

Cookey Signs Trust Deed For Malaria Studies

At last, a Trust Deed for the establishment of *Sylvanus J. S. Cookey Professor of Malaria Studies* to further research that would tackle the harmful effect of malaria scourge has been signed between the University and 2nd Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sylvanus Cookey. A cheque for the commencement of activities on the Chair had earlier been issued on 31st October, 2013, reports *Otikor Samuel*.

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University of Port Harcourt
Women Association
organized UPWA
Week last week.
Details next week
- Editor

UniPort Weekly

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UniPort Resumes Academic Activities

By Obinna Nwodin

The University of Port Harcourt has announced resumption of normal academic activities for the Second Semester 2012/2013 Academic Session from today, 9th December, 2013, for returning students, after a five-month interruption of the academic calendar. The suspension of academic activities was due to an industrial action embarked upon by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) across the country.

The decision to reopen the Institution was taken at the 394th Emergency Meeting of Senate of the University held at the Senate Chambers, last Tuesday. According to the revised calendar, Fresh students are expected to commence lectures for the First Semester 2013/2014 academic session from today, 6th January, 2014 across the various Faculties and Colleges.

Briefing members of Senate at the Emergency Session, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, said that the five-month-old ASUU strike has adversely affected the academic calendar of the University, necessitating the need to revise it to make up for the lost time, which he regretted has immensely dislocated the university system in the country.

...Commences Lectures Today

He appealed to staff to make necessary sacrifices to ensure that lost grounds were covered in the interest of the students. Professor Ajienka stated that the

Committee of Pro-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities had directed that Lectures should resume work in all the universities,

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Asamaowe
Pro-Chancellor



Prof. Ajienka, V-C



Read UniPort Weekly Online at www.uniport.edu.ng

Penultimate week, a middle-aged man, looking courteous, pious and gentlemanly in a flowing inexpensive white robe and sporting a cultivated oriental beard was paraded alongside four other suspects by operatives of the dreaded State Security Service (SSS). The man, who was later identified as a Lecturer at Kogi State University was charged with the equivalent of intellectual terrorism. Translation: the man who lost his job to the ongoing strike action by the Academic Staff of Universities (ASUU), willfully transformed into a terrorist Consultant as an idle mind! Just to keep himself busy, you would say?

A Lecturer in Arabic and Islamic Studies fits perfectly well into the profile of a Boko Haram Consultant. It was a cool, dry and clear day that both the alleged Consultant and his acolytes were picked up and paraded by the SSS, thus ending their bumpy road to paradise via terror. The unimaginable rivers of blood unleashed by the dreaded Boko Haram sect—especially the recent attack on the Air Force base and Maiduguri airport—made the arrest a welcome development at a time the battle appears to be swinging in Boko Haram's favour.

Mohammad Yunus, according to the SSS Deputy Director of Media and Public Relations, Marilyn Ogar, ran a terror cell comprising the other men with bogus guerilla-style portfolios in the alleged terror cell. The man was accused of preaching incendiary sermons to over 80 tranquilized adherents at a local secondary school every last Saturday and Sunday of the month. He also spat fire and brimstone before about 120 adulating followers every Friday at Kogi State University. He found easy recruits because the struggle to find their identity often tore young religious adherents between heaven and hell without a middle ground.

The tantalizing glimpse of a Lecturer mouthing unbearable gibberish at a Friday Prayer ground turned the bearded Mullah into a god to his followers, who are usually trapped in theological confusion and internal contradictions in their inflexible ideological positions. The crushed expressions on the faces of the captured sect members turned them into faithful silhouettes dancing on the precipice of religion. Yunus, who predictably denied the charge of playing the role of a terrorist Consultant, appeared motionless like a rabbit caught in a hunter's headlamp under the klieg light. The expression on his oval face betrayed him as a godless apostate fascinated by gods, prophets and angels. He posed for the cameras like a man driven by an urge for solitude and martyrdom.

The fascinating paradox about the case rests on the fact that we are all marginalized by power and religion in our existential striving for identity and fulfillment. The power and force of sect membership is the comradeship,

The Bearded Kogi Varsity Mullah

"They who worship God merely for fear, would worship the devil should he appear"
Anonymous

By Williams Wodi



Dr Fagge Nasir,
ASUU President

amity and camaraderie that drive them to commit unspeakable crime in the name of Allah the Merciful. Goaded on by the Boko Haram sect, the wrong version of Islamic faith is spreading like wild fire across the northern half of the country and misguided youths are its prime target.

