



## UniPort Re-Opens After Long Vacation

**F**ollowing the suspension of the marginal increase in charges by the University which triggered protests by students and subsequent extension of the Long Vacation, authorities of the University of Port Harcourt have announced the resumption of academic activities for returning students for the 2013/2014 Academic Session, reports *Obinna Nwodin*.

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## Side Bar

Prof Christy Mabo of the Department of Anaesthesiology, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, presents the 10<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Lecture this Thursday. Details next week. -Editor



# UniPort Weekly

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It's Projects Harvest On Ajenka's Watch

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## UniPort Joins NgREN Network, As Jonathan Launches Scheme

By Obinna Nwodin

**B**arely two months after the University hosted the Port Harcourt Cluster Workshop of the Nigeria Research and Education Network (NgREN), the prized facility has become fully operational with its launch penultimate Thursday, in Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory, by the President, Dr Goodluck Jonathan. Represented by the Supervising Minister for Education, Chief Ezeibunwo Nyesom-Wike, President Jonathan reiterated the resolve of his administration to transform the Education sector. He said that the initiative was aimed at boosting research and intellectual cooperation among universities in the country, hoping that participating universities would make the best use of the opportunity afforded by the important project.

The University participated in the NgREN project at the commissioning via live video conferencing at the Conference Room of the Information and Communication Technology Centre (ICTC).

Confirming the functionality of the facility

while speaking to Supervising Minister, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, who is the project

Focal Officer for UniPort, commended the President, the Federal Ministry of Education and the National Universities Commission (NUC) for the initiative, appealing that the project be sustained to meet the objective for which it was set up.

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Prof Julius Okojie, NUC Scribe



Prof Joe, DV-C, Academic



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# Security Council C'ttee Visits KELGA Chairman, New DPO

By Otokor Samuel and Nneka Onyeukwu

In continuation of its consultations with relevant stakeholders on security of staff and students in and outside the Campus, the Governing Council Security Committee visited the Chairman, Caretaker Committee of Ikwere Local Government Area, Mr. Chibuike Ikenga and the new Divisional Police Officer, Mr. Omalu Gabriel, at Isiooko, Headquarters of the Council, penultimate Thursday.

Speaking during the visit, Chairman, Council Security Committee, Professor Regina Ogali, who briefed the CTC Chairman on steps taken so far to strengthen security network for staff and students on Campus and in the University's neighbourhood, stressed the need for the Local Government Council to contribute towards securing lives and property of residents in the area, explaining that the University had secured approval of the Rivers State Police Command to establish a Divisional Police Headquarters in Aluu Clan to oversee security matters in the area.

"We deal with young people as students and it is our responsibility to ensure that they go back home safe after their studies. The unfortunate incident in Aluu in which four students of the University lost their lives, put us in a very bad light and we are putting in place every necessary measure to forestall recurrence of such ugly incident, and you know that quite a number of our staff and students live in your jurisdiction," Professor Ogali said, adding that the presence of a Police Division in close proximity to the University, would reduce crime rate in the environment and ensure adequate security of staff, students and the Aluu Clan. She congratulated the Chairman on his new appointment, hoping that it would herald a new institutional relationship between the University and the Council.

Responding, Chairman of the Caretaker Committee, Mr. Ikenga, who is a Doctoral Candidate in the Faculty of Social Sciences, commended the efforts of the University in ensuring adequate security within the Institution and its neighbourhood. He apologised to the



Chairman, Council Security C'ttee, Prof Ogali (arrowed), Chairman, Caretaker C'ttee of KELGA, Mr Ikenga (left), other Senior Officers of the University and KELGA Council Officers

University on the infamous Aluu 4 incident, stressing that "the crisis was not a good representation of what the Ikwere people are," blaming it on faceless elements who live in the area. Mr Ikenga promised that the Council would partner the University and Aluu Clan to ensure adequate security of lives and property.

