



## Law Faculty Commences Sale Of Forms For Diploma Programme

**P**reparatory to the kick-off of Bachelors of Law (LL.B) programme next academic session, the Faculty of Law has announced its sale of forms for a two-year Diploma programme, which would also provide limited admission entry into the undergraduate programme on commencement, reports **Otiokor Samuel**.

Move on pg 3

### Side Bar

Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainable Development (INRES) organizes 2<sup>nd</sup> Niger Delta Conference on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 at Ebirimi Banjo Auditorium. Details next week -Editor



# UniPort Weekly

Vol. 18, No. 8

May 5 - May 12, 2014

ISSN: 1832-1841

**For Information and Enlightenment**

A Publication of the Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria



## Human Resource Dev Critical To Organizational Growth ~Ajienka

By Obilana Nwodin

**V**ice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, has stressed the need for improved human capacity in organizations to enhance service delivery. Professor Ajienka made the assertion while declaring open a three-day Workshop on "Gaining Competitive Edge through Strategic Human Resource Management", organized at the

University of Port Harcourt Business School (UPBS), last Wednesday.

"The greatest transformation we need is that of human beings, unless human beings are transformed, we cannot transform any organization. It is important because we need transformation for sustainable development," Professor Ajienka noted.

He stated that mentorship was important to enhance productivity of personnel,

which would impact positively on the achievement of the goals of the organization, adding that the UPBS was established to train students on how to become real businessmen.

Also speaking Director, UPBS, Professor Clifford Ofurum, who assured participants of maximum gains from the programme, said the School was aimed at empowering leaders for emerging

Cont'd on p6

**Kalango Lauds UniPort's Support For PH World Bank Capital Project**



Story on p2

**Student Union Plans Party For Freshers**



Story on p4

**Ochefe Stresses Importance Of Academic Mentoring In Universities**



Story on p5

**CMRAP Marks World Malaria Day**



Story on p6



Read UniPort Weekly Online at [www.uniport.edu.ng](http://www.uniport.edu.ng)

# Reflections On Igwe Achebe's Speech

Barely a week ago, a prominent traditional ruler in the country and Obi of Onitsha, Igwe Nnamaka Achebe, was in the University of Port Harcourt to chair the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Sylvanus Cooky.

In his address at the event, Igwe Achebe, who was also General Manager (East) of Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), emphasized the role of universities in the development of a country. According to him, no nation can develop without the right institutions in place. He was also quick to say that the alumni of any institution have a major role to play in its development.

To him, the university is the most fundamental institution in the development of a nation. Igwe Achebe said that the University of Port Harcourt was luckier than most universities in the country in that it had a very solid foundation laid by its founding fathers which is why it has made significant progress over the years.

Indeed for any university that worth its salt, must be financially independent. According to him, this is the challenge that ultimately defines the soundness, greatness, effectiveness of universities anywhere in the world. Name it, Harvard, Oxford, Stanford, Cambridge and so on. These institutions are self dependent in terms of funding and are worth several billions of dollars. In an era of competitiveness such as we have, there is no reason why Nigerian universities should not conform to the current global best practices by being financially self reliant. After forty years of existence, the University of Port Harcourt has mature enough to embark on financial

By Obinna Nwodin

drive that would be able to sustain it.

At 40, the University has produced the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Governors, Ministers, Bankers and Captains of Industry and professionals in various disciplines who are excelling in their various fields of endeavour. Tapping from its graduates to lay a proper financial standing for the University cannot be overemphasized. This is where the Governing Council must be applauded for setting up the University of Port Harcourt Foundation. The Foundation is aimed at raising funds through alumni and other stakeholders of the Institution. The Public-Private Partnership of the recent administration is visible as the authorities sign various pacts with agencies, both public and private aimed at improving infrastructure and academic activities.

This has given birth to a number of Professorial Chairs that have been endowed in the last three years. The speech reinforces the idea that government cannot do it alone and we must move from the era where the university system relies solely on government funds for its existence. Alumni, public-spirited individuals and the companies must be part of this drive to ensure that our universities are financially self-sustaining.

Given its strategic location in the hub of the oil and gas industry, the University of Port Harcourt should benefit from the goodwill of the multinational oil and gas companies. As a matter of fact, these companies ought to make substantial investments in the university so that research and the academic activities can flourish. It is in this regard that the N2

billion support by the Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas Company (NLNG) to six Federal universities is worthy of mention. A lot more needs to be done if we must seize the advantages provided by the universities for societal development to their fullest.