From what we have seen so far, the risk of failure in the enterprise to Islamize Nigeria is greater than the possibility of a successful outing for Boko Haram. The murderous psychotic rage that spares nobody is the choice weapon of fundamentalists. Yunus and his men looked like King Lear performed by circus clowns in search of an audience. The idea that a Lecturer would be recruiting idle youths for Boko Haram reveals the dark clouds lurking in the distant horizon. In this political roulette, the drawn faces and emaciated bodies of the suspected recruits gave them away as reluctant rebels,

held hostage by an intolerant faith. It is a miracle that there is still no melancholy rift in the violent Boko Haram family—at least, for now!

The appalling conspiracy of silence by the suspects who exhibited the portraits of deracinated men is ample proof of the manipulative nature of religious martyrdom. Any religion whose leaders use fundamentalist techniques to speak for God should make do with some measures of criticism—Christianity, Islam, Buddhism or Traditional religion. The faintly deranged look that glinted on the bloodshot eyes of Yunus and his foot soldiers makes you feel sorry for them. Yet, some of its adherents have used the highly revered Islamic faith to mount incomprehensible violent assault on the innocents for simply disagreeing with their teachings.

The inexplicable drive towards revolutionary iconoclasm by Boko Haram justifies the cautious retreat from matters of faith by eccentric atheists, who do not bother themselves about the existence of God—largely on account of the evil that is perpetrated in God's name. The loose baggy Mullah of Kogi State University taught his followers passionate denunciation of other faiths as his own survival strategy. This mass popular irrationalism proves that man makes religion out of his fear of an unfathomable universe. Fundamentalist religion is like a wheel that refuses to turn on account of its stiffness. The propagation of misguided ideas is a philistine decision by adherents of a faith that makes no accommodation for rival faiths. The problem here is that militants of all shades are condemned to a vagabond, wandering and unsettled life that hunts them forever. Such wails are ill-trained predators unfamiliar with the words—*mercy* or *compassion*. The common people of all faiths—including Islam—are bearing the heavy burden of a raging, senseless conflict on many fronts in the name of a good Prophet, who was not known to kill for the sake of killing.

Salman Rushdie once said: "An idea that refuses to bend or compromise would in most cases be destroyed." Even Lucifer the rebel angel knew when the battle ground shifted from heaven to earth. To bend a religion to your will is one step towards godlessness. Book Haram has more than made the point by forcing innocent people to swim in rivers of blood and they cannot continue in violence and bigotry. Persecution is a bad and indirect way to plant a religion, says Thomas Browne.

While journalists swarmed around the captured Mullah of Kogi and his foot soldiers like the queen drone, the security forces look like frightened people chasing after ghosts. From the recent Maiduguri incident, it appears as if we are beating a hasty retreat from the battlefield. Most Nigerians are looking backwards with nostalgia to a vanishing time of peace and hoping that this cloud of uncertainty will roll away as it came.

When the SSS described Yunus as a very active member of Kogi State University branch of ASUU, it was a final confirmation that an idle mind is, indeed, the devil's workshop. If ASUU was not on strike, the man would probably be too busy teaching, setting tests and examinations and marking scripts, with little or no time left to become a terrorist Consultant to a murderous organization that takes no prisoners. Let us end this strike before a Vice-Chancellor is quizzed for being a terrorist mastermind. Charles Colton once wrote: "Men will wrangle for religion; write for it; die for it; anything but—live for it." Ha! Ha!! Ha!!...just thinking aloud.

Ebong, Okeke, Get NAE Membership

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

In recognition of their outstanding contributions to education in the country, Professors Josephine Ebong and Elizabeth Okeke of the Departments of Educational Management and Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, have been admitted into the Membership of the Nigerian Academy of

Education (NAE).

Briefing *UniPort Weekly* on the development, Professor Ebong disclosed that the admission was part of activities for the 28th Annual Congress of the Academy held last month at the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State. "The NAE Membership is given to professional academics who have distinguished themselves in the field of education and it is given after three years to four years of professorship", she added.

She revealed further that the Nigerian Academy of Education is open to all Nigerian Professors and others who have contributed to the growth of education in the country. "A total of 18 Professors were admitted into the Academy and two are from the University of Port Harcourt", an elated Professor Ebong disclosed.



Profs Ebong (left) and Okeke

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Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka and the benefactor, Professor Sylvanus Cookey signed the Trust Deed in the presence of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development), Professor Bene Willie Abbey and Director, Malaria Research and Phytomedicine, Professor Omotayo Ebong in the Vice-Chancellor's Office, last Monday.