Also speaking, the new Divisional Police Officer, Isiooko Headquarters, Mr. Gabriel, promised to replicate his effort at his former place of posting to combat crime in the Local Government Area, stating that his mission "is to prevent crime from happening, rather than investigating crime after they must have happened."

The DPO promised to work closely with the University to strengthen security matters in and around the Institution. He added that one of the security measures he took on assumption of office was the deployment of

patrol vehicles in the Aluu axis to safeguard lives and property.

The Superintendent of Police presented flyers containing emergency numbers that could be used by the University Community, lamenting that one of his major operational limitations was inadequate patrol vehicles to expand surveillance to remote areas where crime may be thriving.

Other members of the delegation were: Professors Anthony Ike, Owanari George (Council Members); Dean, Student Affairs Department, Professor Henry Bell-Gam; Director, Council Affairs, Mr Roland Wabali; Chief Security Officer, Lt Col Reginald Isiguzo (rtd) and his deputy, Mr Johnny Ogbunanya and two Council staff.

In a recognition of his meritorious services to the University, staff and students of the Department of Human Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, organized an elaborate send-forth party in honour of Professor Amadi Ihunwo of the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa, who recently concluded a one-year Sabbatical Leave with the Department.

Speaking penultimate Thursday at the event which held at the Histology Laboratory, former Provost of the College, Professor Blessing Didia, described Professor Ihunwo as a good ambassador of the University of Port Harcourt since graduation in 1984. While commending him for his selfless service to the Department during his one-year stay, Professor Didia stressed the need to produce worthy successors for sustainability of the system.

"Your job with the Department of Anatomy is not

## Encomiums Trail End Of Ihunwo's Sabbatical in Anatomy Dept

By Ethel Timi-Johnson & Nneka Onyeukwu

complete until you produce successors that would fill the gap you are leaving behind and I believe that you have all it takes to achieve this task," the former Provost said, while pledging with the departing Dean to continue with his postgraduate supervision and mentorship in the Department even as he exits the University.

In their separate speeches, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Iyoppe Siminiakyl

and Acting Head of Department, Dr Jay Otiota, who thanked Professor Ihunwo for his enormous contributions to the growth and development of the Department noted that his presence attracted travel grants for staff and a Department of Anatomy building for the Faculty.

"Professor Ihunwo was truly on sabbatical in this University, as he demonstrated integrity, humility and a clear mastery of his specialization", the duo said, commending him for adding value to the Department.

Spokesperson for Doctoral Candidates under the supervision of Professor Ihunwo, Sunny Okosolomika, thanked him for organizing research training opportunities for them at the University of Ibadan and a workshop in Kinshasa, Congo. He described him as an instructor, role model and mentor to the students, who would be sorely missed.

Responding, an elated Professor Ihunwo, who expressed joy at the reception, accorded him by the Department, promised continued support for staff development for both teaching and non-teaching staff from his base in South Africa. He noted that the Sabbatical provided him an opportunity to give back to his Alma-Mater and the Department. "I am proud to be part of UniPort and I have placed my full solidity on this ground", he said, pledging more support and commitment to the Department and Faculty.

Associate Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Alaba Udoaka and former Dean of the Faculty, Professor Hakem Fawehinmi, staff and students of the Department delivered good-will messages at the event, enjoining the rare qualities of Professor Ihunwo, who has since returned to his base.

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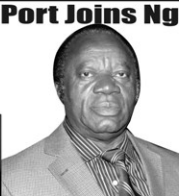
Visiting Prof Ihunwo (arrowed) flanked by Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Prof Siminiakyl (left), Ag HeB, Anatomy, Dr Otiota (right), former Provost, CHS, Prof Didia and immediate past Dean of the Faculty, Prof Fawehinmi (1st left and right) and other staff

# UniPort Joins NgREN Network

Cont'd from p1



Nyesom Wike, Minister of State for Education



Prof Ibe, Director, ICTC

It would be recalled that the Nigerian Research and Education Network collaborated with the Association of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities (AVCNU) to sensitize stakeholders which comprised Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Directors of Academic Planning, Directors of Information and Communication Technology, as well as Directors of Research on the possibilities and opportunities that the Research and Education Network (REN) presents, with the hope that the universities would forge a common front to properly utilize the Network.