Igwe Achebe, Obi of Onitsha

## STUDENT WORLD

## Using Vegetables in Remediation Of Crude Oil-Contaminated Environment

Tackling crude oil-related environment pollution in the Niger Delta is the main concern of Aniefiok Okon in his research. A Master of Science student in the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Chemical Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences (CNAS), Okon is studying the remediation potentials of *Talinum triangulare* (Water Leaf) and *Vernonia Amygdalina* (Bitter Leaf). HUMPHREYOGU writes.

“Different strokes for different folks!” This dictum aptly describes the uses and importance of *Talinum triangulare* (Water Leaf) and *Vernonia Amygdalina* (Bitter Leaf). To an average Nigerian, the Water Leaf and Bitter Leaf are mere vegetables which we begin in the kitchen and end on the dining tables—mere ingredients for African delicacies. To pharmacologists and trade-medical practitioners, they are medicinal plants. To biochemists, they are much more than vegetables or seasoning agents. At least, that is what this research being carried out in the Department of Biochemistry suggests.

Okon, whose thesis is entitled: “Remediation of Crude Oil-Contaminated Agricultural Soil by *Talinum triangulare* and *Vernonia Amygdalina* and their Safety Evaluation”, disclosed that the objective of his research is to see the remediation potential of the two vegetables and evaluate their safety when consumed to ascertain if they would be harmful to human health after being used for remediation of contaminated environment, explaining that extracts from *Talinum triangulare* and *Vernonia Amygdalina* would be used to feed rats.

He noted that his research is still at an early stage—reviewing of related literature. Okon revealed that he is being supervised by Professor Bene Willie Abbey and Dr Eucharia Nwaichi, adding that “although some works have been done, using *Talinum triangulare* and *Vernonia Amygdalina* to check heavy metals extraction, but none has been extended to checking the extraction potentials of both leaves on polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (carcinogens), total petroleum hydrocarbons, their effects and probable genotoxic effects when consumed.”

Recalling that he had wanted to study medicine and qualify as medical doctor, Okon said: “My plan was to get a degree in Biochemistry and moved on to Medicine, but in the course of studying Biochemistry, I fell in love with the discipline. Now, I want to go into the academia. Immediately after my Masters, I hope to enroll for a PhD programme, while also hunting for a job. I believe in disseminating knowledge.”

Okon, who obtained a years, been well lecturer working professor Provost,

expressed hope to have PhD in the next ten said: “I shall have established as a and would be very hard to be a through quality listing Deputy College of Health Sciences, Professor O w u n a r i Georgewill, Professor

Eugene Onyeike, late Professor Augustine Uzoukwu and Dr Eucharia Nwaichi as some of his academic mentors. Okon, who obtained his Bachelor's degree from the School of Science and Laboratory Technology (SSLT), regretted that most people looked down at programmes of the school out of ignorance, expressing joy that Professor Anthony Ataga as Dean of SSLT changed the way people perceived the School.

“As graduates of the School, we have an edge over those who did not pass through SSLT. Apart from our degree certificates, we were certified to establish, run and work in science and research laboratories. Today, most of us have been employed, others are either running or have completed their Master's degree,” he said, advising younger colleagues to work hard, and avoid being intimidated.

“I belong to the group of graduates that are proud of SSLT and SSLT is proud of. If I have another opportunity, I will still go for Biochemistry/Chemistry Technology in SSLT,” he asserted, noting that the main challenge he has in his research is funding because it entails several analysis.



Okon

## EDITORIAL BOARD

Prof Joseph Ajienka	- Publisher
Prof Eme Ekekwu	- Editorial Chair
Austen Sado	- Editorial Adviser
Williams Wodi	- Editor
Obinna Nwodin	- Acting Editor
Correspondents	Secretaries
Mary Adeniji	Geleji Anadi (Ike)
Othor Samuel	Geahla
Humphrey Ogu	Chika Ilog-James (Mrs)
Chika Ilog-James	Photography
	Headman Ali
	Mitchell Ekyor

Call: 08033093371

Cont'd from p1



Registrar, Mrs. Nnodim

## Law Faculty Commences Sale Of Forms

Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim, who signed the memo announcing the new programme which was obtained by *UniPort Weekly* penultimate week, disclosed that the Diploma programme would run for two academic sessions divided into two semesters for each academic year.

"The Diploma in Law programme is designed to provide a limited mode of entry into the Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) programme of the University of Port Harcourt in the future. Moreover, it may also serve as a qualification for entry into the LL.B programme of other universities, as well as Social Sciences and Humanities programmes of some Nigerian universities," Mrs. Nnodim said, disclosing further that the programme would be domiciled in the College of Continuing Education

(CCE) and run in collaboration with other relevant Faculties of the University.

