

## Wike Flags Off New Law Faculty, Others

**A**t last, the long-anticipated foundation-laying ceremony for a new Faculty of Law in the University has been laid by the Minister of State for Education, Chief Nyesom Wike. Chief Wike also laid similar foundations for the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology (AEB) at the University Park as part of the 29<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony, report *Mercy Adeniji and Williams Wodi*.

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## Side Bar

As part of the Federal Government's good governance tour, Minister of Information, Labaran Maku was in the University last Thursday to inspect some facilities. Details next week - Editor

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## V-C To First Class Graduates

# Defend Your Performance

By Otiakor Samuel

**T**wenty First Class graduates from various Departments were hosted to an impressive dinner in the Vice-Chancellor's Lodge, Delta Park, penultimate Tuesday as part of activities that marked the just-concluded 29<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony of the University.

Addressing the Super Brains, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who said that First Class comes with responsibility, charged them to engage in innovations that would continue to sharpen their intellect to better the lot of society.

He congratulated the graduates for being part of the success story of the University through their impressive performances in their various Departments and Faculties.

Professor Ajienka, who further advised the best graduates to defend their performances in the competitive global labour market, stressed the need for them to be good ambassadors of the University at all times. He commended Deans, Heads of Department and other schedule officers for working tirelessly towards the success of the Convocation, which he said was brought forward to coincide with the University's Founders' Day.



In their separate speeches, First Class Professors; Anthony Ibe, Regina Ogali, Ben Ndukwu and Visiting Scholar, Professor Vincent Idemiyor, also stressed that earning a First Class degree comes with

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# Trade Is A Uniting Factor ~Tukur



Alhaji Tukur assisted by Gov Rotimi Amaechi, laying the foundation stone of the Institute

By Humphrey Ogu

As conflicts continue to engulf parts of the world, business mogul, Alhaji Bamanga Tukur, has described trade as a motivating factor that can reduce poverty and bring people together if properly harnessed. Alhaji Tukur made the observation during the foundation-laying ceremony of the Bamanga Tukur Institute of International Trade and Development in the University, penultimate Saturday. The President of the African Business Roundtable, who noted that trade and education go together said: "for development we need peace, and for us to achieve peace we need development. If we don't have development, we will not have peace and if we don't have peace there will be no development," adding

that "business is good for politics, politics is good for business and I am a student of both." He recalled that when he was working with the Nigerian Ports Authority, the first place he worked as a management staff was Bonny, Rivers State in 1959, adding that he was again posted to Port Harcourt immediately after the Nigeria civil war. He stated that his association with the State had made him feel at home in Port Harcourt since then. Tukur, who is National Chairman of the ruling Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP), hoped that the new Institute would strive hard to achieve the lofty aims and objectives for which it was set up, pledging total support towards its

speedy completion.

Also speaking, Minister of Education, Professor Ruqayyatu Rufa'i, who represented the Visitor to the University, President Goodluck Jonathan at the 29<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony, commended Alhaji Tukur and Management of the University for collaborating on the Institute, expressing hope that other well-meaning individuals and corporate organizations would emulate the kind gesture of Alhaji Tukur by contributing towards the development of the educational sector through similar intervention projects.

Speaking earlier, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who expressed delight at the actualization of the dream of establishing the Institute, noted that it would train high calibre international businessmen and women that can create employment and add value to the Entrepreneurial vision of the University.

Earlier, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, had expressed gratitude to Alhaji Tukur for partnering the University on the Institute, promising that the authorities would create an enabling environment that would enable it achieve the vision of collaborating partners.

In his own contribution, pioneer Director of the Institute, Professor Augustus Gbosi, who recalled that the idea of establishing the Institute was initiated over two years ago, disclosed plans to commence postgraduate programmes soon, expressing hope that "we are going to be the best International Trade Institute in Africa." He thanked Alhaji Tukur, who he described as a well-grounded businessman that exhibits high level of expertise in international trade for establishing the Institute in the University.

The Governor of Rivers State, Rt Hon Chibuike Amaechi and Wife, Judith, were among dignitaries that participated in the epoch-making event that also attracted representation from UNIDO.

## STOP PRESS

### TETfund SPONSORSHIP FOR 2013 CONFERENCES

Members of staff are informed that applications for the sponsorship of Conferences and Workshops by the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETfund) for 2013 are ongoing. The application which terminates on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2013, covers sponsorship from February to April, 2013. Contact: Director, Centre for Research Management

### PAYMENT FOR USE OF FACILITIES

In an effort aimed at sustaining the cleanliness of the University Campus, organizers of events using canopies, stands or kiosks are expected to pay N2,000.00, while organizers of events such as weddings, seminars, workshops and receptions among others at the International Students' Centre, Convocation Arena, Sports Complex, Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, Library Exhibition Ground, as well as open fields on Campus, The CRAB and major areas are expected to pay the sum of N5,000.00 per day for refuse disposal.