With the latest development, University of Port Harcourt has joined 121 other universities connected to the facility that would enhance cross-fertilization of knowledge for improved research and learning.

## UniPort Re-Opens After Long Vacation

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Students returned to the Campus on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2014, while academic activities and registration commenced on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

A statement signed on behalf of the Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodin, by the Director of Council Affairs, Mr Roland Wabali, indicated that the decision to reopen the University for normal academic activities, was taken at the 335<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee of Provisos and Deans held on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2014, advising all returning students to adhere strictly to the new resumption time-table as directed to achieve a successful academic session.

It would be recalled that marginal increase in statutory charges led to protests by students, who were joined by some faceless elements masquerading as stakeholders in the affairs of the University. The demonstrations forced authorities of the University to extend the Long

Vacation.

After series of meetings with the students, which are still ongoing, Management had stated that the reopening of the University for the 2014/2015 Academic Session was dependent on when the students would come to terms with the new regime of paying only statutory charges through the Bursary Department and non-salutatory charges through the various Departments, Faculties and Colleges. Irked by the decision, the students took to the media to discredit the University by feeding the public with falsehood about the percentage of the now suspended charges.

While majority of the students were ready to pay the new marginal charge of N5, 000.00, a vocal minority had since painted the story as it suited their perception of events.



Prof Joe, DV-C, (Academic)

In a bid to encourage excellence and commitment to work, the University of Port Harcourt Branch of the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities, (SSANU), has rewarded three of its members, Dr Paul Akande, Mrs. Asuley Akande and Mrs. Oluremi Adeyemo for their dedication to duty and outstanding service rendered in their various offices.

Speaking at the send-forth party held in honour of the retirees at the Senior Staff Club penultimate Wednesday, Branch Chairman, Mr Bikunye Syder, who thanked the outgoing members for rendering service to

## SSANU Fetes Retired Members

By Mercy Adeniji

The University, recalled that Dr Akande came into the University during his National Youth Service Corp days (NYSC) and was later retained due to his hard work and willingness to serve, urged everyone of them to continue with their good work outside the University. In his response, Dr Akande described his days in

University of Port Harcourt as an exciting one, recalling that he worked in an atmosphere of love: "I love the place, people and my job and above all, I gave my best, but of course, the best of human are human affairs. There may have been shortcomings in the discharge of my duty, but truly, I would say it was not an issue of the heart, it had to do with my head, which is my level of understanding, but all together I had a fantastic experience and I would not trade it for anything else", he said.

Dr Akande expressed gratitude to God, Management of the University, SSANU, as a Union, Director of the Health Services Department, Dr Ken Auguweje and other colleagues, stating that whatever success he recorded was because he enjoyed the encouragement and cooperation of his colleagues. He appealed to SSANU members to put in their best in the line of duty. In her contribution, Mrs. Oluremi Adeyemo, who was a teacher in the University Demonstration Primary School (UDPS), expressed gratitude to Management for affording her an opportunity to serve and also the Union for honouring them. She called on her colleagues to continue to work and impact the lives of children at UDPS.

In their separate speeches, Mrs. Margaret Chinna, Josephine Arimie and Mr Johnny Ogburnaya praised the outgoing staff for keeping up the good work while in service, charging them to always keep in touch as they wished them well in their next stage in life. Highlight of the event was presentation of cheques to the outgoing staff.



SSANU Chairman, Mr Syder (5th left), the retired staff (3rd and 4th left) and others pose for a group photograph

# It's Projects Harvest On Ajiienka's Watch

By Obinna Nwedin and Williams Wodi

accessible to relevant Departments. It would enhance effective coordination and efficient use of the equipment. The Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences would give a big boost to the activities in the Faculty as the need for a befitting building for the Faculty has become increasingly necessary. Indeed, the Phase 2 of the Faculty of Agriculture building which is nearing completion is also expected to boost the vibrancy of the Faculty. As a matter of fact, the Faculty has been so impressive in its activities, despite its short span of existence. There is no doubt that the classroom block under construction would serve the need for effective learning by students, some of who currently take lectures at unsupervised locations in the University.