According to the memo, sale of application form which is obtainable on payment of N10,000 in any of UniPort-Choba Micro-Finance Bank, United Bank for Africa (UBA), First Bank Plc and Fidelity Bank Plc, would close on Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 giving way for Computer-Based screening exercise. Interested applicants with Ordinary Level Credit passes in four subjects including English Language are advised to contact any of the phone numbers below: 08146701346, 08133985579 on week days or send e-mail to [ccesupport@uniport.edu.ng](mailto:ccesupport@uniport.edu.ng)

## Kalango Lauds UniPort's Support For PH World Book Capital Project

**W**ith the UNESCO World Book Capital taking off in Port Harcourt, the University of Port Harcourt has been praised for its support and partnership in ensuring that the programme is a success.

Project Director of the event and Founder, Rainbow Book Club, Mrs. Koko Kalango, made the remarks when she paid a visit to the University in company of a distinguished scholar of Comparative Literature from the Indiana University, Professor Natasha Vaubel, last Monday.

Mrs. Kalango said that the "University has been a valued partner right from when we started. As a matter of fact, the 2008 edition of the Port Harcourt Literary Festival held in the University and I must say that the University has taken over the ownership of not only the Port Harcourt Literary Festival, but the World Book Capital project and that it is the way it should be," stressing that at the end of the event it is expected that a more vibrant populace will take reading as culture.

According to her, the project was aimed at establishing a strong base for a growing reading culture, noting that "we will set up about 200 reading clubs and after this year, we expect a multiplication in the number of reading clubs, first in Rivers State and later spread to other parts of the country," Mrs. Kalango stated. She

By Obinna Nwodin

revealed that in the next few years there would be franchise Rainbow Book Clubs all over the country, expressing hope that that would be efforts to trigger more initiatives so that it would become sustainable.

In her contribution, Professor Vaubel, said that the project would impact tremendously on the reading culture in Nigeria, particularly in the University. "It can impact on the University.

People look forward to the University as a centre of learning and you learn through reading. The level of success will depend on how the students and Faculty members take this," the Scholar said, adding that it will improve living standard as education is the tool to change people's lives.

Mrs. Kalango and Professor Vaubel also praised the quality of the 3<sup>rd</sup> UniPort Book Fair and the Arts Exhibition at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, noting that the organization was impressive and strategic for the benefit of both staff and students.



V-C, Prof. Ajenka, Mrs. Kalango and Prof. Vaubel

## Anatomical Society Elects Fawehinmi National President

By Otokor Samuel

**I**mmediate past Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, has been elected National President, Society of Experimental and Clinical Anatomists of Nigeria (SECAN) at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference of SECAN held at the Enugu Campus of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, between Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2014.

Professor Fawehinmi in a letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2014 and addressed to the Editor of *UniPort Weekly*, disclosed that "SECAN is the umbrella body of all Anatomists in the Departments of Anatomy in the various Colleges of Health Sciences and Veterinary Medicine in Nigeria", revealing that its membership cuts across Anatomists and allied

Medical and Biomedical Sciences.

Fawehinmi, who had held various positions in SECAN including Assistant Secretary-General (2003 to 2006), Secretary-General (2006 to 2010) and Vice-President (2010 to 2014), said his election and swearing-in with that of other Council Members were climax of the Annual General Meeting.

"Please also recall that I was conferred with the Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland (FRAI) in 2004, won the Distinguished Educational Leadership Award as Fellow, Institute of Industrial Administration of Nigeria (IIAN) in 2008 and Fellow of the Anatomical Society of Nigeria (FASN) in 2011. I was a member of the National Executive Council of the Nigerian Medical Association in 1999," the Letter read in part. Professor Fawehinmi promised to continue to give of his best services to the University, agencies relevant to his profession and humanity in general.



Prof. Fawehinmi

# Between Conclusion Of Exam And Graduation



Picture showing final Year Students jubilating at the end of final exam

**H**urray! That long tortuous journey has ended at last! These seem to be the unspoken words on the minds of many Final Year students on conclusion their second semester and probably final examination in Nigerian Universities these days. University of Port Harcourt is not immune to what is now becoming a culture: Conclusion of second semester examination by Final Year students in the University has, in recent times, been marked with jamborees.

Affected students could be seen sporting customised T-shirt with funny inscriptions announcing their new status as graduates while they celebrate the end of their examination with pageantry as though they have actually graduated. "I made it, at last", "I'm now a graduate", "It's all over" are some of the inscriptions on the customised T-shirt.