### BAN ON FELLING OF TREES

Allottees of the University Residential Quarters are advised against felling of trees or destroying flowers and hedges around their quarters without permission from the Housing or Campus Environmental Beautification and Sanitation (CEBAS) Units. Henceforth, clearance should be obtained in writing from CEBAS through the Housing Unit before any tree, hedges or flowers are felled or removed as defaulters would be sanctioned accordingly.

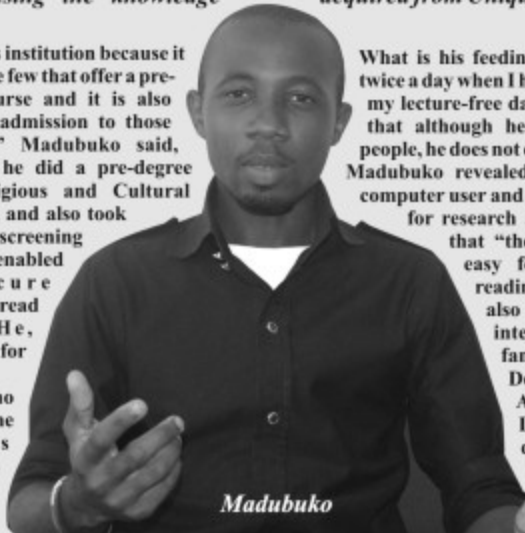
## STUDENT WORLD

# I Want To Solve Societal problems ~Madubuko

A Fourth Year Student of the Department of Sociology, Kelechi Madubuko, in a chat with our Intern, HENRIETTA OTONNAH, disclosed his ambition to tackle societal challenges, using the knowledge acquired from Unique UNIPORT.

"I chose this institution because it is one of the few that offer a pre-degree course and it is also known to give admission to those who merit it," Madubuko said, disclosing that he did a pre-degree course in Religious and Cultural Studies in 2008, and also took the Post-UME screening exercise that enabled him to secure admission to read Sociology. He, however, opted for the latter. Madubuko, who disclosed that the subject has opened his eyes to things that he would not ordinarily have known, explained that "Sociology is the study of the society at large, the problems associated with it and the possible ways of addressing them. Sociology, unlike other fields, combines everything in the society".

On his study habit, Madubuko said: "I do not visit the library frequently because I come to school from a far distance everyday; so I prefer to study at home." For Madubuko, who had been living off-Campus since his first year, coming to UNIPORT from home is no longer a big deal.



Madubuko

What is his feeding habit? "I eat, at least, twice a day when I have lectures and thrice on my lecture-free days," he disclosed, adding that although he loves to socialize with people, he does not enjoy going to parties. Madubuko revealed that he is an average computer user and mostly uses the computer for research and assignments, adding that "the computer has made it easy for me to enhance my reading and learning skills. I also use the social media to interact with friends and family."

Describing Professor Mark Anikpo as his favourite Lecturer, Madubuko disclosed that God is his role-model. Watch out for this upcoming Sociologist.

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# Wike Flags Off New Law Faculty, Others

## ...Buildings Named After Nwanodi, Ake, Powell

Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony, last Thursday, a visibly delighted Minister of State expressed gratitude to the Federal Government for supporting the University's bid to construct a befitting structure to house the new Faculty of Law, pointing out that a befitting Law Faculty was long overdue in an institution of the stature of UNIPORT, which he said has enough manpower and institutional experience to run it to international specifications.

Chief Wike said: "With the express directive of Mr President, who is a distinguished Alumnus, the project life-cycle should not exceed seven months, to enable the new Faculty commence full academic activities". He appealed to Management of the University to ensure close supervision of the projects to ensure that work was completed at the stipulated timeframe, assuring the University authorities that he would be on hand on a regular basis to ascertain the progress of work on each site.

Speaking earlier, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka said, "Today, we are making history; we are happy that we now have a Faculty of Law to complement what we have at the Rivers State University of Science and Technology (RSUST). A University of this age, the premier University in the core Niger Delta, has come a long way and we are also happy that we are going to have a full-fledged Faculty building that is purpose built to commence programmes in legal studies".

The Vice-Chancellor expressed gratitude to the Honourable Minister of State for his effort in attracting the project to the University, disclosing that the Faculty would be named after Legal Luminary and Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), Late Nwobidike Nwanodi, who he said made immense contributions to the legal profession during his lifetime.

Chief Wike also laid the foundation stone for the Faculty of Social Sciences which was named after renowned Social Scientist and Human Rights Crusader, late Professor Claude Ake and the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, named after noted Marine Biologist, Bruce Powell, respectively.