The new Faculty of Social Sciences complex would also provide accommodation for the rapidly expanding Faculty, while the massive Natural and Environmental Department building would provide befitting accommodation for the Department. There is also the Faculty of Humanities building designated to be named after renowned novelist and playwright, Dr. Enoch Ananhi, as well as the Department of Music building. The Patience Jonathan Centre for Gender Studies building is also at an advanced stage of construction, as well as the very impressive Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Centre of Excellence building for International Business and Economics. There is also the College of Graduate Studies building and the Power Systems Engineering complex—all at the Permanent Site.

There is also the Siyaya Lulu-Briggs Children Amusement Park that would provide leisure for children within the University community. It is worthy of note that most of these projects are funded by the Tertiary Education Trust Fund, apart from the Faculty of Humanities building, Model Primary School and the classroom blocks. The passion and determination with which the Professor Joseph Ajiienka-led administration is pursuing the actualization of these projects is highly commendable. It has been 48 months of intensive construction activities in the University of Port Harcourt, despite the challenges of land encroachment by the host communities, in a regard of the non-payment of compensation to the host communities for the land acquired to set up the University by the Federal Government.

It is expected that in the next 12 months, these projects would have been fully completed and commissioned for use. When this infrastructural miracle happens, the administration would have made a huge impact in the physical development of the University of Port Harcourt.

It is obvious that the infrastructures being put in place would have direct bearing on the capacity of the University to deliver quality service chain to its clientele. For instance, the Central Office complex would provide offices for academic staff, thereby addressing the crying need for office accommodation for staff. The Faculty of Law building would provide the needed working and learning environment for the newly established Law programme in the University, while the Central Instruments Laboratory is designed to accommodate the laboratory equipment procured for research and experiments at a central point that would be easily



Animal and Environmental Biology Building



Faculty of Social Sciences Building



Central Instruments Laboratory



Faculty of Agriculture Building Phase II



Faculty of Law Phase I



Fence at University Park



Dame Patience Jonathan Women Development Centre for Gender Studies, Phase II



Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences



Power Systems Engineering



IPS Expansion



Primary School



University of Port Harcourt A-LEVEL School



Emerald Energy Institute

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Prof. Ajiienka, V-C

The day was Monday. The date was 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2010. The venue was the new Senate Chambers located inside the Senate Building. The weather was pleasant, while elements were fully in agreement with the appointed landmark event for the day. Guest poured into the expansive auditorium gripped by an atmosphere of eager anticipation.

The new helmsman promptly took to the stage and enacted an incisive Inaugural Address that was nearly as good as Barack Obama's 2007 Presidential Campaign Speech. The forward-looking Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiienka, touched on many issues in his address that promised a new up-building in the University. It was obvious that a new man of action had assumed the administrative saddle to change the way UniPort did business. Welcome to business unusual!

One area that attracted so much attention from the new helmsman was his emphasis on restructuring the skyline of the University of Port Harcourt. He engaged his audience with breathtaking architectural designs of modern buildings that would create the desired aesthetic appeal and a conducive atmosphere for quality learning and recreation.

Professor Ajiienka had a vision of accelerated infrastructural development to address the critical needs of the University and has remained committed to achieving this vision. Four years into his administration, the University is undoubtedly a huge construction site with projects at various stages of completion. So far, a total of 19 projects are currently on-going in the University. It is obvious that by the time these critical projects are completed and put to use, the University of Port Harcourt would witness massive infrastructural facelift, which would conduce to quality education.