Quite understandably, it is difficult to secure admission to universities in Nigeria these days. Even when one secures admission, graduation date is steeped in uncertainties, due to incessant industrial actions that often truncate academic calendars. Many Nigerian who could afford it, go to Europe, America, Asia and even some African countries, including Ghana to acquire

university education. Agreed, acquiring university education is quite a journey with many hurdles along the way. Completion of a university programme in Nigeria therefore calls for celebrations, given the hurdles one needs to scale to complete the programmes. But the large scale jamboree one sees on campus each time Final Year students finish examination is uncalled for.

The truth is that majority of the students involved in this pomp are yet to conclude their project works, which is a fundamental requirement for graduation from the University. Worse still, some of the students are not even sure of passing all the required courses taken in the examination, whose end they mark with pomp. As such, completion of second semester examination does not exactly translate to graduation. It is only when one has passed all required examinations and completed one's research project that one can be seen as a graduate.

Even more disturbing is the manner the students go about the celebrations. Ordinarily, one would expect students who had spent a couple of years in the

University to exhibit some form of maturity. But judging from the actions of the students in question, that has not been the case: one is greeted with students who throw sachets of water on their colleagues, littering every nook and cranny of the University campus. What a shame!

Others buy wine and other brands of liquors and pour libation to the gods that made it possible for them to conclude their examinations, which to them is synonymous with completion of the programme. Others still, use paints, oil or whatever fluid they could lay their hands on to besmear the clothes of their colleagues. It is so bad that a First Year female student had the audacity of fetching algae-infested water from a nearby drainage to pour on a Final Year student.

That's not all. Apart from soiling the clothes of the Final Year students, others hire cars and drive round the campus with music blaring at their loudest possible volume. A student was reported to have bashed a very expensive car belonging to a lecturer in one of those moments of madness. Sanity dictates that a student, who successfully completes his university education should make extra effort to safeguard his or her life and those people around him, but the reverse seem to be the case going by the way some of these students drive as if they are engaged in motorsports or suicide mission. These students, needless to say, do some of those obnoxious acts under the influence of alcohol. Leaders of tomorrow, what manner of leaders?

Throwing caution to the wind in a week the world is marking World Safety Day leaves so much to be desired! Those who really deserve the sobriquet: future leaders should know more than endangering their lives and those of others. They should know more than littering their environment. Anyone who deserved to be called a graduate should exhibit some form of finesse in his or her actions.

Graduating students for what they are worth should not be a crop of irresponsible persons. The university authorities need to swing into action and proscribe such show of madness. That way, outgoing students would be better oriented and prepared as responsible citizens. Students should reserve their celebration for their day of convocation ceremony.

The madness of tearing students' clothes, breaking their pen which signals an end to academic engagement, littering the campus with sachets of water, drunk-driving, in the name of celebrating graduation before the real graduation are obnoxious acts that must end. The madness must stop!

## Student Union Plans Party For Freshers

and safe environment for academic activities to thrive.

By Otokor Samuel

**A**s a way of fully incorporating Year One students into the academic community, the Executive Committee the Student Union has planned a Welcome Party and Orientation this month. The EXCO would also organize a Farewell Party for outgoing Final Year students which would feature presentation of awards to deserving students.

The new President of the Union, Felix Nwizua, dropped the hint in a chat with our Correspondent at the Newsroom, IPPR Unit, Senate Building, last Wednesday, disclosing further that the proposed parties would hold separately this month.

Speaking on his vision for the Union, Nwizua said "the Executive Committee has been working in concert with the security personnel to protect students both within and outside Campus, as well as enhance academic and social events," revealing that members of his EXCO are seriously playing their roles in line their electioneering promises. He disclosed that the Director of Socials, for

instance, has been negotiating with food vendors and other business people on Campus to reduce prices of commodities and services.

"We are not coming to fight Management of the University, but to protect the interest of students. We expect maximum cooperation from Management to enable us achieve our set goals. We will be ready to resolve our differences through dialogue,"

Nwizua said, pledging support of the Student Union for authorities of the University.

On urgent needs of the students, the President called on the relevant authorities to kick-start the process of building the student centre and renovate hostels, appealing to his fellow students to support his team to enable the Union realize the goal of providing conducive



Nwizua, Student Union President

**V**ice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, has again stressed the need for both staff and students to expose themselves to a wide range of information and knowledge in books for intellectual growth of the individual and university system.

Professor Ajienka, who made the remarks at the opening ceremony of the third annual Book Fair/Exhibition held at the foyer of Donald Ekong Library last Monday, pointed out that books are essential tools in any university system around the world, stating that "the quality of an individual is a reflection of the books he has read." He called on the University Community and visitors, who participated in the Book Fair to ensure that they buy at least a book as Port Harcourt holds the title of World Book Capital City for the next one year.

