does not necessarily confer on an individual the ability to teach. Teaching must be done with passion, dedication and commitment. The Lecturer is an academic-minded person, whose orientation should be intellectually inclined. His core business is teaching and research. In other words, he is either teaching or researching in an effort to advance the frontiers of knowledge and impart same to the students, who would in turn apply them for the benefit of the society. An academic must show a high level of discipline, integrity and decency. The student looks up to Lecturers and so they should position themselves as role models. We have heard of incidents where people take up the teaching profession because they admired a particular Lecturer. That is what it should be. The Lecturer is supposed to show some level of distinction in and out of the classroom.

It is in this respect that regular Orientation exercises should be sustained on a University-wide scale. There is no reason why other Faculties should not do same. In this, it is

imperative to state that such exercises should be carried out in the first few weeks of their engagement. This will go a long way in nipping in the bud, problems that may arise from utter ignorance of professional ethics by new employees. It is also important for the Professional Ethics Committee to liaise with the various Faculty managements to ensure that new staff understand what the ethics of the profession are. As the current administration led by Professor Joseph Ajenka strives to build an Entrepreneurial University, where research and innovation meet with the industry for mutual benefits, it is imperative for Lecturers to key into this vision to ensure its actualization.



Prof Kanu Nkangineme, Director of Professional Ethics C'tee

STUDENT WORLD

'I'm A Student By Day, A Writer By Night'

JONAH OKPABI is a Second Year Student in the Department of Petro-Chemical Technology, School of Science Laboratory Technology, who hopes to distinguish himself as a Petro-Chemical Engineer and a Writer. In this interview with our Correspondent, HUMPHREY OGU, Okpabi, describes himself as a student by the day and writer by night. He also bared his mind on how he hopes to combine engineering with his passion—writing. Welcome to his world!

“Right from childhood, I have always had the passion of studying in UNIPORT, because the University has a reputation as a training ground for great leaders, including the Archbishop of the Niger Delta Province, Church of Nigeria Anglican Communion, Most Rev Ignatius Kattey, many top politicians, captains of industry, educationists and erudite scholars,” he recalls, beaming a smile of satisfaction.

What is his normal day like? “As a student, I attend lectures, read my books and spend some quality time in the library. In the evening, I write short stories, and motivational essays. I call myself a student by the day, writer by night,” he says.

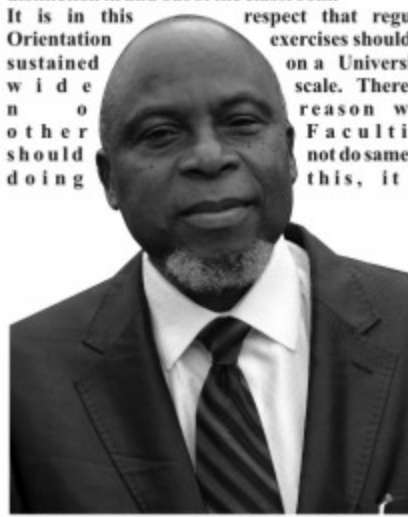
How does he manage his time amidst many time-demanding activities? “Once you are passionate about something, you will never have problem with setting tasks for yourself and accomplishing them. It is a matter of interest and passion. The only thing is that you prioritize your activities by handling some with moderation. For instance, I am also involved in sporting and Church activities. I play football,

but for now, I do that once in a while. I spent most evenings among the Christians,” he points out, evoking the aura of a budding motivational speaker.

“I look forward to becoming a great engineer. It is my dream to make immense contributions towards improvement of the Nigerian petroleum industry, as well as in the realization of Vision 20: 2020 as it affects the industry. As an oil producing country, Nigeria should not have a problem of meeting the petroleum needs of its citizens. I hope to distinguish myself, not just as an engineer, but also as a writer. I also hope to donate books to the Library to assist in developing a proper reading habit, which would ultimately help in improving the reading culture of students,” he affirms, with an air of confidence.



OKPABI



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Similarly, Chairmen of Abua/Odual, Ahoada East and Ahoada West Local Government Areas of Rivers State, speaking through their representatives also praised the University for donating relief materials towards assisting victims of the natural disaster which hit about 20 States in the Federation.

The political leaders made the commendation when the Dean of Student Affairs Department, Professor Henry Bell-Gam, led a delegation to deliver the second phase of relief materials to various Camps in Rivers and Bayelsa States, last Tuesday. Speaking before embarking on the trip, Deputy Registrar (Information), Williams Wodi, disclosed that the distribution of food items, medicines, clothing and toiletries was the second phase following an earlier delivery of 1,000 pieces of mattresses and medical outreach to some of the Camps by the authorities and students of the University.

Wodi, who declared that the University was not yet through with its contribution to tackling the natural disaster that rendered victims homeless and destroyed most farmlands while it lasted, promised that the Institution would closely monitor the development by carrying out post-impact assessment with a view to forestalling the effects in case of future flood occurrences.