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# It's Projects Harvest On Ajienka's Watch



*Central Office Building*



*Department of Music Building*



*Faculty of Humanities Building*



*Scinje Lulu Briggs Children's Amusement Park*



*Hostel Building for Centre of Nuclear Energy Studies*



*Centre for Nuclear Energy Studies Laboratory*



*Central Bank of Nigeria Centre of Excellence Building*



*College Of Graduate Studies Building*



*Mega Lecture Hall*



*Shopping Complex Building*

# GUIDEPOST

## CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

**Mr. Anthony Gyapong**, Department of Theatre Arts, Faculty of Humanities, granted *Renewal of two-year Expatriate Contract Appointment as Lecturer II*, effective 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2014 to 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016.

**Dr. Olusegun Arinola**, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2014 to 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2016.

**Mr. Samuel Oluwalade**, Housing Unit, Registry Department granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 to 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2015.

**Mr. Philip Inaah**, Procurement Unit, Office of the Vice-Chancellor, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2015 to 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2016.

**Mr. Stanley Okorie**, Campus Environment Beautification and Sanitation Unit (CERBAS) granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 to 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2015.

**Mrs. Peace Aniwade**, Campus Environment Beautification and Sanitation Unit (CERBAS) granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 to 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2015.

## STUDY LEAVE

**Mr. Ekele Odigboye**, Department of Petroleum and Gas Engineering, Faculty of Process and Energy Systems Engineering, College of Engineering, granted *three-year Study Leave with Pay*, Effective 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2014 to 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2017.

## REVIEW OF STATUTES

**Dr. Rowland Olanusi**, Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted *Review of Statutes from Assistant Lecturer to Lecturer II*, effective 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2014.

## STOP PRESS

### DEGREE RESULTS VERIFICATION COMMITTEE

Professor Gideon Ofori appointed Chairman, Degree Results Verification Committee (DRVC). Other Members include: Professors Anthony Ibe, B.O.Ebunmwan, Drs C.N. Ekirim, R. A. Ogunkanye, G. Adedokun, Patrick Anyawura, C.J. Ogugbo, Chidi Onuorah, Loretta Oghenemaya, ES Ama-Turiah, C.N. Swankow and Messrs Adiana Okechukwu, A.O. Solafade and O.A. Arhagandu. Mrs E.N. Nwadike of the Examination Unit is to serve as Secretary of the Committee.

## DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT WEATHER OBSERVATORY

### FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, JULY 13-SATURDAY, JULY 19, 2014

DATE	TEMPERATURE 10 (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNSHINE AND SUNSET (HRS. - GMS)	REMARKS
SUNDAY, 13 JULY 2014	36.0	14.0	SE	25.4	6:27 - 6:49	Thunderstorm - expected. Mostly cloudy and warm-day anticipated.
MONDAY, 14 JULY 2014	27.0	14.0	SE	22.0	6:27 - 6:49	Thunderstorm - expected. Mostly cloudy and warm-day forecast. Possibility of rainfall is high.
TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2014	36.0	23.0	SE	4.0	6:27 - 6:49	Widely scattered thunderstorm expected. Overcast than not predicted.
WEDNESDAY 16 JULY 2014	28.0	23.0	SE	2.5	6:27 - 6:49	Rain showers expected. Mostly cloudy and mild-day forecast.
THURSDAY, 17 JULY 2014	27.0	23.0	SE	-	6:27 - 6:49	Mostly cloudy and mild-day predicted.
FRIDAY, 18 JULY 2014	38.0	23.0	SE	-	6:27 - 6:49	Partly sunny and mild-day anticipated - Chance of rainfall is minimal.
SATURDAY 19 JULY 2014	38.0	23.0	SE	2.0	6:27 - 6:49	Showers expected into the day. Partly sunny and warm-day forecast.

# NSCHE Inaugurates UniPort Cell

By Ethel Timi-Johnson  
& Neela Ogunyinka

**A**s a way of boosting membership and facilitating professionalisation, the Nigerian Society of Chemical Engineers (NSCHE) has inaugurated a Cell of the Association in the Department of Chemical Engineering, College of Engineering, University of Port Harcourt.