"We are a university, a very important university and as a university we cannot do away with books, because without books, we cannot be a university," the Vice-Chancellor said, advising Library Staff to put in viable measures to sustain the annual event.

The Vice-Chancellor, who appealed to every member of the University to imbibe the culture of reading wide to expose themselves in happenings around the world, praised participants, including publishers and vendors for making the Fair a success.

In her address, University Librarian, Dr Obiagili Nwodo, who recalled that the idea of Book Fair was first mooted during a Management Meeting to discuss means of getting a range of books to secure accreditation of the National Universities Commission (NUC), disclosed that the maiden edition took place between 31<sup>st</sup> January and 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2011 with over 16 publishers and book vendors, while the second Book Fair held from 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2013 with over 20 publishers and vendors in attendance.

"We are aware that close to 30 publishers/vendors will be in attendance, they have promised to give you a bargain for your money. We are especially grateful to the publishers and vendors here present particularly, those that have kept faith with us over the past three years. It has been a very fruitful symbiotic relationship that has enriched both sides. We pray that God will continue to strengthen this relationship for our mutual benefit in the years ahead," she stated.

Dr Nwodo further commended the Vice-Chancellor,

## Buy Books To Improve Yourself, V-C Tells Varsity Community



5<sup>th</sup> V-C, Emeritus Prof Nini Briggs (1<sup>st</sup> right) cutting the tape to declare open the Book Fair, while V-C, Prof Ajienka, Registrar, Mrs Maaila Nwodin, Univ. Librarian, Dr Nwodo (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> left) watch on

academic library to embrace e-library.

A major highlight of the opening ceremony of the Book Fair was Art Exhibition of paintings, ceramics, sculptures, textiles and installations by staff and students of the Department of Fine Art and Design in the Faculty of Humanities.

### By Otiakor Samuel

Professor Ajienka, for his support to Library development and the Book Fair Committee, as well as all Library Staff for painstakingly organizing the Fair, pointing out that their team spirit has contributed in transforming the UniPort Library as the first Federal

## Ochefu Stresses Importance Of Mentoring In Universities

By Mercy Adeniji and Friday Marcus

**V**ice-Chancellor, Kwara State University, Wukari, Taraba State, Professor Yakubu Ochefu, has emphasized the essence of academic mentoring in the country's

Higher Education in the era of Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) among staff and students of the university in order to maximize their professional potentials.

Professor Ochefu made the observation at a Lecture to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration of the second Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt,

Professor Sylvanus Cooksey, at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, penultimate Friday.

Citing Wang and Metro's definition of academic mentoring, Professor Ochefu described it "as a process of helping and supporting people, students or teachers, to manage their own learning in order to maximize their professional potential, develop their skills, improve their performance and become the person they want to be". He added that academic mentoring serves to provide career advice, as well as both professional and personal enrichment to prospective academics.

The Guest Lecturer disclosed that academic mentoring is an integral part of tradition and culture of training people. Mentoring involves selection of brilliant students at undergraduate level, putting them in postgraduate and teaching assistant programme, as these

students overtime mature to become masters in their field and continue the cycle by taking a new generation of people.

According to him, academic mentoring helps mentees and mentors to improve particular career areas and explore their potential in development areas yet untapped, as well as acquaint them with skills and understanding

of a subject matter.

He noted that the association between academic mentoring and the career development of students is made possible because teachers provide two broad categories of functions: career development and psychological function. "Career development functions can be described as mentor activities which facilitate protégé advancement in an organisation, while psychological functions are those which address the interpersonal and emotional aspects of the relationship," he stated.

The Guest Lecturer said that psychological functions comprises of role modelling, friendship, counselling and acceptance. These functions enhance a protégé's identity, work role effectiveness, career advancement, self-confidence and address other interpersonal concerns of the relationship, stating that the pursuit of development by young scholars in Nigeria academic terrain is not without challenges, fears and anxieties.

Professor Ochefu, who defined Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) as an online course aimed at unlimited participation and open access via the World Wide Web, said "MOOC is one of the biggest disruptive innovations in higher education in the past 100 years which epitomizes our digital ages and its transformative impact. In addition to traditional course materials such as videos, readings and problem sets MOOC's provide interactive user forums that help build community for students, professor and teaching assistants," disclosing that it is possible to have online mentoring of academic staff, with affordable internet cheap connecting devices and user friendly platform.



Prof Ochefu, V-C  
Kwara State University, Wukari, Taraba State

## Human Resource Dev Critical To Growth ~Ajiienka

Cont'd from p1

challenges in contemporary society.