Speaking before signing the document, Professor Ajenka thanked the benefactor, who is a Professor of History, for endowing the Chair in the health sector which is critical for human existence, disclosing that grey areas which delayed the signing of the document when the University received the first tranche of fund had been amended.

On a sideline interview with our Correspondent, the 2nd Vice-Chancellor, stated that the endowment was part of his contributions to tackle the menace of malaria. "If we can mitigate the effect of malaria on humanity, it will improve quality of life," Professor Cookey said.

The 2nd Vice-Chancellor, who retired on active service in 1999, expressed satisfaction with the level of infrastructural development and improvement on academic programmes in the University, stating that "There has been tremendous improvement. I am impressed with the infrastructural development for the past few years which has been sustained. There are improvements in the quality of academic programme and the large staff and student population. The University of Port Harcourt has become a major centre of teaching and research

Cookey Signs Trust Deed For Malaria Studies

...Commends UniPort On Academic, Infrastructural Growth



Clockwise: 2nd V-C, Prof Cookey, V-C, Prof Ajenka, DV-C, (R&D), Prof Willie Abbey, Director, Centre for Research Management, Prof Akaranta (backing) and Prof Ebong

trying to catch up with the first generation universities in the country. As a former Pro-Chancellor of Obafemi Awolowo University, I am in a better position to compare the developments in the country's university system, so I know that UniPort is doing excellently well."

The former Vice-Chancellor, who urged the current administration to continue to flag the banner of the

University higher, praised authorities for revisiting the master plan of the University, stating that the revision would further guide the advancement of the Institution. "We need to constantly appraise what is on ground to ensure that it meets the needs of the nation. Our products must meet the manpower needs of the country in our contribution to manpower development," he added.

Google Trains Students On YouTube Biz

Over 100 students drawn from various departments in the University defied the ongoing industrial action embarked upon by Academic Staff Union Universities (ASUU) to participate in training on how to use YouTube to earn income.

Tagged YouTube 101, the training, which was under the auspices of Google Student Club, UniPort, took place at the Basic Studies Unit Building, University Park penultimate Monday, with facilitators from Google Nigeria office, Lagos.

Describing YouTube as the art of expression, one of the facilitators and Business Developer, Google Nigeria, Lanre Aina, who noted that making money through YouTube channels

By Humphrey Ogu

does not require professional qualifications, said the ability to develop quality content is a very vital factor in attracting subscribers to one's channel, a situation, he said translate to wealth creation.

Aina, who was accompanied to the University by Regional Coordinator, Google Student Ambassadors' Programme in Sub-Saharan African, Jeminatu Alabi-Isama, disclosed that YouTube attracts more viewership than conventional television stations as content could be viewed around the world at all times. Citing ace comedian, Basket Mouth as one of the Nigerian artistes with quality content

attracting large viewership, Aina noted that any talented person can shoot himself from obscurity to stardom via YouTube, listing comedy, music, make-up, dance, teaching, amongst others, as some of the skills or talents marketable to the world audience.

Speaking with *UniPort Weekly* after the training, Google Student Ambassador Kemkanma Oti, noted that the workshop, which was free of charge, was aimed at equipping students with requisite skills with which to harness their talents and make money through YouTube, promising more training of staff and students on other Google Apps that would be of immense benefits to them.

Thanking the University authorities for providing the necessary facilities for the event, the Google Student Ambassador called for more support in future to enable him and his team hold similar programmes in a computer laboratory to ensure optimum service. Oti urged staff and students, who need assistance with the effective use of Google Apps, such as YouTube, Gmail, Google Drive, among others to reach him at googleambassador@uniport.edu.ng.



The Training in session

ANUPA To Train Members

By Obinna Nwodin

In a bid to properly equip members for effective service delivery, the Association of Nigeria Universities Professional Administrators (ANUPA), University of Port Harcourt branch has unveiled plans to mount training workshops for its members.

Speaking to *UniPort Weekly* in his office last Monday, Chairman of ANUPA, UniPort branch, Mr Roland Wabali, stated that the workshop, which is in two categories, would give members the needed platform to meet current challenges in university administration, explaining that the first category would be from Administrative Assistants to Assistant Registrars, while the second category would be from Senior Assistant Registrars to Directors.

The first workshop with the theme: "Knowing University Administration" would focus on History of Universities; Public Administration/University Administration, as well as University Administration: A Case Study of UniPort, as sub-themes, while the workshop for the senior administrators would focus on Non-Financial Motivation for Staff and Report and Minutes Writing.