Speaking while handing over the items to the Coordinators at various Camps, Professor Bell-Gam, who conveyed the sympathy of the University to the affected communities, advised them to ensure that the materials get to the intended beneficiaries, reassuring them that the University would, through its Institutes and Centres, carry

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out relevant research to contribute to the body of knowledge aimed at tackling similar incidents in future. Mr Fefegha received the items on behalf of Bayelsa State Government, while the Supervisor of Finance, Mr Asiniye Abbe and Press Secretary, George Oye collected for Abua/Odual Local Government Area. Chief Protocol Officer, Mr Eze Utula and Special Assistant to the Chairman, Mr Progress Joseph represented Ahoada East, while Mr Joseph Igbegiri stood in for the Chairman of

Ahoada West Local Government Area at the separate events.

It would be recalled that Medical Students of the University under the platform of Port Harcourt University Medical and Dental Students Association (PUMDSA) had also embarked on a medical outreach programme to some of the impacted communities as part of their own contribution to reducing the sufferings of the flood victims.



Dean, Student Affairs (3rd from left), Director, Health Services Dept, Dr Ken Anugweje, Deputy Registrar (Information), Williams Wodi, Chairman and Secretary of Collection Sub-Committee, Dr Chinwe Ezirim and Mrs Florence Ogwo and others before the distribution

2012 Flood

Stakeholders Brainstorm On N'Delta Dev

By Mercy Don-Baridam

Against the backdrop of recent flooding in the country and in line with the vision of the Professor Joseph Ajiienka-led administration on development, the Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainable Development in partnership with the Stanley Lawson Chair on Environmental Geology and the Centre for Disaster Risk Management and Development Studies (CDRMS), organized a Conference aimed at tackling environmental challenges. The event was held at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park, penultimate Friday.

Delivering the Keynote Address titled: "Socio-Economic Issues in the Sustainable Development of the Niger Delta," Professor Dagogo Fubara, disclosed that "The 2012 flood disaster in most parts of the Federation and the Niger Delta in particular, is a pointer to the gross neglect of environmental management principles to enhance sustainable development".

Professor Fubara, who reiterated the fact that the Niger Delta produces immense oil wealth that fuels Nigeria's economy, stated that "Beyond vast oil and gas deposits, the Delta is blessed with good agricultural land, extensive forest and fish species, which have been badly degraded due to environmental pollution arising from unsustainable petroleum exploration and exploitation, together with little or no other industrial activities," regretting that the region is exposed to the most intensely

hazardous concentration of industrial activities, while the wetlands constitute some of the most fragile ecosystems of the world because of their rich natural resources, including over 85 per cent of Nigeria's oil and gas.

The keynote speaker, who is a Member of the Rivers State Economic Advisory Council, expressed dismay over the inability of successive governments to protect the Niger Delta environment, said that the Region is suffering from administrative and corporate social responsibility neglect, grossly, inadequate social infrastructure and services, high unemployment, social deprivation, abject poverty and most recently, endemic conflict".

He identified lack of political goodwill for Niger Delta development leading to abdication of corporate social responsibility by government, the international oil companies and industries as some of the challenges militating against the development of the area.

The Professor of Geodesy stressed the need for a meteorological data station, coastal tide gauging, and hydrodynamic monitoring, where river gauge instrumentations should be installed and manned thrice daily all year round and also stage data recording. He said, "there is also the need to establish a common vision for sustainable development that would ensure the promotion of an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for the planet, present and future generations".

In his remarks, Chairman of the event, Mr Shedrack Akalokwu, who said that environmental sustainability,

flooding and disaster are all connected to water, noted that the flood of 2012 did not take policy makers unaware since they were alerted before the flood took over much of the region.

Akalokwu stressed the need for concerted efforts by stakeholders to contain such disasters in future, calling for immediate environmental audit and intervention by government in order to save the endangered species in the region, as well as protect lives and property. He commended the University Management for taking the bold initiative to dialogue on a matter so crucial in the affairs of the country and humanity.

Declaring the event open, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiienka, who commended the Centre for the initiative, said that "the Institute was established in line with the vision of the administration to make the University of Port Harcourt a world class Entrepreneurial University that is research-intensive".

Professor Ajiienka, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, (Research and Development), Professor Bene Willie-Abbey, announced that the University has established collaborations and also received grants from the MacArthur Foundation of Chicago, stating that the collaboration with University of Gothenburg, Sweden was aimed at coordinating and promoting an integrated approach to the Niger Delta environment and sustainable development issues.

He disclosed plans to provide a platform for coordinating efforts that would ensure the synergy required for holistic sustainable development of the region.

Also speaking, Director of the Centre, Professor Enuie Akpokodje, said that the event was packaged to discuss issues that bothered on the recent flood in parts of the country with a view to proffering solutions to the problems to minimize future occurrences.