In a Keynote Address, Registrar of the University, Mrs Matilda Naoim, who enumerated the roles of the Human Resource Department in the growth of any organization stated that "the Human Resource Department contributes to the organization by analyzing and recommending policies and procedures and developing systems and models which contribute

to the effective hiring, developing and utilization of the Human Resources."

She identified planning, job analysis, recruitment, selection, orientation, compensation, training and development, performance appraisal, encouragement of appropriate and desired behaviours as major elements of strategic human resource management.

Mrs Naoim, who observed that the idea of gaining competitive edge with strategic human

resources management is not new, said that "the quest for talent continues to grow as more organizations realize that investment in human capital resources yield positive performance for a lot of organizations."

The Workshop, which was targeted at middle and senior level personnel managers in both public and private organizations, featured eminent resources persons including the distinguished Professor of Thinking, Williams Maxwell.

*Leadership, Mentoring and Coaching; New Perspectives in Human Resource Management Using the Balance Score Card; Management Communication; The Role of Strategic Use of Computer Informatics in Doubling Productivity Gains in Human Resources Management; Critical Thinking as an Essential Tool for Creating Comparative Advantage; Negotiation and Supervisory in a Competitive Environment*, were some of the lectures presented at the Workshop, which ended with award of prizes and presentation of certificates.



V-C, Prof Ajiienka (arrowed) flanked by Director, UPBS, Prof Oforunwa, Prof Maxwell (right), Registrar, Mrs Naoim (4th right in second row) and participants

As part of the 2014 World Malaria Day (WMD) experts and stakeholders in the health sector gathered together penultimate Friday, at the Ebifidi Banjo Auditorium, to deliberate on possible ways of fighting and defeating malaria, in the country. Briefing *ExPort Weekly*, at her office last Monday, Director, Centre for Malaria Research and Phytochemistry (CMRAP), Professor Onyiah Ebong, observed that malaria is preventable and curable, stating that significant progress has been made to fight the scourge.

"There has been a lot of improvement in malaria cases all over the world and Nigeria carries the highest burden among the endemic countries and so to fight this disease, we need to increase our own intervention strategies by giving out the treated mosquito nets, do regular diagnosis and try to fight the malarial of false and ineffective drugs, which are in the market and take care of the pregnant women and their babies and if this is done, there would be significant reduction of malaria in the country," she said.

According to Professor Ebong, "one of the problems we have now is drug and parasite resistance and if people use insecticide. Treated bed nets, keep their environment clean, do indoor residual spraying to protect their families from mosquitoes, there would be a great leap forward in reducing cases of malaria". She revealed that "in 2012, World Health Organization (WHO), launched the Test, Treat and Track (3T) initiative, so that there would be accurate diagnosis of malaria then after treating, there is need for high quality effective drug to be given, because we have the Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy, these are the first line drugs that have been approved by the WHO. They are called the ACTs and these are the high quality effective drugs that are needed."

There is also the need for pregnant women to be treated with intermittent preventive therapy to protect them and their unborn babies from malaria. It is also very important that pregnant women look after themselves in pregnancy. It has been discovered that 11 per cent of pregnant women die of malaria, so it is advisable that people use the insecticide treated net and ensure they hang the net properly over the bed, on windows or doorways", she added, stressing that it is also advisable to air the net for 24 hours in a shady area before using the net.

Speaking on the activities of the Centre, Professor Ebong said that "We are collaborating with different communities and organisations in the community in enlightenment campaign, telling people what they

should do to reduce the spread of mosquitoes and we are working hard on that. We have also gone to a few communities; we have worked with women and youth organisations to educate them on the cause of malaria which is transmitted from by mosquito bites and their parasite."

She revealed that the Centre is into collaboration with the Late Briggs Health Centre, Pax Herbal Clinic, Ewu, Edo State, Rivers State Ministry of Health, The Biotechnology Centre, University of Yaoundé, Cameroon, Kenya Medical Research Institute, Kenya and Rotary Club of Choba, UniPort in the fight against malaria.

Professor Ebong, who said the Centre is also working with University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), to carry out drug efficacy studies, added that "we want to know the efficacy of different anti-malaria drugs that we have in the market and compare their efficacy to know which one is working on our people, or if we have any form of resistance of these drugs and what is the level of this resistance in our communities."

She also disclosed that "the Centre is also studying medicinal plants of malaria and to authenticate claims made by people that these plants, Lemon and a d

Mango, Geava, Pawpaw, Bitter leaf, lime, broom weed, mahogany, among others", she said, adding that the Centre is also collaborating with Pax Herbal and has come up with an anti-malaria tea, and studies have shown the efficacy of the tea and we have tried to compare this tea to standard drugs we have in the market."