Minister of State for Education, Chief Wike laying the foundation stone for a new Faculty of Law

Professor Ajienka observed that the projects would help the University immensely, promising to visit the site regularly to ensure that the stipulated timeframe for the completion of the projects is met. He charged all those directly concerned with the projects to visit the sites and give him regular reports from each site. When completed, the Faculty of Law will have two wings, while the Faculty of Social Sciences will have three structures, comprising 36 lecture halls, a 400-seater Auditorium, Information Communication Technology (ICT) Centre, Offices for Heads of Department, restaurant and shops, disclosing that the stipulated average timeframe for the completion of the project is 44 weeks.

In her speech, Wife of the late Senior Advocate of Nigeria, Mrs Judith Nwanodi, recalled the contributions her husband made to the advancement of the legal profession in Nigeria, expressing delight that his ideals have finally been recognized by the University. She thanked the authorities for remembering and honouring her late husband.

Chukwudi Ake, also expressed satisfaction over the decision to immortalize his father, disclosing that the University of Port Harcourt would always remain Unique in the memory of the Ake household, since his siblings are all Alumni of the Institution, where the Late Professor Ake taught political theory for many years.

# V-C Commends Staff On Success Of 29<sup>th</sup> Convocation



BGS, Stella Ogbogo planting Iroko Tree

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, has commended Provosts, Deans, Heads of Department and staff for their total commitment to duty and hardwork as made evident in the overall success recorded at the 29<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony, which held penultimate Saturday, at the Convocation Arena, University Park. He also praised the students for their understanding and cooperation which resulted in the successful holding of the event.

Professor Ajienka, who spoke during the Tree Planting Ceremony by the Best Graduating Student (BGS), Miss Stella Ogbogo of the Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, also congratulated the Faculty of Education for producing the second BGS. "We are celebrating a mark of commitment and I am grateful to all those, who through their personal sacrifices made this Convocation possible giving the constraints and short time frame that we were faced with in bringing the ceremony forward".

Dean, Student Affairs Department, Professor Henry Bell-Gam described the Tree Planting Ceremony as a celebration of excellence,

following hardwork by the BGS. "We are celebrating the BGS because she deserves it", he said, advising other students to earn their honour through hardwork and diligence, rather than devising avenues to cheat the system.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, who chaired the 29<sup>th</sup> Convocation Committee, expressed joy that his Department produced two female BGS, consecutively. "Making a First Class in UNIPORT is not easy. It is determined by your first two years in the University. Having a First Class with the best Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) is, therefore, worth celebrating", he said, hoping that other students would emulate Miss Ogbogo's good example.

Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim, Director, Academic Affairs, Mrs Dorcas Otto, Director Student Affairs, Mrs Bridget Nzimiro, Head of Educational Psychology Department, Dr Betty Iruloh, Chairman, Research Fair Committee, Professor Gregory Awviri, witnessed the Tree Planting exercise. The event was rounded-off with a toast proposed by the Dean of the Faculty, Professor Ebi-Bio Awotua Efebo, and cultural display by students of the Department of Theatre Arts.

## Humanities, Others, Hold Class, Alumni Day Activities

By Mercy Adeniji

**G**raduating students of the University of Port Harcourt have been charged to take everything they have acquired from the University seriously even as they prepare to face the larger society on graduation.

This advice was given by the Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Professor Ozo-Mekuri Ndimelie, as the Faculty joined others to mark the Class Day/Alumni Activities of the University, penultimate Tuesday, as part of the 29<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony.

Professor Ndimelie joined other Deans to congratulate the students for successfully completing their programmes from different Departments, charging them not to forget their *Alma Mater* wherever they may find themselves after leaving the University. "The different situations you would face are challenges of life you must strive hard to surmount on your way to the top of your careers as you step out to the larger society. You must learn to manage such challenges if you hope to be successful in life", he told the students, advising them to map out their own strategies if they hoped to succeed.

Professor Ndimelie, who was represented by the Associate Dean of the Faculty, Professor Adulrazag Kilani said, "During your National Youth Service scheme, you need to plan, package yourselves and seize every opportunity that may come your way", charging them to pick good mentors that would guide them.

Also speaking, Professor Femi Shaka re-emphasized the essence of the Class Day activity as a time when students feel free to interact with their teachers and colleagues. "As graduates of the



A Cross-Section of students. Inset: Dean, Humanities, Prof Ndimelie

University of Port Harcourt, be self-reliant, disciplined and confident at all times. As you graduate, see yourself as team players; put a carriage into your personality, look out for opportunities, start a career and put your heart to any opportunity that may come your way."

In their separate speeches, Professor Boniface Nwigwe and Dr Ateji Okorobia among others congratulated the students for their diligence, hard work and determination to succeed. They advised the students to continue to be of good behavior and represent their *Alma Mater* wherever they go, charging them to always play leadership roles in their places of primary assignment and bring laurels to their *Alma Mater*.

In a related development, the Alumni Association also held a round-table titled: "Coping with the realities of life after graduation," as part of the Alumni Class Day activities.

Declaring the Round-Table open, Hon Ike Chinwo commended Management and the Association for organizing the event, recalling that the Association has never held such an in a long while. He stressed the need for the Institution to take the event seriously so that the students can be better informed

on graduation.