DV-C (R&D), Prof Willie-Abbey (arrowed) Chairman of the event, Mr Akalokwu (right), Keynote Speaker, Prof Fubara (left), Director of INRES, Prof Akpokodje 2nd right and other participants

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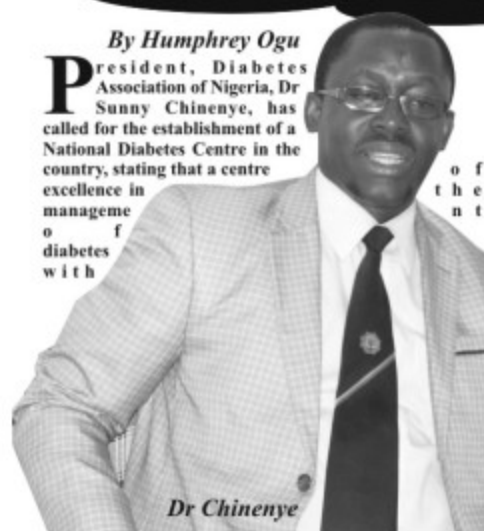
NAAT GETS NEW EXCO

The University of Port Harcourt Branch of the National Association of Academic Technologists (NAAT) now has a new Executive Council following an election held on 4th October, 2012. Mr Ambrose Ogbegbe was returned as Chairman. Also elected are Mr Obloma Eseonu (Vice-Chairman), Mr Tom Oko (General Secretary), Mr Michael Aniyeloye (Financial Secretary), Miss Henrietta Nnandi (Treasurer), Mrs Selepiri Horsfall (Assistant Secretary), Mrs Fuoseh Oporum (Welfare Relations Officer) and Mr Austin Abah (Ex-officio).

Expert Calls For National Diabetes Centre

By Humphrey Ogu

President, Diabetes Association of Nigeria, Dr Sunny Chinenye, has called for the establishment of a National Diabetes Centre in the country, stating that a centre of excellence in management of diabetes with



Dr Chinenye

zonal coordinating units is long overdue.

Dr Chinenye, who made the call in a message to the 2012 World Diabetes Day (WDD), marked penultimate Wednesday, also appealed to government at all levels to "ensure the availability and affordability of essential medicines and technologies to people living with diabetes, abolish tariffs on anti-diabetes drugs and consumables, so that access and affordability can be ensured, and integrate diabetes care and prevention into our national healthcare system."

Citing World Health Organization (WHO) statistics, he said: "Nigeria has the highest number of diabetics in sub-Saharan Africa. Therefore, WDD should be of

paramount importance to all Nigerians," identifying inadequate and declining support to patients, frustration and helplessness among less-privileged persons and families of diabetics, increasing complications and deaths associated with diabetes resulting from poverty, fake drugs and poor knowledge base of the deadly disease diabetes, as some of the challenges confronting patients and provisions of care in the country.

According to Dr Chinenye, who is a Consultant Physician at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), other challenges include misinformation about diabetes and inappropriate care across the nation, especially from alternative healthcare providers and very weak financial status of diabetes advocacy groups at all levels.

Describing diabetes as "a chronic, multi-systemic disease that has become a world-wide pandemic affecting all people, ages, gender, the rich and poor," he explained that the disease "is caused by deficient insulin production, resistance to insulin action or a combination of both. It is a disorder of the very engine of life because when the body cannot utilize nutrients, including glucose, a number of vital mechanisms can breakdown with life-threatening consequences."

"Diabetes has been described as exercise-deficiency state, because when you are deficient in exercise, you are most likely to be sedentary and overweight and these are conditions that fuel the disease. Patients have to engage in exercise," he advised, pointing out that exercise helps to speed up utilization of glucose by the body cells, making them healthier and more energetic; it also enhances weight loss and keeps one fit. When the body cells properly utilize glucose, the blood sugar would drop.

Dr Chinenye, who noted that untreated diabetes could result in multiple complications, listed heart disease,

stroke, kidney failure, blood vessel disease, nerve damage, impotence, infertility, intra-uterine deaths, stillbirths, amputations, blindness and sudden deaths as some of the likely consequences of the disease.

Explaining that once the disease is detected, the problem is half-solved, Dr Chinenye, disclosed that "I saw a diabetic patient who was 90 years old in Edmonton, Canada, last year. He was diagnosed at the age of 10. By last year, he had lived with the ailment for 80 years. Many patients are known to have lived for more 30 years. During the WDD last year, we detected over ten lecturers, including professors that are diabetic in this University."

"As Nigerians modernize and copy western lifestyles, the disease frequency is on the increase among top executives, politicians, civil servants, farmers, traditional rulers, businessmen, teachers, students, school children, pre-school, and pregnant women. It is obvious that diabetes mellitus touches almost every family and constitutes a drain on the economy and social life of sufferers and their families," he pointed out.