In his contribution, former Assistant Director of the Centre and a Professor of Haematology, Professor Chijioke Nwaeche, added that "there are different aspects of malaria control because in the past for you to treat we used different methods but now, most of these things are changing, so there is need to test the test, treat and track. It is important to know what are the different types of plasmodium in the environment and the Niger Delta, then look at the different molecular varieties that are available, because it is this mutation that cause resistance to either plasmodium or the drug."

He noted that for now there has been a resistance in chloroquine resistance and since 2005, there has been a change on the use of these drugs to ACT drugs such as: Lomeart, Coartem, among others, so we are carrying out this research to monitor the effectiveness of these drugs to people in the Niger Delta region and ensure there is no resistance."

He added that from all the research carried out, they also found out that a particular drug given to pregnant mothers to prevent malaria had no resistance as it worked well on the mothers and their unborn babies which is the *Parasider-K-SAFE Suphadoxin Pyrimethamine*. We also found out that there was a 2 per cent plasmodium Ovale.

They both stressed the need for Management to assist the centre with more funds, a Molecular Research building, a Laboratory, and also upgrade the malaria laboratory.



Prof Ebong



Prof Nwaeche

## CMRAP Marks World Malaria Day

By Mercy Adeniji

## GUIDEPOST

## APPOINTMENT

**Professor E.O. Nwachukwu**, Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, Faculty of Biological Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, appointed *Head of Department*, effective 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 to 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2016.

**Professor Lucky Odokame**, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Biological Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, appointed *Head of Department*, effective 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 to 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2016.

**Professor Florence Ndaka**, Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Faculty of Biological Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, appointed *Head of Department*, effective 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 to 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2016.

**Professor Matthew Nwagwu**, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Chemical Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, appointed *Head of Department*, effective 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 to 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2016.

**Dr Gloria Obazue**, Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Chemical Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of Department*, effective 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 to 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2016.

**Dr Nye Tom-Ekine**, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, appointed *Assistant Director, Benue State Institute for International Trade and Development*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect will terminate on 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2016.

## TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT

**Dr Patrick Ekeke**, offered *Temporary Appointment* as Lecturer II in the Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, effective on assumption of duty.

**Ms Deborah Owasah**, offered *Temporary Appointment* as Lecturer II in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Management, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, effective on assumption of duty.

**Miss Cynthia Ofoh**, offered *Temporary Appointment* as Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Pharmaceutics and Pharmaceutical Technology, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, effective on assumption of duty.

## RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

**Professor J.M. Adonyi**, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, granted a two-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2014 to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2016.

**Dr Christopher Hekeren**, Department of Preventive Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, granted a one-year *Renewal of Adjunct Appointment*, effective 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2014 to 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2015.

**Dr Christopher Udoe**, Department of Restorative Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, granted a one-year *Renewal of Visiting Appointment*, effective 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2014 to 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2015.

## STUDY LEAVE

**Mr Ademola Babesun**, Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Process and Energy Systems Engineering, College of Engineering, granted a three-year *Study Leave with Pay* to enable him pursue a Doctoral programme at the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), Johor Bahru, Malaysia, effective 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2014 to 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2017.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT  
WEATHER OBSERVATORY

## FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 27-SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2014

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI (°C)	TEMPERATURE LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SET (mm - gms)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 24 May, 2014	32.8	25.0	71	E	6.4	6:28 - 6:30	Scattered thunder storm expected. Mostly cloudy and warm day forecast.
MONDAY, 25 May, 2014	31.8	25.0	76	NE	8.1	6:28 - 6:38	Isolated thunder storm expected. Mostly cloudy day anticipated.
TUESDAY, 26 May, 2014	33.8	25.0	77	NE	7.0	6:30 - 6:41	A few thunder storms expected mostly cloudy and warm day expected.
WEDNESDAY 27 May, 2014	34.8	25.0	80	N	5.3	6:30 - 6:41	Widely scattered thunder storms. Mostly cloudy and warm day expected.
THURSDAY, 28 May, 2014	31.8	25.0	58	N	8.2	6:19 - 6:38	Widely scattered thunder storms. Mostly sunny and warm day expected.
FRIDAY, 29 May, 2014	31.8	24.0	61	NE	8.4	6:28 - 6:37	A few thunder storms expected. Mostly cloudy and hot day expected.
SATURDAY 30 May, 2014	33.8	25.0	56	NE	18.5	6:19 - 6:38	Thunder storms expected early in the day mostly cloudy and warm day predicted.