Hon Chinwo, who was a Member of the House of Representatives, disclosed that to succeed in life as graduates, students needed to be determined, focused and prepared for every challenge that may come their way, urged them to always remember that they also have a society, family and their *Alma Mater* to give back to.

Also speaking, National President of the Association, Professor Ndimelie, stated that the event was put together to bring successful Alumni to talk to the graduating students on career and life after graduation. Professor Ndimelie urged them to make use of their brains and challenge their environment, pointing out that the sky is the stepping stone with the quality education they received from UNIPORT.

Present at the Class / Alumni Day event were: Professor John Enemugwem, Drs Julie Umukoro, Ngozi Iheanacho and Mr Jones Ayuwo, Rivers State Chapter President, Engineer Sampson Nwereghara, Professors Love Akonye, Henry Alapiki, Matthew Wegwu, Georgewill Owunari, and Ibitamuno Aminigo, who presented papers on the general theme of the round-table.

## 29th Convocation Lecture

### Varsities Critical To National Dev ~Anya

By Humphrey Ogu

**U**niversities are critical in the social and economic development of nations and through their teachings, they prepare the next generation of leaders while research and public advocacy create the environment and instrument for social and economic advancement of each country.

Renowned scholar and social thinker, Professor Anya O. Anya, made the assertion while delivering the 29th Convocation Lecture of the University titled: "The Idea and Uses of the University in the 21st Century",

at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, penultimate Thursday, explaining that "experience from around the world has demonstrated that human skills can help citizens use modern technology and eventually develop to a stage when they

can develop their national technology.

"Manufacturing which is the driver of economic prosperity in industrial nations depends on the scientific and technological education of citizens which provides a reservoir of human capital dependent on the skills, expertise and competencies of the citizens to drive new ideas of creativity and innovation that confer a competitive advantage on the nation," he explained.

Anya, who observed that "until the 1980s, the standards and performance of the Nigerian university system compared favourably with those of the best universities," regretted that the recently published Needs Assessment Report of the Nigerian university system makes dismal reading. "From under-provision of financial resources to underdevelopment of the needed infrastructure and the lack of trained manpower, particularly teachers, is one of criminal neglect," he pointed out.

"You must always remember that just as there are myriads of problems facing our country and challenging her leadership, there are also many opportunities for the prepared mind with willingness to excel and chart a new course for the individual, for the nation and for mankind," the Convocation Lecturer advised the new graduates, expressing joy that many Nigerian youths are excelling within and outside the country, despite the "apparent squalor and dispiriting environment of their present circumstances."

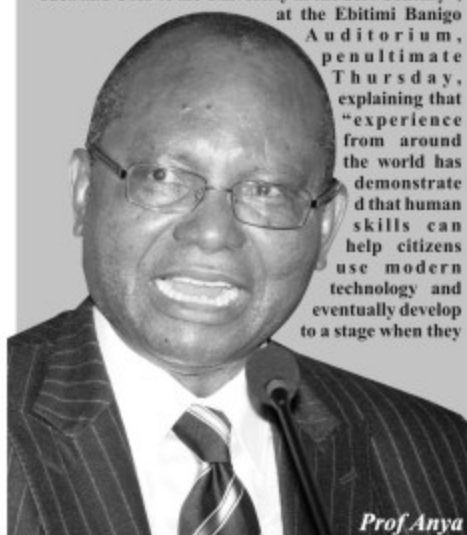
"Despite the discouraging signs, the challenge is clear: discover your mission, as an individual and as a new generation of hope, embrace it with renewed vision, vigour and vitality. In the 21st century, nothing is impossible to the willing and the prepared mind. The new Nigeria of our dreams depends on you and beckons you with the conditionality—get

a good education," Anya charged them, adding: "that is why fixing the university system must be the number one priority."

Earlier in his opening remarks, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who described the Lecture as an important aspect of the Convocation Ceremony, expressed delight that the Lecturer drew attention of the audience to the role of universities in nation building. Describing Professor Anya as a gift to the academia and the larger society, the Vice-Chancellor appealed to policy makers to make haste to rescue the tertiary educational system from the unacceptable situation in which it currently finds itself if the country hopes to join the comity of nations that are moving forward.

Speaking as Chairman of the occasion, former National President of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Mr Onueze Okocha, lauded the Lecturer and congratulated the University on the successful foundation-laying ceremony for a new Faculty of Law, promising that as Chairman of the Council on Legal Education, he would assist the University in actualizing its vision of owning a world-class Law Faculty. "I will ensure that we come and inspect the Faculty when it is ready and accredit it for your new Faculty of Law programme to commence without further delay," the legal luminary told the audience.