Disclosing that he often uses the acronym: MEDEM, which stands for monitoring, education, diet, exercise and medication, to explain stages in the management of diabetes, Dr Chinenye said: "those who have Type One are on medication for life. There is no tablet for insulin. And most of them are young people, while Type Two affects adults, especially those on tablets and or insulin combined. There are other miscellaneous drugs, the vitamins, minerals and so on, warning that patient should not leave the main drugs and focus on supplements which, he said, are only minimally supportive."

"Every diabetic patient needs balanced diet, which includes carbohydrates, protein, vitamins, fats, minerals, in moderation. If a diabetic patient is underweight, he must be given enough food to regain weight; if he is overweight, we treat him to maintain the weight dietary-wise. The formula for calculating normal weight is called Body Mass Index—meaning total quantity of mass in an individual, including fats and muscle weight, divided by height in square metre," he said.

WDD, held on October 14 every year, was first celebrated in 1991 by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and WHO, in response to growing concerns about the escalating health threat that diabetes poses. The theme for 2012 was *Diabetes Education and Prevention*.

UNIPOINT Trains Host Communities On Agro-biz

By Otiakor Samuel

As a way of strengthening the existing mutual relationship between the University of Port Harcourt and its Host Communities, as well as address the depreciating interest in agriculture, which is the second largest productive sector of the country's economy, the Faculty of Agriculture has trained over 200 women and youths drawn from the Host Communities on new farming techniques to boost food production in the first phase of an intervention programme by the Special Projects Unit of the Vice-Chancellor's office.

Declaring open the four-day training programme, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, represented by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development), Professor Bene Willie-Abbey, recalled that the University had established a long history of mutual relationship with its host communities by engaging them in human capital development in reciprocation of their gesture in providing massive hectares of their land, stressing the need for sturdy *Town and Gown* partnership to stimulate long-term relationship and foster sustainable development.

"We are taking this relationship to the next level through a calculated and pragmatic approach aimed at making the women and youths in these communities to become their own bosses and employers of labour by creating an enabling environment through this training on practical agriculture", the Vice-Chancellor said, pointing out that the Workshop was capable of providing better knowledge of practical and modern agriculture to participants.

"This training is the beginning of a series of such collaborations which we believe will impact greatly on the lives of people in our host communities", Professor Ajienka said, assuring them that there would be follow-up exercises to evaluate the application of knowledge gained from the training.

In her Keynote Address, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Professor Love Akonye, who called for more investment in agriculture to ensure sufficient food production for economic stability, regretted that the agricultural sector

currently focused more on subsistent food crops to satisfy the domestic market, despite employing up to 60% of Nigerians and contributing about 35% to the Gross Domestic Products.

Professor Akonye, who further lamented that one in every eight persons in the country goes to sleep hungry every day due to low food production, observed that agriculture is central to human existence and therefore, a necessary business for every man living on earth, emphasizing the need for regular training of operators to make foodstuff available in every home.

The Keynote Speaker advocated engagement of farmers in what she described as agribusiness and value chain approach to fast-track development in the sector. "An Agribusiness regulatory/policy analysis and development should be put in place, along with agriculture-related reform in areas such as agricultural policy, structural adjustment, and financial sector reform", she said.

The Dean advised farmers in the host communities to

avail themselves of the four Departments and a Demonstration Farm in the Faculty to learn and update their knowledge on improved farming techniques, disclosing that the Faculty renders advisory services and technical instructions to interested persons.

Earlier in his speech, Director of Special Projects in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Matthew Wegwu, disclosed that the programme was the first phase intervention to empower the host communities, who graciously provided land for establishment of the University, stating that the programme aims at training another batch in computer programming, fabrication, glassblowing and welding, amongst other small-scale enterprises that would enable beneficiaries fend for themselves.

The four-day training sessions exposed participants to both practical and theoretical knowledge in the agricultural sector and processes involved in accessing loans from Banks and FADAMA Project for commercial agriculture in poultry farming, fisheries, horticulture and vegetable production.



Some of the participants. Inset: (L-R) Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Prof Akonye, D V-C (R&D) Prof Willie-Abbey, Director, Special Projects, Prof Wegwu and a traditional ruler at the opening ceremony

The need for Nurses to actively participate in research and peer reviewed debate in order for their voices to be heard in the healthcare system has been emphasized. This observation was made by Dr Josephine Etowa, while delivering a paper titled: "Mapping the Landscape of Nursing Practice and Nursing Research" held at the Seminar Room of the Faculty of Clinical Sciences.

Dr Etowa disclosed that Nursing is one of the most adaptable professions in the health care workforce, as it reinvents itself with advances in health care delivery techniques and changes. She said that Nursing is concerned with promoting the health and healing of patients, including care of the sick and dying. According to her, Nursing has been an enabling force for change in health care delivery, including the coordination of multidisciplinary care teams.