DR GLADYS EMEKE  
OFFICER IN CHARGE

PROF SAMUEL ABOKUYI  
DIRECTOR, (ICRDMIS)

## BRIEFS FROM OTHER VARSITIES

## LAUTECH V-C SUES FOR PEACE

**V**ice-Chancellor, Ladokun Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso, Professor Adeniji Gbadegesin, has solicited for peaceful co-existence among staff and students of the Institution to enable his administration successfully deliver its lofty dreams. The Vice-Chancellor, who made the call at the Institution's Convocation penultimate Friday, said the cooperation of the University Community was instrumental to the achievements recorded so far in the University.

## OAU ELECTS STUDENT UNION LEADERS

**O**bafemi Awolowo University, Ife, has elected students leaders for the new academic session. It is headed by Isaac Ibiokunle and Grace Oladejo as President and Vice-President, respectively. Others are:

## SERVICOM CORNER

## A Call to Service

**KEN:** Excuse me, madam.

**JOY:** Don't you see that I'm eating?

**KEN:** When I came in you were busy on the phone, you spent ten minutes; now it's food. Please attend to me; I need to see the doctor by two o'clock, and the time now is 1:58.

**JOY:** Well, I'm not holding you, or am I?

**KEN:** My file number is 12, and should be in that cabinet. It won't take you a minute, and if you can't, let your assistant get it for me.

**JOY:** Aha! You're teaching me how to do my job? Now leave this office, and never come back.

**HAVE YOU BEEN TREATED LIKE KEN BEFORE?**  
Remember: You Have the Right to Be Served Right!

Send your complaint to:  
SERVICOM Unit, Office of the Vice Chancellor  
or [servicom@uniport.edu.ng](mailto:servicom@uniport.edu.ng)



Nyesom Wike  
Supervising Minister of Education

Olatayo Shittu (Secretary-General), Louis Awode (Assistant Secretary-General), Omolayo Awowemi (Financial Secretary), Oludare Bamidele (Public Relations Officer), Adewale Adesina (Director of Socials and Culture), Damilola Oludayo (Director of Sports) and Martins Ajewole (Welfare Secretary).

ABU REPORTS  
BREAKTHROUGH IN  
PETROL REFINING  
RESEARCH

**A**hmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, Kaduna State, has recorded a breakthrough in the refining of heavy crude using locally-sourced raw materials. Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Abdullahi Mustapha was quoted by the Head and External Relations of the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF), Kulu Otisi as saying that the feat was the

outcome of a four-year intensive research on the production of zeolite catalyst using clay by a team of researchers led by Professor Abdulkarim Ahmed, who is the Chair Occupant of PTDF in Chemical Engineering in the University.

UNN ALUMNI KICK-OFF COLLEGE  
OF MEDICINE BUILDING

**U**niversity of Nigeria, Nsukka College of Medicine Alumni (UNNCOMAA), has commented the process of building a new edifice as College of Medicine building, National President of UNNCOMAA, Dr Okwesilieze Nwodo, who made the disclosure, said the proposed project which is estimated to cost N6b would be equipped with modern facilities and completed in 2019.

## World Theatre Day 2014

**D**epartment of Theatre and Film Studies joined their counterparts across the world to mark World Theatre Day on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2014. Highlights of the event as captured by our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU** are displayed below.



At Risk, Theatre and Film Studies, Dr. Jelle Umukoro and Dr. Friday Nkomo, reading the message of World Theatre Day, 2014



Prof. Matthew Umukoro delivering a Lecture



Prof. Okeke-Nwagwu, Dean of Humanities, Prof. Okeke-Nwagwu, Dean of Humanities, Prof. Okeke-Nwagwu, Dean of Humanities



Prof. Okeke-Nwagwu, Dean of Humanities, Prof. Okeke-Nwagwu, Dean of Humanities, Prof. Okeke-Nwagwu, Dean of Humanities



Prof. Nkomo displaying a N 200,000 cheque presented by the family of Late Annette Boudle



A cross section of guests being thrilled by students



Theatre Arts dance troupe performing

## RAAZY CONCEPTS

### Easter Bonanza!!!

Easter Discount is still on till Sunday, 11th May, 2014  
rush now!!!

**Making, Sales & Supplies of:**

- Native wears
- English wears
- Ankara bags, Shoes, bangles etc.
- Monogramming
- Uniform
- Shoes
- Beads & wire work
- Beats etc.

## Featuring Fashion Future

RC: 126810

**RAAZY CONCEPTS**

**First Floor, Chibesa Shopping Complex, Besides Sammies, 204 Uniport Road, Choba. Branch: 15, Alogu rd, Alakahia, TOWN HALL**

**Tel: 084302376, 08039383265 07087094444, 07041215826**

**www.raazyconcepts.com email: raazyconcepts@yahoo.com**