Also speaking, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Chairman of the Convocation Committee, Professor Igbo Joe, who recalled that the Lecturer taught him during his undergraduate days, commended him for an insightful lecture. "You have told us what a university should be and what went wrong in the nation's university system and the way forward," he said, thanking the 2nd and 5th Vice-Chancellors, Professor Sylvanus Cookey and Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, as well as the current Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajienka, for their efforts in developing the University over the years. Secretary-General of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors (CVC), Professor Michael Faborade was among guests that graced the lecture.

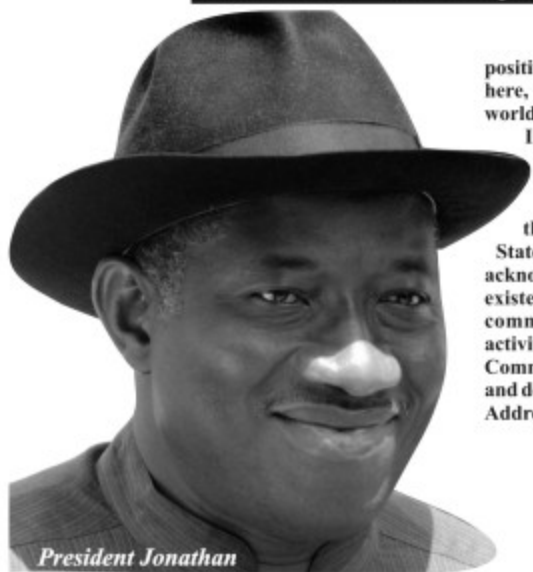


Prof Anya



# FG Reiterates Commitment To Quality Education

## ...Tasks Varsity, Host Communities On Peace



President Jonathan

**P**resident Goodluck Jonathan has reiterated the commitment of the Federal Government to provide accessible and quality education to the citizenry at all levels.

Dr Jonathan, who was represented by the Minister of Education, Professor Ruqayyatu Rufa'i, gave the assurance at the 29<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony of the University, penultimate Saturday. He disclosed that the move was based on the need to improve and sustain improve teaching, learning and research in the university system.

The Visitor, who is also a distinguished pioneer Alumnus, challenged authorities of the University to make remarkable impact in their operational environment, stating that "bearing in mind the location of the University in the heartland of the Niger Delta, I expect UNIPORT to provide academic leadership in research, and excellence in petroleum and related studies. It is desirable that the University formulates new initiatives in the control of gas flaring, oil spillages and the optimal use of the bi-products of petroleum extraction". He advised the Faculty of Agriculture to "spearhead research activities that would facilitate production of agricultural crops that would thrive in the Niger Delta region. This will in no small measure help in the economic development of the people of the area".

President Jonathan also said that the University has an important role to play in government's quest to sustain the current peace in the Niger Delta. "Through its Peace and Conflict Resolution Directorate, further studies should be carried out on effective conflict resolution mechanisms specific to the region. Attention should focus on conflicts between local communities and companies operating in the region", he advised.

The Visitor, who condemned the mob killing of four students of the University at Omuokiri, Aluu, last October, sympathized with parents and guardians of the deceased, as well as the entire University community over the unfortunate incident, assuring all stakeholders that such a horrendous crime will not be allowed to happen on any Nigerian Campus again.

Dr Jonathan commended the Governing Council, Management, Senate, Staff and Students of the University for the great strides that have been made to take the Institution to higher academic heights, advising the graduates to "hold steadfast to the

By Obinna Nwodin

positive values that you acquired during your time here, knowing that you are now stepping into a world full of challenges and opportunities".

In his address, the Chancellor, His Majesty, Dr. De Wheno Aholu Menu-Toyi I, Oba Akran of Badagry, who thanked the Visitor, Honourable Minister of Education, as well as the Executive Governors of Rivers and Bayelsa States for their support to the University, also acknowledged "the good relationship that has existed between the University and its host communities since it commenced academic activities here in 1977", advising the University Community to sustain the trend to promote growth and development.

Addressing Convocation, Acting Pro-Chancellor,



Prof Ruqayyatu Rufa'i

Rev. Walter Eneji, said that "the drive towards attaining the status of a world-class Entrepreneurial University remains the focus of this Administration. The University has intensified partnerships with key industry players in several strategic areas to actualize the vision", he said, disclosing that Council took appropriate steps towards establishing the University of Port Harcourt Foundation to mobilize funds for development. He congratulated the graduates for coming into a new phase of life. "You have received the best; so you have to utilize the knowledge you have acquired here to give your best back to the society. You are, therefore, expected to be worthy Ambassadors of this great University. You should ensure that your conduct justifies your being found worthy, both in character and learning by the University" he advised the graduating students.