The Chairman further disclosed that apart from the internal workshops, the Branch would also benefit from a national training of the Association in 2014. "We just returned from a National Conference of ANUPA held at the University of Ibadan. There are series of programmes lined up in the coming year. The UniPort branch of ANUPA would benefit immensely from the programmes. We shall also mount more internal programmes so that our members would benefit optimally to enhance the quality of service in the University," he stated.

ANUPA is the training arm of Committee of Registrars of Nigerian Universities (CORNUN) with the objective of training administrative staff of the universities of various principles to meet the demands of evolving administrative practices.



Mr Wabali

UniPort Student For Ghana Confab

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Following a spectacular performance by students of the University of Port Harcourt at the Seventh and Eighth International Model United Nations Conference held last year for Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria, a student of the Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, Raphael Undiandeye, has been nominated to participate in a similar conference in Ghana.

Undiandeye was nominated as Chairman for the Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Committee for the Ghana International Model United Nations (GIMUN) Conference billed for 5th to 13th January, next year.

A letter signed by Deputy Director of the International Relations and Diplomacy Unit, Council for Capacity Development, Sarah Dadoo and made available to *UniPort Weekly*, said Undiandeye was appointed based on his competencies and experiences. "We believe that these competencies you possess have well positioned you to perform this role and we expect you to be an outstanding official as you contribute your quota to the success of GIMUN 2014", the letter read in part.

It would be recalled that the UniPort team led by the Director of Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QAQC), Professor Tony Arinze, carted away various prizes and nominations at the Nigerian Conference, which drew participants from 10 higher institutions comprising five universities, four colleges of Education and one Polytechnic, last year.

The Model United Nations Society is a registered non-governmental organization that is committed to engaging young people on global issues. The body has a special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The organization also seeks to raise a new generation of world leaders capable of communicating across borders with a view to proffering solutions to global problems.

UDPS Girls' Guide Wants End To Inequality, Discrimination

By Mercy Adeniji

The Nigerian Girls' Guide Association of the University Demonstration Primary School of Port Harcourt joined its counterparts all over the world to mark this year's International Day for the elimination of violence against women and girl child with a rally at the school premises, Delta Park, penultimate Monday.

Speaking during the event, Administrator of the School, Dr Ibironke Kosemani commended the Association for commemorating the day to put an end to inequality and discrimination of the female folk.

"It is an international day against the elimination of violence against women and the girl child. In our society today, it is the male chauvinism that dominates, where the male is the master," she said, stating that such campaigns are necessary in Nigeria in order to enlighten the male folks on how to take care of women in the society.

Mrs Kosemani regretted that even among the educated elite, some men still see their wives as punchbags and as instruments that can be used and dumped if the need arises that such a person is no more useful. She called on mothers to engage their daughters in useful jobs, stressing that when the mother fails to properly engage her daughter in meaningful activities, she may go astray. The Administrator charged young girls to marry their

friends and look carefully at whoever they choose to marry.

In her contribution, President of the Guide, UDPS Branch, Mrs Benedicta Bakor, said the "United Nations recognized that violence against women is an obstacle to the achievement of equality, development and peace. The day was used to pay tribute to the Mirabel sisters, as well as a global recognition of gender violence which is usually on November 25th of every year."

Mrs Bakor, who described violence as the use of physical force or power threatened against oneself, another person or a group, said violence against girls and women is one of the most pervasive human rights violations deeply rooted in the gender inequality and discrimination, listing sexual abuse, harassment at workplace and public places, forced marriage, girl trafficking, denying the girl child her right to education and refusal to permit women to work or control their income as some of the violence against the girl child and women.

Also speaking, Hanifah Braimoh, Nora Fubara and Ulamba Emmanuella, appealed to parents to help protect the girl child from violence, abuse and also educate her, recommending that government and non-governmental organizations should educate people on all forms of violence against women, redress any act of violence done to women and girls, whether at home, school, workplace community or society.



President, UDPS' Guide, Mrs Bakor (left back row) and the pupils

Expert Lists Pathways To Dev In N'Delta

By Otikor Samuel

A comprehensive approach to ecosystem management through a paradigm shift from small spatial scale to multiple, long-term perspectives and adaptive management with an admixture of knowledge by way of cooperation among institutions of higher learning, government agencies and the private sector are critical towards enhancing productivity in the agricultural sector in the Niger Delta.