Explaining the role of Nurses, Dr Etowa, who is an Associate Professor and Loyer DaSaliva Research Chair Occupant in Public Health Nursing in Ottawa, Canada, said, "Nurses integrate patients' involvement and knowledge about the entire population with personal and clinical understanding of the health and illness experiences of individuals and families within the population. Nurses focus on the prevention of illness, injury or disability, the promotion of health and the restoration of individuals and translate knowledge from the health and social sciences to individuals and populations through intervention programmes and advocacy".

The Associate Professor, who identified lack of involvement in research and policy development, lack of time and expertise to engage in research in a meaningful way as some of the challenges facing Nurses, stressed the need for a change to reverse the trend. She called on Nurses to be at the frontlines of policy formulation to advance educational transformation and remove barriers to practice and care. "As Nurses, we must work together with other stakeholders in health care to bring a change", she advocated.

Declaring the Seminar open, Provost, College of Health Science, Professor Chris Akani said, "I have a passion for this Department and as the youngest; we are trying to nurture it to full maturity. We are happy we have been accredited to start Post graduate programmes and hopefully we would soon graduate our first set of students."

CHD Holds Research Seminar For Nurses



DV-C (R&D), Prof Willie-Abbey (5' from right) Guest Speaker, Dr Etowa, Profs, Akani, Ikimalo, Dr Babatunde (right) Ag HOD, Nursing, Dr Robinson-Bassey, Profs Adotey & Former V-C, Emeritus Prof Briggs (left)

By Mercy Don-Baridam

Professor Akani, who was represented by the Dean, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, Professor John Ikimalo, expressed gratitude to the Centre for Health and Development for bringing the facilitator to collaborate with the University and the Centre and also commended Dr Etowa for finding time to speak to Nurses in Nigeria. In his contribution, Acting Director of the Centre, Dr Seye Babatunde, who recounted the objective of the Centre, said it is poised to engage in collaboration, secure grants and encourage meaningful research. Promising that the Centre would continue to go into collaborations with other Universities and Centre, Dr Babatunde hoped that the beneficiaries would utilize the knowledge gained from the Seminar to enhance their practice.

Also speaking, Acting Head, Department of Nursing, Dr Grace Robinson-Bassey, thanked the facilitator for finding time to be part of the Seminar. Dr Etowa, according to her, has distinguished herself in research, charging fellow Nurses and students of the Department to work hard to ensure that they contribute to knowledge through collaborative research.

Earlier, the delegation paid a courtesy visit on the Vice-

Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, who expressed satisfaction with the activities of the Centre, thanking Dr Etowa for coming to the University. "We need people, who can push research; we need more Nigerians to be dedicated to bring about change," the Vice Chancellor noted, encouraging them to continue to work as a team to ensure that the Centre continues to discharge its core mandate of training healthcare personnel to man the critical healthcare sector.

Professor Ajenka, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, (Research and Development), Professor Bene Wille-Abbey, said "Research is the main thing now; the world is leaving us behind, because of lack of research here. In this University, we encourage research and there is a need for us to engage in more quality research" expressing optimism that the Centre would continue to live up to its name.

Members of the team which paid a Courtesy Visit on the Vice-Chancellor included: the former Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, Provost, College of Health Sciences, Professors Chris Akani, John Ikimalo, Jacob Adotey, Acting Director Centre for Health and Development and Acting Head, Department of Nursing, Dr Grace Robinson-Bassey.

Nomadic Centre Committed To Education Of Migrant Fisher Folks -Director

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The Nomadic Education Centre has once again restated its commitment to improving educational activities for migrant fishing communities in the country.

Against this backdrop, the Centre recently initiated a 5-day Workshop in Asaba, Delta State, for the review of Curriculum Guides and draft adaptation of the new national curriculum for basic education developed by the Nigeria Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC), to suit the unique socio-cultural and economic pattern of life of the migrant fisher folks. Briefing *UNIORT Weekly* last Thursday, Centre Director, Professor Benjamin Eheazu, noted that the Workshop sponsored by the National Commission for

Nomadic Education (NCNE), also provided an opportunity for the infusion of curricula contents that are relevant to the needs of the migrant fisher folks, suggestion of appropriate teaching and learning materials and activities that foster quality educational, and ensure that the new curriculum meets the needs and objective of the Millennium Development Goals within the context of reforms in the education sector.

The Director, who noted that the review involved critical analysis of the conventional national curricula in English Studies, Mathematics, Basic Science and Technology, Religious and Values Education and Vocational Studies, said that the Centre oversees migrant fisher folk education in the country with the largest concentration in Rivers, Bayelsa, Delta and Edo States.

Disclosing plans by the Centre to formally commence production and transmission of interactive radio instruction programmes for migrant fishing communities, Professor Eheazu explained that the Interactive Radio Instruction (IRI) programme sponsored by the World Bank, would reach out to a population of about 3.8 million migrant fisher folks with about 1.3 million children of school age spread across twenty States of the Federation.