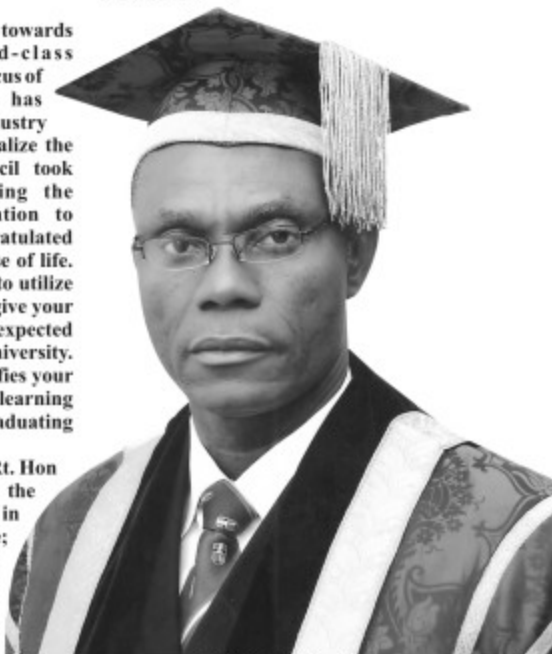
Also speaking, Governor of Rivers State, Rt. Hon Chibulke Rotimi Amaechi, announced the endowment of Professorial Chair in Law in honour of Justice Adolphus Karibi Whyte; Professor Tam David-West Professorial Chair in Virology; Professor Otonti Nduka Professorial Chair in Education and Culture; Professor Tekena Tamuno Chair in History and Society, as well as the Alhaji Bamanga Tukur Professorial

Chair in International Trade and Development. He also announced a donation of N10 million to support the take-off of the Bamanga Tukur Institute for International Trade and Development. Earlier in his address, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, said that the Senate worked tirelessly to ensure best practises in teaching and learning, adding that it also restructured some Faculties, Schools and Institutes for greater efficiency. The Vice-Chancellor disclosed that "the University took a holistic review of all our curricular to include the UNESCO-advocated concept of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and entrepreneurial education, as well as a review of the Statement of Academic Policies for undergraduate and graduate programmes", expressing delight over lifting the suspension on admission into the Medical School by the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN).

Highlights of the event were the conferment of Honorary Doctorate Degrees on distinguished Historian, Professor Tekena Tamuno, Patron of the Arts, Prince Yemisi Shyllon, as well as President of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), Dr Lamine Diack. First and Higher degrees were also awarded to total of 6,938 persons.

A breakdown of the statistics indicate that 468 graduated from the Faculty of Humanities, 197 from the Faculty of Social Sciences, 112, from the Faculty of Biological Sciences, 142, from the Faculty of Chemical Sciences, 219 from the Faculty of Physical Sciences and Information Technology, while the College of Health Sciences produced 351 graduates, including 208 Medical Doctors.

The School of Science Laboratory Technology produced a total of 309 graduates, while the Faculties of Education produced 527 graduates, Engineering 242, Management Sciences, 172, and Agriculture produced 172 graduates. 1,581 were awarded Master's Degree, while 149 were conferred with the Doctor of Philosophy Degree. A further breakdown of the statistics shows that 1,648 received the University's certificates from 12 Departments in the Faculties of Humanities and Education.



V-C, Prof Ajenka

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## Defend Your Performance



responsibility as holders would meet and interact with their counterparts from other universities to determine their intellectual power in a competitive world.

"First Class is not what you get through cheating. I expect you to read further to take over from us," Ibe said, while Ndukwa noted that "Whenever a young man washes his hand very well, he dines with elders, so you will eat with even Kings if you pursue excellence diligently." For Ogali, "Prove to others that this is real First Class." Visiting Professor Idemiyor advised the best graduates on the need to blend their academic

excellence with cultural consciousness as the only way to appreciate and respect workplace diversity.

Best Graduating Student (BGS), Miss Stella Ogbogo, who spoke on behalf of her colleagues, thanked the Vice-Chancellor, Principal Officers and other University staff, who attended the dinner for the privilege, promising that they would continue to do their best towards the advancement of knowledge and growth of society. She promised that the 20 First Class Graduates feted by the University at the Vice-Chancellor's Dinner would work hard to justify their rating.

## Founders' Day Lecture

# Igali Tasks UNIPORT On Water Resources Research

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

**P**ermanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Water Resources, Ambassador Godknows Igali, has stressed the need for an integrated approach to water development in the Niger Delta with the cooperation of relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and international donors.

Igali, while delivering the 2<sup>nd</sup> Founders Day Lecture titled: "Optimizing Water and Agricultural Potentials of the Niger Delta; Role of University of Port Harcourt and its Alumni, at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park, penultimate Wednesday, noted that the approach would integrate fresh water mapping of the entire Niger Delta basin into the water supply development programme to be coordinated by the new Centre for Water Resources Technology in the University.

The distinguished pioneer Alumnus, who also advocated building of regional water schemes around the bigger metropolis, recommended leveraging on available resources to support water and sanitation, solar-based packaged water treatment systems and repair of broken down facilities, as practical measures to tackle inefficient water production in the Niger Delta, which he said offers a natural flood plain with best conditions for agricultural development. "This University should take the lead in agriculture and water resources research", he added, promising that his Ministry would support such

effort.