This was part of the submission of an international fisheries scientist, Dr Bradford Brown, while delivering the second Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainable Development (INRES) Distinguished Lecture titled: "Optimizing Agricultural and Fisheries Productivity in the Niger Delta: A Way Forward," at the International Students' Centre, University Park, last month.

Adaptive management, according to the international scholar, would enable policymakers to make decisions on the best scientific-based information available for monitoring and assessing efforts geared towards enhanced fisheries production in the resource-rich region.

Advocating the adoption of *Large Marine Ecosystem Approach* which had evolved to meet challenges in the North-eastern United States huge distant water fleets as espoused by Dr Kenneth Sherman, the Distinguished Lecturer said the approach which extended beyond fisheries ecosystem to the entire marine and coastal systems-spatial planning would be productive if adopted in the Niger Delta. "Large marine ecosystem principles can be applied to smaller sub-areas. Application to Niger Delta can increase the likelihood of success," Dr Brown said.

The former Director-General, United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), stated that marine spatial planning should cover fish and fisheries, aquaculture, energy production, marine transport, alternative sources of energy, recreation and coastal development, using some modular indicators, including

pollution and ecosystem, productivity, socio-economic and governance modules.

"Success in reaching sustainability needs a comprehensive approach. Nesting within the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem can prevent local efforts being negated in areas such as fisheries by factors outside the Delta area. Following the LME approach in the Delta can provide a template for ensuring all factors are considered and integrated."

Reacting to the Lecture, Chairman of the Session and Member of the Governing Board of INRES, Mr Noble Pepple, praised the Guest Lecturer for revealing another approach aimed at tackling some of the numerous challenges facing the people of Niger Delta region.

Mr Pepple, who is also the Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer of Rivers State Sustainable Development (RSSDA), charged participants to collectively assume the responsibility of working towards making Niger Delta habitable for the present and future generations.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, represented by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development), Professor Willie Abbey, declared the session open at the event attended by the Surveyor-General of the Federation, Professor Peter Nwilo and National Universities Commission (NUC) Distinguished Lecturer in Diaspora, Professor Chidi Ibe, amongst other guests.

She expressed gratitude to the Guest Speaker for giving more insight on the difficulties associated with production of fisheries in the environmentally-devastated Niger Delta region, hoping that the recommendations made would assist policymakers to come up with functional guidelines that would be of benefit to inhabitants of the area.



Dr Brown



V-C, Prof Ajienka (arrowed) flanked by Dr Iodiuba, Mr Captain-Briggs and Mr Fregene

UniPort To Partner ISPN On Safety Training

By Obinna Nwodin

Authorities of the University of Port Harcourt are to partner the Institute of Safety Professionals of Nigeria (ISPN) in the training of safety professionals with the donation of a piece of land for the construction of a Training Centre.

This was the outcome of a meeting of officials of the Institute led by its National President, Dr Nnamdi Iodiuba, with the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, in his office, penultimate Tuesday.

Speaking to *UniPort Weekly*, Dr Iodiuba said that the Institute sought to partner the University in setting up technical and research facilities for the training of certified safety professionals that would serve the needs of the Industry. "We want to establish training facilities in the University with a view to keeping practitioners abreast of international best practices in safety operations. We would have a training structure on Helicopter Underwater Escape Training and Confined for Space Entry which are very important in safety activities," he stated.

In his remarks, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajienka, disclosed that the partnership would enable the University offer certificate programmes in different aspects of safety, which is of crucial importance in the industry. "We believe that the partnership with the Institute would be mutually beneficial," he stated adding that the Centre for Occupational Safety in the University would provide a platform for its veritable take-off.

Also present at the event were: immediate past President, Mr Shaw Fregene and Director of Training, Mr Grant Captain-Briggs.

INDS Extends Call For Paper Deadline

By Humphrey Ogu

The Institute of Niger Delta Studies (INDS) has extended deadline for submission of articles for publication in *Journal of Niger Delta Studies* to Wednesday, December 18, 2013 from the initial deadline, which was November 30, 2013.

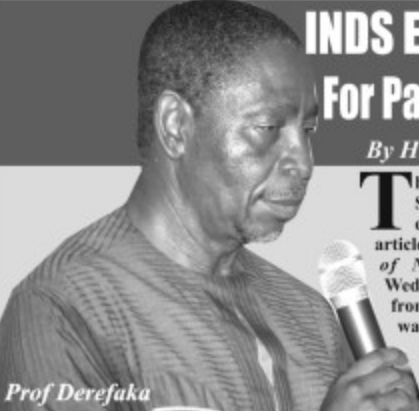
Director of the Institute, Professor Abi Derefaka, dropped the hint in a telephone chat with *UniPort Weekly*, last

Tuesday, stating that the extension of the deadline was to afford lecturers and other researchers who wish to submit articles for publication, but could not before the initial deadline due to the strike action of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU).