"The Centre is also currently working on a national research programme for out-of-school children of migrant fisher folks in partnership with the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for nomadic populations", he said, listing pastoral nomads, migrant fisher folks and migrant farmers as target groups of the initiative.



Prof Eheazu (arrowed) and other participants at the NEC Workshop in Asaba recently

Orature Not Inferior To Written Literature ~Okoh

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medium to a predominant position in contemporary society. Indeed, print or the written medium does not necessarily stifle, suppress, preclude, dislodge, or even exterminate the oral," he emphasized.

"Whether we are talking of oral literature or the written, the basic medium of expression is words. Thus, there are similarities as well as areas of divergence, regarding, say, mode of existence, nature of transmission or criticism, spontaneity and immediacy of the oral medium, the question of change, stability, variability and verbal flexibility, taxonomy of the genres, ownership and 'copyright', or composition performance," he pointed out.

Okoh said that "Oral Literature displays great didactic potential, which should be duly channelled to the benefit of our society; still, not much attention has been paid to the possibility of exploiting the exuberance and potentials of African oral literature. It is indeed a literature that is still grossly underrated and untapped," adding: "even people who should know; the government, educationists, and the universities in particular that ought to take the lead are guilty in this regard."

Stressing that "our oral literatures have not been fully exploited, even though we made the point that most African writers borrowed extensively from their indigenous literatures," Okoh submitted that African oral literature has so far not been given enough educational and literary attention.

The Inaugural Lecturer, who listed the powers of Oral Literature, said that "If taught, this is a subject with which such youthful minds could so easily identify with. If they are truly considered the leaders of tomorrow, then they need sufficient grooming in diverse aspects of our cultural heritage", insisting that "it is the only valid form of African literature we can lay claim to, since the modern literature is still embroiled in the turmoil and controversy of which language it should be written in, to qualify as African,". He advocated inclusion of the subject in the Foundation Course GES 103—Nigerian Peoples and Culture.

"My contention is that whether in English Departments or others in the University system, the spirit of narrow over-specialization must be bound hand and foot, then



Inaugural Lecturer (arrowed), some Professors and Principal Officers before the Lecture

sent crashing into a bottomless pit of perdition," Okoh, whose research interest and contributions to knowledge cuts across literature and language teaching advocated, adding that "there should be more cooperation between Linguistics and English Departments in our universities", to bring out the very best from such synergy.

On the dwindling quality of English Language use among Nigerian students and poor performance in the subject at the School Certificate level, he said: "I have discovered that the students' general performance is, in great measure, attributable to the quality of teaching. By today's standards, the kind of English taught is outmoded, even anachronistic. It has become imperative for Nigerian universities to adopt a newer and more pedagogical framework, specifically the *English for Specific Purposes—ESP*."

Conceding that Nigerian English and pidgin have rights to exist as "a valid and legitimate branch of world Englishes," Okoh argued that in spite of its validity and vibrancy, Nigerian English should be far removed from the educational domain. His words: "As a variety, it is already functioning well in social and other contexts to which it belongs, and to which it should logically be confined. There is no place for this variety of English in the university classroom, or in the teaching of English for

Academic Purposes (EAP)," stressing that "I cannot subscribe to the extreme of legalizing Nigerian English to academic or pedagogical purposes."

Praising the Inaugural Lecturer for what he described "as a very important and brilliant Lecture, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, observed that "listening to Professor Okoh, you can feel someone who is a very good teacher of the English Language," adding that "it is never too late to learn. We should continue to learn and improve on our knowledge to be relevant in the contemporary world."

"I think that language forms the true identity of a people. The way we speak has a bearing on our personality profiles. So we should continue to learn and speak English language correctly," he said, decrying the unguarded use of language by some electronic media in the country that tend to promote deviant behaviour. According to him, using language to promote a culture of violence is very disturbing, describing the emergent trend as totally unacceptable.

The Vice-Chancellor, who blamed the not-too-impressive use of English among students and graduates on some teachers at the foundational levels of education, commended students for attending the Lecture, in spite of their on-going examination.

V-C Reassures NANS On Students' Welfare

with the authorities on how to

improve the welfare of students, as

well as ensure

protection for them.

"We were not properly

briefed on the

situation on ground

when we came here as

a result of the killing of

four of our colleagues

in Omuokiri, Aluu last

October and we left

with quite a lot of

issues unattended to"

he stated, adding that

the welfare of their

colleagues was of

utmost importance to

them, appealing to the

authorities to do



V-C, Prof Ajenka (5' from left), Director, Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit, Prof Tony Arinze (2nd from right), Directors, Personnel Affairs, Mr Roland Wabali, CCE Director, Prof Steve Okoduwa (behind) and members of NANS

By Obinna Nwodin

Authorities of the University have reiterated their commitment to the welfare of students of the Institution. Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, gave the re-assurance when he received a delegation from the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) in his office, penultimate Friday.