President of the Nigerian Bar Association, Mr Okey Wali, who chaired the event, congratulated members of the Alumni Association for identifying with their Alma Mater in addition to contributing to her development. "Nothing can be better than addressing issues affecting the Niger Delta. A Lecture like this projects the positive image of the region which has suffered years of neglect and negative recognition arising from militancy, oil bunkering and kidnapping", he said, describing the

region as the treasure base of the nation that deserves better attention from the Federal Government.

In his address, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiienka, observed that as part of efforts aimed at exploring the abundant natural resources of the region, the University established the Institute of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (INRES) and the Centre for Disaster Risk Management and Environmental Studies (CDRMES), to tackle the challenges of managing the region's abundant resources. "Factors that affect the vast water resources of the region also threaten its vast agricultural potentials in the long run", he added.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Chairman of the Convocation Committee, Professor Igbo Joe, commended the University Management for setting aside 6<sup>th</sup> February every year as Founders' Day and the Alumni Association for identifying with the University, urging the Association to continue to raise issues that would contribute to national development and their Alma mater.



Okey Wali, Registrar, Matilda Nnodim, Dr Igali, Wife, V-C, Prof Ajiienka and Prof Uwakwe



Prof Awiri conducting guests around the Exhibition stands

## Special Convocation Exhibition Showcased University's Best ~Awiri

By Obinna Nwodin

**A**s part of the 29<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony, a Research and Exhibition Fair took place at the Faculty of Humanities Quadrangle. The Fair was declared open by a 1981 Alumnus of the University, Dr Godknows Igali. Conducting the Special Guest round the various Exhibition stands, Chairman of the Research Fair Committee, Professor Gregory Awiri, said that the Special Exhibition was a time for intellectual harvest of graduates, also aimed at showcasing the best of the University within the session.

According to him, amongst several objectives, the University organizes research fairs to encourage, popularize and inculcate the concept of research beyond publication for promotion and graduation of students, but to make research outputs available to end-users such as inventors, small-scale industrialists and manufacturers.

He further disclosed that the Special Convocation Exhibition showcased research outputs from the Faculties of Agriculture, Humanities, Biological Sciences and Engineering, adding that it will also serve as a prelude to the Second University of Port Harcourt Research Fair and Conference scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2013.

## GUIDEPOST

## PROFESSORIAL PROMOTION

*Dr Doris Uchenna*, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, promoted *Professor of Internal Medicine*, effective 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2010.

## READERSHIP PROMOTION

*Dr Baribor Vikoo*, Institute of Education, Faculty of Education, promoted *Reader*, effective 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2011.

## PROMOTION

*Dr Ese Oghenemavwe*, Department of Human Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, promoted *Lecturer II*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2012.

## CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT

*Dr Joy Omiepirisa*, Department of Anaesthesiology, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, confirmed *Staff*, effective 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2011.

*Mrs Ifeyinwa Chiojoke-Nwauche*, Department of Clinical Pharmacy & Management, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, confirmed *Staff*, effective 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2008.

*Olusayo Shorinwa*, Department of Clinical Pharmacy & Management, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, confirmed *Staff*, effective 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2008.

*Anthony Ncube*, Department of Preventive Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, confirmed *Staff*, effective 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2010.

*Simon Silvia*, Department of Child Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, confirmed *Staff*, effective 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2010.

*Mr Abwell Nteegah*, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, confirmed *Staff*, effective 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2012.

## VISITING APPOINTMENT

*Professor Aniekan Ekere*, appointed *Visiting Professor* in the Department of Surgery, Faculty of Clinical Science, effective on assumption of duty.

*Professor Monima Briggs*, appointed *Visiting Professor* in the Department of Electrical/Electronics Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, effective January, 2013.

## SABBATICAL APPOINTMENT

*Dr Robert Dode*, granted one-year *Sabbatical Appointment* in the Department of Political & Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, effective January, 2013 to February, 2014.

## RESUMPTION FROM SABBATICAL LEAVE

*Professor John Enemugwem*, Department of History & Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Humanities, resumed duty after one-year *Sabbatical Leave*.

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE

*Dr Ethelbert Kari*, Department of Linguistics & Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanity, proceeded on a one-year *Leave of Absence* to University of Botswana, effective 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2014.

## STUDY LEAVE WITH PAY

*Faith Osegi*, Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, proceeds on a one-year *Study Leave With Pay*, effective 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2013 to 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2014.

*Mr Bruno Ilobinso*, Department of Biochemistry, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, proceeded on a one-year *Study Leave With Pay*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2012 to 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2013.

*Mrs Uzoigwe Iheyinwa*, Department of Microbiology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, proceeded on a three-year *Study Leave With Pay*, effective October, 2012 to September, 2015.