Derefaka urged contributors to send seven hardcopies of each manuscript to Director's Office at Delta Park, and forward softcopies of same articles to: abi.derefaka@uniport.edu.ng, adding that articles should be based on original field and library research from various disciplines, but with Niger Delta as their main focus.

The Director said that titles of articles should be brief and describe their contents, with informative and self-explanatory abstracts, requesting contributors to "briefly present the major points made in the article, provide significant methodology for data gathering and analysis, and point out major findings and conclusion."

The Director, who noted that prospective contributors could make inquiries before submitting their manuscripts, emphasised that articles should be sent in on or before Wednesday, December 18, 2013, with three to ten key words, using Modern Language Association (MLA) and concise tables.



Prof Derefaka

UniPort Resumes Academic Activities

Cont'd from p1

stressing that frantic efforts were being made to ensure that those, who returned to the classroom would be paid all their outstanding salaries and entitlements while strike action lasted.

On the N100 Billion provided for NEEDS Assessment by the Federal Government, the Vice-Chancellor disclosed that UniPort got the sum of N3.05 billion which would be dedicated to the rehabilitation of infrastructure such as hostels, library, lecture halls, amongst others, adding that contrary to widely speculations, each university would utilize the fund based on its needs and priorities, which he assured would not be moderated by other government agencies that would only monitor strict compliance.

"Every university was directed to prioritize its needs and apply for the funds. In this regard, we are eager to see that our colleagues in Choba Park join the rest of us at the University Park in an atmosphere that would guarantee maximum production," he stated, adding that "the Federal Ministry of Education, universities and ASUU would be involved in the implementation of the projects.

Contracts would be awarded by each university and not by any external body. It is important for us to know these things so that we can appreciate the efforts being made and thus reduce the activities of

rumour-mongers."

On the Earned Allowances disbursed to staff, Professor Ajenka, who said that the interest of all academic staff was given fair and just consideration in its implementation, added that a Committee chaired by Professor Mark Anikpo, has been set up to address issues that may arise from the process, pointing out that whatever complaints anyone wished to make should be directed to the Committee, which would dispassionately treat same on its merit.

"The template provided by the former Dr. Wale Babalakin-led Committee of Pro-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities, was strictly applied in the process," he emphasized.

Members of Senate, who spoke at the meeting, expressed their desire to return to the classroom, stressing the need for the arrears of salaries owed the Lecturers to be paid as soon as possible to cushion the harsh effects of non-payment of their entitlements for over four months of the strike



DVC (Acad), Prof Igbo Joe and Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim

action.

The revised academic calendar for the 2012/2013 Academic Session is expected to end in April 2014 with an Extra-Ordinary Meeting of Senate to consider the results.

R/S Fire Service Trains UniPort Firemen

By Mercy Adeniji

In a bid to enhance productivity and facilitate quality service delivery among staff of the University of Port Harcourt Fire Service Unit in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor, the Staff Training and Development Unit (STADU), organized a five-day capacity training workshop for staff in the Unit, penultimate Monday.

Declaring open the event, Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim, expressed gratitude to Management and STADU Unit for organizing the training for Fire Service personnel, including previous training packages for other staff of the University. She also commended management for approving the fund for the training that would, hopefully enable the Firemen to better discharge their job specification. Mrs Nnodim, who was represented by the Director, Council Affairs, Dr Dakoru Charles-Granville, noted that the training was a very great

development in the University, stressing that "if a staff was not trained on his/her job schedule, such a staff would not know why he or she was doing that job." She charged the Firemen to take the training very seriously by paying attention to the instructors, as they would be tested on what they have learnt at the end of the training and also in the performance of their duties. "Make sure you take note of every detail, ask questions where necessary. After this training, ensure you give back quality service to the University, because much funds were spent to organize the training programme", she advised.

The representative of the Registrar recalled that long before now, the Fire Service Unit had requested for the training of its personnel, regretting that programme took so long to come to fruition. "The Registrar is glad that the training has finally been organized by Management through the STADU. As Firemen, you are holding

very important positions in that Unit of the University. Your job is very critical and important in the system; your work is a job that saves human lives and property; so you should take your training very seriously if you hope to perform at your optimum level".