Performing the inauguration at the Professor Chi Ikoku Seminar Room, Choba Park, penultimate Thursday, Vice-President of the Association,

Management and the College of Engineering for the opportunity to inaugurate the Cell in the Institution. He observed that the new Cell would encourage regular meetings between staff and students to advance the profession.

Pledging total support to the growth of the new Cell, Provost of the College of Engineering, Professor Daba Appah, noted that the Department which has metamorphosed into the Department of Chemical and Nuclear Engineering, disclosing that the Centre for Nuclear Engineering has commenced postgraduate and doctoral



NSCHE Vice-President, Prof. Wami (second), flanked by Prof. Aboye, Dr. Ujile, Prof. Appah (left), staff of the Department and other ENCO members of the Association

Professor Emecille Wami, noted that the Association provides a platform for academics to interact with partners in the industry. "It is hoped that the inaugurated Cell would create positive impact on both the State and National Chapters, in addition to creating ample awareness on the activities of the Association", he said. Professor Wami charged the new Cell to generate ideas that would enable the National body fashion out new ideas that would move the Association and nation forward. Chairman of the Rivers State Chapter of the Association, Dr. Anthony Ujile, who lauded the contributions of the Department of Chemical Engineering to the growth of the Chapter, commended the University

programmes in Nuclear Engineering. The Provost pointed out that the new Cell would also facilitate staff development in the Department. In their separate speeches, Representative of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Tony Arize, Head of Department, Professor Franklin Chikwuma, and Director of the Centre for Energy and Nuclear Studies, Professor Ayinde Kaye, noted that the newly-inaugurated Cell would ensure active participation of both staff and students in the activities of the Association at all levels.

## SERVICOM CORNER

### WHAT OUR CUSTOMERS/ CLIENTS OWE US

- We expect our customers' clients to give us maximum co-operation to serve them better.
- We expect our staff and stakeholders to be patient with us in challenging situations.
- We expect the management of the University to explore all avenues to ensure that service delivery is commensurate with investments.
- We expect the Federal, State and other government authorities to adequately fund the University system to enable us function effectively.
- We expect patronage from our customers/client to enable us remain in business.
- We expect opinion poll/suggestion to serve you better.
- We expect regular consultation/dialogue in issues of mutual interests and benefits.

## Ajienka's Tenure At Four

**I**n the last edition, we highlighted pictures of some of the major activities of the Professor Joseph Ajienka-led administration since he assumed office on Monday, July 10, 2010. Still in the mood of the four years in office of the Vice-Chancellor, we continue with more pictorial events that marked the success story of the administration as captured by our Cameramen, **HEADMAN ALU and MITCHELLEBI EKIYOR**



Prof. Ajienka (arrowed) briefing the media as part of events marking the 27th Convocation ceremony



Alhaji Ramanga Tukur laying the foundation stone of the Ramanga Tukur Institute for International Trade



Prof. Ajienka (centre), senior officers of the University and officials of NISLT after the maiden induction of the School of Science Laboratory Technology (SSLT)



V-C (left) and Chancellor, HRM (Dr) De Wheno-Ahola Mensa Toyi I at the 27th Convocation



Prof. Ajienka explaining a point to officials of DFID on a visit to the University



UniPort Nollywood stars during their Crabbers home coming



Prof. Ajienka (right) and Dr Eghert Inomoh, Chairman of Ajfen Energy Ltd



V-C, Prof. Ajienka, leading other senior officials of the University to the Palace of Nye Nwe Ali Choba, Eze Raymond Okacha, JP



Professor Ajienka receiving dummy cheque for Monipula Chair in Petroleum Geosciences



Prof. Ajienka receiving dummy cheque for the Prof Claude Ake Professorial Chair by the Rivers State Government



V-C and Pro-Chancellor, Engineer Geri Asuamawel (right), during an inaugural meeting with staff



Professor Ajienka and other officers of the University during a visit to Abia Council of Chiefs