## Weather Forecast Is Not About Exact Time ~Wekpe

By Juliet Nnamdi & Otikor Samuel

As a way of enlightening members of staff, students and other residents of the University and neighbouring communities on the dynamics of weather conditions to enable them plan events ahead of time with a view to initiating precautionary measures, staff of the Weather Observatory Unit domiciled in the Department of Geography and Environmental Management commenced weather forecast last November.

Speaking to UNIPORT Weekly penultimate Monday, Mr Vremudia Wekpe, who prepares the Weather Observatory Report, said the forecast is crucial to researchers, agriculturists, airline operators and event managers to enable them make plans to contain unforeseen contingencies.

Mr Wekpe disclosed that "the Centre is equipped by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and some concerned Alumni to carry out studies on early warning system on weather conditions,"

revealing further that NEMA's interest was informed by the recent disaster hit

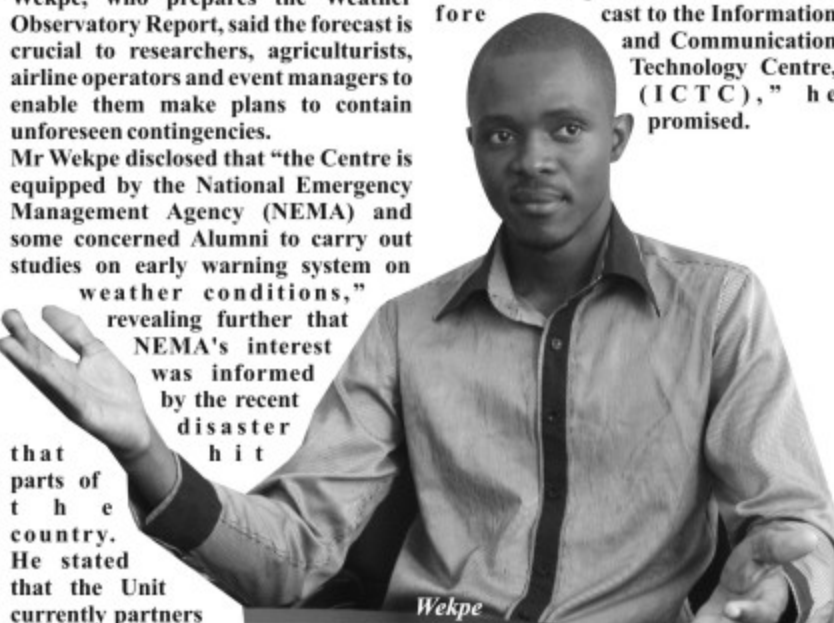
that parts of the country. He stated that the Unit currently partners

the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET) in Omagwa Centre, and the Headquarters in Lagos.

Responding to a question on the authenticity of his forecast, he said that "Meteorology is the science of the moment, and forecast is not about exact time, because of factors such as climatic change that may affect it. And since it is reported weekly, it becomes difficult to make changes."

"The Centre for Weather Observatory in the University of Port Harcourt is seeking manpower in order to cover the Day and Night weather changes, in addition to more equipment to enhance research," Vremudia disclosed, adding that the Centre is supervised by Climatologists. The basic aim of the forecast is to serve the University Community through the UNIPORT Weekly by providing an avenue to plan ahead of time. "My colleagues and I will soon be sending the online edition of our fore

cast to the Information and Communication Technology Centre, (ICTC)," he promised.



DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
WEATHER OBSERVATORY  
WEATHER FORECAST FOR PORT HARCOURT AND SURROUNDING  
AREAS FOR SUNDAY FEBRUARY, 17 -SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2013.

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (MM)	SUNSET AND SUNRISE (AM) (PM)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 17 FEB, 2013	33.925.6	63	NE	4.6	6:47 6:45	Thunderstorm late. Partly sunny and hot day expected.
MONDAY, 18 FEB, 2013	33.3 25.6	65	NE	3.3	6:46 6:45	Thunderstorm late in the day. Morning clouds. Hot day predicted.
TUESDAY 19 FEB, 2013	33.3 25.6	64	NE	6.4	6:46 6:45	Thunderstorm expected late in the day. Mostly cloudy and hot. Some rain expected.
WEDNESDAY 20 FEB 2013	32.2 25.6	52	NE	-	6:46:45	More sun than cloud. Warm day anticipated. Chance of rain is minimal.
THURSDAY 21 FEB, 2013	33.9 25.0	52	N	-	6:46:45	Day expected to be mostly cloudy and warm.
FRIDAY 22 FEB, 2013	33.325.0	56	N	-	6:46 6:45	Mostly cloudy and warm day.
SATURDAY 23 FEB, 2013	33.325.0	54	N	2.0	6:45 6:45	Thunderstorm expected late in the day. Partly sunny and warm.

VREMUDIA WEKPE  
OFFICER-IN-CHARGE

PROF. SAMUEL B. AROKOYU  
DIRECTOR, (CDRMS)