In his own contribution, Acting Officer In-Charge of the Fire Service Unit, Mr Livinus Wali, expressed gratitude to Management of the University for making the dream of the Unit come to reality with the training of his men. "We are very grateful for this training because we know the importance Management attaches to this training in particular and the activities of the Unit in general. We promise to do our best to justify every amount put into the training programme. We would not let Management down in the overall performance of our official duty schedules", he promised.

Mr Wali appealed to Management to provide another Fire vehicle to enable the Unit execute its assignment with maximum efficiency whenever there is a distress call and also to create an opportunity to intensify the training, appealing to staff and students of the University to report all fire outbreaks to the Unit for accelerated response before they get out of hand.

Speaking on the sideline, Facilitator of the Workshop, Engineer Golden Elenga, who is the Training Officer, Rivers State Ministry of Special Duties, disclosed that Fire Fighting was about knowledge and experience. "We hope that the training these men have received would enable them fight fire outbreaks in the University and elsewhere, whenever the need may arise." He advised the men to be responsive and obedient in the course of performing their duties.

Speaking on the essence of the training, Secretary, Staff Training and Development Unit, Mr David Amadi, said: "We want to make the Fire Service Unit proactive, so that when there is any Fire outbreak, the personnel can respond effectively to minimize loss of life and property," calling on Management of the University to assist the Unit with funds to enable it continue to train more staff to be effective in the discharge of their duties.



Dr Charles-Granville, representing Registrar (arrowed), Acting Officer in-charge of the Unit, Mr Wali (4th left), Mrs Dorcas Otto, Mr Amadi, Facilitator of the Workshop, Mr Elenga and others after the training

GUIDE POST

APPOINTMENT

Professor John Okoli, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Production, Power Systems and Communication Engineering, College of Engineering, re-appointed *Director, Offshore Technology Centre*, Institute of Petroleum Studies. The appointment, which is for two years, takes effect from 26th June, 2013 and terminates on 29th June, 2015.

Professor Ogbonna Joel, Institute of Petroleum Studies, appointed *Director, Centre for Petroleum Research and Training (CPRT)*. The appointment, which takes immediate effect, is until further notice.

Dr Francis Beka, Department of Geology, Faculty of Physical Sciences & Information Technology, College of Natural & Applied Sciences, appointed *Acting Director, Centre for Petroleum Geosciences*. The appointment, which takes immediate effect, terminates on 19th November, 2015.

Professor Michael Horsfall Jr, Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Chemical Sciences, College of Natural & Applied Sciences, re-appointed *Chair Occupant, Ayebeami Spiff Chair in Environmental Chemistry*. The appointment, which takes effect from 21st October, 2013, is until further notice.

Professor Augustus Gbosi, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, re-appointed *Chair Occupant, Bamanga Turkur Chair in International Trade and Development*. The appointment, which takes effect from 21st October, 2013, is until further notice.

Professor Love Akonye, Faculty of Agriculture, granted *Extension of Appointment as Dean*. The appointment, which takes effect from 14th November, 2013, is until an election of a new Dean of the Faculty is conducted.

Dr C. G. Oriunwene, Department of Chemical Pathology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, re-appointed *Acting Head*. The appointment, which takes effect from 22nd November, 2013, terminates on 23rd November, 2015.

Dr C. C. Obiorah, Department of Anatomical Pathology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, appointed *Acting Head*. The appointment, which takes immediate effect, terminates on 19th November, 2015.

Dr Chukwuekwu Donald, Department of Mental Health, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, appointed *Acting Head*. The appointment, which takes immediate effect, terminates on 30th November, 2015.

Dr Virginia Onumajuru, Department of Linguistics & Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities, appointed *Acting Head*. The appointment, which takes immediate effect, terminates on 30th November, 2015.

STUDY LEAVE

Dr Gladys Worlu, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted a five-month *Study-Leave with Pay* to University of North Texas (UNT), Denton, United States of America, effective 7th January, 2014 to 8th May, 2014.

Dr Jackreece Prayer, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted a five-month *Study-Leave with Pay* to University of North Texas (UNT), Denton, United States of America, effective 7th January, 2014 to 8th May, 2014.

UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT PORT HARCOURT

AMENDED SECOND SEMESTER 2012/2013 SESSION ACADEMIC

CALENDAR FOR REGULAR PROGRAMMES (RETURNING STUDENTS)

1.0 Sunday, 8th December, 2013

Returning Students Arrives (8th December, 2013)

2.0 Monday, 9th December, 2013- Friday, 20th December, 2013

Lecture Begins for Returning Students (9th December to 20th December 2013)

3.0 Monday, 23rd December, 2013- Sunday, 5th January, 2014

Christmas Break

4.0 Monday, 6th January, 2014- Friday, 14th March, 2014

Lecture Resume

5.0 Monday, 10th March, 2014- Friday, 14th March, 2014

Revision

6.0 Monday, 17th March, 2014- Friday, 11th April, 2014

Second Semester Examinations for Returning Students

7.0 Wednesday, 30th April, 2014

Extra-Ordinary Meeting of Senate to consider Second Semester 2012/2013

Results

AMENDED FIRST SEMESTER 2013/2014 SESSION ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR FRESH STUDENTS

1.0 Sunday 8th December, 2013- Friday 20th December, 2013

(i) Fresh Students Arrives

(ii) Registration of Fresh Students (Monday 9th December, 2013- Friday 20th December, 2013)

2.0 Monday, 23rd December, 2013- Sunday, 5th January, 2014

Christmas Break

3.0 Monday, 6th January, 2014- Friday, 28th March, 2014

Lecture Begins for Fresh Students

4.0 Monday, 31st March, 2014- Friday, 4th April, 2014

Revision

5.0 Monday, 7th April, 2014- Friday, 25th April, 2014

First Semester Examinations for Fresh Students

6.0 Wednesday, 30th April, 2014

Extra-Ordinary Meeting of Senate to consider Semester 2012/2013 Results First Semester 2013/2014 Results for Fresh Students.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT OBSERVATORY

FORECAST FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER, 08 - SATURDAY, DECEMBER, 14, 2013

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 08 DEC, 2013	34.0 24.0	64	NE	20.9	6:28 6:20	Heavy rain expected. Partly sunny and hot day predicted.
MONDAY, 09 DEC, 2013	32.0 23.0	63	NE	-	6:26 6:20	Mostly cloudy and warm day expected.
TUESDAY, 10 DEC, 2013	32.0 23.0	60	NE	-	6:29 6:20	More sun than clouds expected. Day is expected to be warm.
WEDNESDAY 11 DEC, 2013	32.0 23.0	54	NE	-	6:30 6:21	More sun than clouds expected. Day is predicted being mostly warm.
THURSDAY, 12 DEC, 2013	32.0 23.0	56	NE	-	6:30 6:21	Mostly cloudy and warm day forecasted.
FRIDAY, 13 DEC, 2013	32.0 22.0	52	N	-	6:31 6:22	More clouds than sun expected. Day anticipated being warm.
SATURDAY, 14 DEC, 2013	32.0 23.0	54	N	-	6:21 6:22	More sun than clouds expected. Warm day predicted.

SANDRA NWABUFO
OFFICER IN CHARGE

PROF SAMUEL AROKOYU
DIRECTOR, (CDRMS)

UniPort Signs MoU With SGoF

The University of Port Harcourt signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Office of the Surveyor-General of the Federation (OSGoF) to strengthen the Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainable Development (INRES) on Monday, 18th November, 2013. Pictures below as captured by our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU** show highlights of the signing ceremony.



DV-C (R&D), Prof Bene Willie Abbey exchanging pleasantries with Surveyor General of the Federation, Prof Peter Nwilo, while Dr Bradford Brown (right) watches on



DV-C (R&D), Prof Willie Abbey (centre), other guests rise for UniPort Anthem



Director, INRES, Prof Enuvie Akpokodje (with mic) addressing guests



Prof Nwilo (right), addressing guests before signing the MoU



Prof Willie Abbey signing the MoU on behalf of the V-C, Prof Joseph Ajenka



Surveyor-General of the Federation, Prof Nwilo, signing the MoU



Mr Roland Wabali, representing the Registrar, signing the MoU, while Mrs Selina Inko-Turiah of the Legal Unit and Bursar, Mr Vitalis Aliezi watch on



Prof Willie Abbey and Prof Nwilo exchanging copies of the MoU



Dr Bradford Brown (speaking) and wife, Mabel



NUC Distinguished Scholar, Prof Chidi Ibe (left) exchanging pleasantries with Executive Director, Rivers State Sustainable Development (RSSDA), Mr Noble Pepple



Prof Willie Abbey presenting souvenir to Prof Nwilo



R-L: Dr Brown, Profs Willie Abbey, Nwilo, Mrs Brown, Director of Institute, Prof Akpokodje, Prof Ibe and Executive Director, RSSDA, Mr Noble Pepple