Professor Ajenka, said that despite the lean resources and financial challenges the Institution faced, its policies have been to give students the best by ensuring a conducive learning environment, adding that part of the challenge was the reluctance of students to pay the necessary charges that would enable the authorities provide the services they demand. The Vice-Chancellor disclosed that the "meagre allocations from the Federal Government are inadequate to run the Institution; the Management rely basically on charges by students to keep the system running", adding that "despite this development, students are reluctant to pay the required charges".

On student accommodation, Professor Ajenka, who said that the students themselves fixed the current charges on accommodation following a fact finding visit to some universities, disclosing plans to have students in respective hostels manage whatever is collected as charges for accommodation to provide basic amenities. He added that the University would also complement the charges in order to ensure that they had decent accommodation. The Vice-Chancellor, who recalled that the University was recovering from the unfortunate murder of four students and the subsequent attack on Omuokiri community, warned that nothing comes out of mob action, describing the incident as unfortunate and detrimental not only to the image of the University, but the country at large.

In his speech, leader of the delegation and Vice-President of NANS, Mr Ehinomen Morino, who thanked the authorities for re-opening the University after it was suddenly shut down about a month ago, said that they were in the University as a follow-up on issues raised due to the murder of their colleagues, especially to dialogue

whatever they could to improve on the welfare of students to bring about the best in them.

Mr Ehinomen, who commended the authorities for giving them a listening ear and their frank disposition in giving them first hand information on the contentious issues, also advised his colleagues to cooperate with the Management, particularly in the prompt payment of their charges to enable them access quality services from the system.

In his speech, Secretary-General of NANS Zone B, Mr Richard Ekutu, enumerated issues of concern to the Association, appealing to the authorities to address them. He said that the meeting had afforded them the opportunity of knowing what was happening in the University, while thanking the authorities for their friendly disposition.

Also present at the meeting were: Deputy Co-ordinator NANS Zone B, Mr Ikechukwu Okorie, Director, Action and Mobilization, Mr Jonah Adokiye, Director, External Affairs, Mr Tari Ekadi, President of the Interim Student Union Executive, Mr Maxwell Nyanabo, amongst others.

GUIDE POST

PROMOTION

Dr Christian Micah, Department of Accounting, Faculty of Management Sciences, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Dr Gabriel Ogbonna, Department of Accounting, Faculty of Management Sciences, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Dr Chinedu Ogbuji, Department of Marketing, Faculty of Management Sciences, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Dr Fyनेface Akani, Department of Accounting, Faculty of Management Sciences, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Dr Chinwuba Emecheta, Department of Management, Faculty of Management Sciences, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Dr Barinedum Nwibere, Department of Management, Faculty of Management Sciences, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Dr Samuel Nnamdi, Department of Finance & Banking, Faculty of Management Sciences, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Dr Uwoma Ironkwe, Department of Accounting, Faculty of Management Sciences, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Mr Gift Worlu, Department of Management, Faculty of Management Sciences, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Mr Joseph Oshi, Department of Management, Faculty of Management Sciences, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Adekemi Alagah, Department of Management, Faculty of Management Sciences, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Mr Gbenegbara Deemua, Department of Human Kinetics & Health Education, Faculty of Education, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Mr Cardinal Ihejirika, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer II*, effective 1st October, 2012.

CONFIRMATION

Professor Friday Ogbonna, Department of Petroleum & Gas Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, confirmed *Staff*, effective 1st December, 2010.

Dr Udum Bassey, Department of Crop & Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, confirmed *Staff*, effective 22nd February, 2012.

Mr John Chukwumati, Department of Crop & Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, confirmed *Staff*, effective 16th June, 2010.

Miss Ododobari Jike-Wai, Department of Agricultural Economics & Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, confirmed *Staff*, effective 9th June, 2011.

Mrs Vivian Ugwuja, Department of Agricultural Economics & Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, confirmed *Staff*, effective 25th June, 2012.

SABBATICAL APPOINTMENT

Professor Aniekan Ekere, granted *Sabbatical Appointment* in the Department of Surgery, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, effective on assumption of duty.

ASSUMPTION OF DUTY

Dr Modupeoluwa Soroye, Department of Preventive Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, assumed *Pensionable Appointment* as *Lecturer I*, effective 8th October, 2012.

Dr Sotonye Dodiyl-Manuel, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, assumed *Pensionable Appointment* as *Lecturer I*, effective 9th October, 2012.

Dr Iroko Yarhere, Department of Paediatrics, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, assumed *Pensionable Appointment* as *Lecturer I*, effective 15th October, 2012.

Mr Sonny Okoseimiema, Department of Human Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, assumed *Pensionable Appointment* as *Assistant Lecturer*, effective 8th October, 2012.

UNIORT East/West Road Junction

An Accident Waiting To Happen

By Abel Ejiowhor

It was George Bernard Shaw who said, "The worst sin towards our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them; that's the essence of inhumanity".

It is on the above premise that I write to express my anger on the deplorable state of the important East/West Road. From the Government angle, it appears to be a collective agreement to feign ignorance and pretend that there is nothing wrong with that junction where commuters are stranded for close to five hours on bad day! Worrysome still is that gun-toting policemen and ear drum piecing siren

order everybody around to make way for their "Oga" to wade through the traffic.

I wonder what would happen the day a terrible accident claims lives on that junction. Those who commute through that junction would understand it better.

That place, for those who pretend not to know is like passing through a burrow pit if you are coming from Choba. If staff or students die on that road, will UNIORT not be in the news again? Worst still, are those concerned waiting for the death of a big man at that junction before emergency meetings are summoned to think of palliative measures? Why must we always be reactive and never for once proactive?

At a time when the cost of fuelling one's car is on the increase, people are trapped at the said junction, wasting fuel and time, and increasing the wear and tear on our second hand cars due to the bumpy nature of the road. This has led to accumulated stress and hypertension, frustration and even death.

A worker comes to the office, thoroughly worn out, disorganized and agitated. What will such a staff produce? It is even more annoying that those who live on Campus as "Ogas", hastily make it to the office and rule the line as part of future disciplinary measure. Students, who fail to make it early enough miss their lectures, carry over papers and frustrated out of school at the end of the day.

This is a wake-up call to all and sundry to come over to that junction and make it motorable without any further delay before the inevitable happens. Delay, they say, can be dangerous; "a stitch in time, saves nine".

Ejiowhor is the immediate past Chairman of Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities, UNIORT Branch.

UPWA
APPEAL

The University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA), has appealed to its members and public-spirited individuals and groups to donate clothes and other household items for onward distribution to charity homes. Collection Point is the Gladys Cookey International Nursery School. The exercise ends on Tuesday, 27th November, 2012.

Contact: Dr Celestina Harry

WEATHER OBSERVATORY FROM THE
DEPT OF GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
WEATHER FORECAST FOR PORT HARCOURT AND
ENVIRONS FOR MONDAY, 26th NOVEMBER TO FRIDAY, 30th NOV, 2012

Date	Temperature HI LO (°C)	Humidity (%)	Wind Direction	Rain (mm)	Summary
MONDAY 26 NOV, 2012	33.3 25.0	72	E	8.4	Day expected to be partly sunny and hot. Chances of rain is 74%
TUESDAY 27 NOV, 2012	32.2 23.3	68	N	-	Mostly cloudy and warm. Possibility of rain 68%.
WEDNESDAY 28 NOV, 2012	32.8 23.3	70	N	-	Early thunderstorm expected. Mostly cloudy and warm. Chances of rain is 47%
THURSDAY 29 NOV, 2012	32.8 23.3	67	NE	2.8	Thunderstorm expected early. More clouds than sun. Warm day predicted. Possibility of rain is very slim
FRIDAY 30 NOV, 2012	32.8 23.3	67	NE	-	More sun than clouds expected. Warm day anticipated. No rain is expected.

Prepared by Wkpe V. O

Approved by Prof Samuel Arokoyu

Centre for Disaster Risk Management and Development Studies (CDRMDs)

HIV/AIDS ALERT

HIV/AIDS is real. Protect yourself.

Avoid a reckless lifestyle that can expose you to infection.

Registry Day Celebration

The Maiden Registry Day Celebration of the University was held at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park, on Friday, 9th November, 2012. Pictures captured by our cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU**, show highlights of the colourful event.



Chairman of the occasion, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, welcoming the Guest Lecturer, Mrs Mojisola Ladipo, while D1-C (Acad) Prof Igbo Joe looks on



Emeritus Professor Briggs making his Opening Remarks



D V-C (Admin), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, Vice-Chancellor's representative giving an Address



Guest Lecturer, Mrs Mojisola Ladipo, delivering her Lecture



Mrs Wonodi (I) receiving a posthumous award on behalf of her husband and 2nd Registrar, Chief Okogbule Wonodi



Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim, in a warm embrace with Guest Lecturer



A cross section of Registry Staff



Mr China Acheru receiving award on behalf of his father, Chief Emmanuel Acheru, 3rd Registrar



Registrar, Mrs Nnodim, presenting an award to a former Acting Registrar, Mr David Suowari



Former Deputy Registrar and College Secretary, Mrs Francis Okoko, being decorated by Director of Council, Dr Dakoru Charles-Granville



Dr Charles-Granville presenting an award to former Deputy Registrar, Mr Idiutobi Allison



A cross section of Awardees and representatives



UNIPORT Concert Chorus led by Prof Onyee Nwankpa performing