

## Stakeholders Perform Top-Up Ceremony For CBN Building In UniPort

Following completion of structural work on the Central Bank of Nigeria Centre of Excellence Building in Management and Economics under construction along the Dan Estate Road, major stakeholders gathered penultimate Thursday to celebrate the feat and perform the "Top-Up Ceremony" in readiness for commencement of work on the next phase of the project, reports *Olikor Samuel*. [More on pg 3](#)

### Side Bar

UniPort declares Wednesday and Thursday afternoon this week Lecture-free days.  
~Editor



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## V-C Inaugurates Rapid Response C'ttee On Ebola

By Humphrey Ogo

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, has set up a high-powered Rapid Response Committee comprising medical experts and knowledgeable professionals to devise ways of preventing outbreak of the dreaded Ebola epidemic in the University of Port Harcourt through adoption of effective enlightenment procedures and best global operating practices as containment measures.

Constitution of the Committee came on the heels of the eruption of the killer virus in parts of Nigeria—especially in Lagos—where two persons have already

been confirmed dead, while an unspecified number of victims are being quarantined at various locations to contain the virus, which has no known cure so far.

Speaking at the Committee's inauguration, which took place at the Vice-Chancellor's Committee Room, last Tuesday, a visibly worried Professor Ajienka, who described universities as knowledge factories that should be in the forefront in the fight against epidemics, noted that the onus of gathering

and disseminating appropriate information about the virus and its mode of transmission, should rest with people with the relevant expertise.

He urged the Committee members to devise

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Ebola virus in affected victim



We Have  
Internationalized  
UniPort



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Int'l Confab  
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# UniPort Opens Tenders For New Projects

*By Onikor Samuel*

**F**ollowing invitation for pre-qualification bidding for projects in the Phases II and III of the NEEDS Assessment Intervention Project as advertised in selected national dailies last month, the University conducted a well-organized Tenders Opening exercise for interested applicants at the Senate Chambers, University Park, last Monday. In his commencement speech, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajieka, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, welcomed all

stakeholders, including Unions and professional bodies to the exercise, restating the commitment of his administration to ensuring due process and transparency in the projects bidding process.

"Whichever of the Contractors wins each job is expected to deliver quality projects that the University and themselves would be proud of at the end of the day. As a University, we do not have preferred Contractors; our interest is in Contractors, who can deliver high-quality jobs that should bear their professional imprint as future reference points," the representative of the Vice-Chancellor said, promising a level-playing ground.



DB-C (Admin), Prof Nduka, some Principal and Senior Officers, professional bodies, Unions and Contractors at the Senate Chambers during the event

for all Contractors that participated in the pre-qualification exercise.

A total of eleven projects were opened for bidding with a minimum of 17 and maximum of 54 bidders per project. The exercise which had representatives of the National Universities Commission (NUC), professional bodies, including Unions in the University such as the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), National Association of Academic Technologists (NAAT) and Non-Academic Staff Union of Universities (NASU) as observers, was supervised by the Department of Physical Planning and Development (DPPD), with the Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Ngodim and other senior officers of the University in attendance.

The NEEDS Assessment projects are for the construction of Faculty of Education Building Phase III, Faculty of Engineering Building Phase I, Faculty of Pharmacy Building, Faculty of Management Sciences Phase II, Central Lecture Hall Building, College of Health Sciences Building, Access Roads on Campus, Staff Offices Building, procurement of 1000KVA Electricity Generating Plants (2p), provision of furniture/equipment for new Faculty buildings and Recreational Facilities.

**T**he outbreak of the dreaded Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) has infused palpable fear in the entire human community. Ebola is the most topical issue in the world today as the attention of political leaders and global players have been quite understandably drawn to it. In Nigeria, Ebola signifies a "death sentence," as we are told that an infected person dies within days after going down with the dreaded epidemic. Some have described Ebola as worse than the once feared Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). It is more worrisome that there is no vaccine or treatment for it at this moment. The World Health Organization, and indeed medical experts have advised that the best way to prevent Ebola is by maintaining personal and environmental hygiene, as well as avoiding contact with infected persons. It is very important that in a public institution such as this, where physical interface with individuals cannot be entirely avoided, everything should be done to protect staff and students from this dreaded monster that is spreading like a wild fire in a harrowing season.

Already, reports making the rounds have it that 18 persons have been infected out of which two have been confirmed dead. Over a hundred and seventy persons suspected to have had some form of contact with the Liberian-American, Mr. Patrick Sawyer, who imported the disease into Nigeria are being closely monitored. Every right-thinking individual wants to live a healthy life and so nobody wants to contract any form of ailment, not to mention the dreaded Ebola. A healthy workforce breeds a healthy organization and so everything possible must be done to maintain good health and prevent the scourge. If every individual does his or her little bit to prevent the disease, it means that all of us will live without contracting Ebola. To prevent Ebola, certain facts must be known about it. An information provided by the United States Embassy about the virus states that the suspected reservoirs of Ebola are fruit bats, while transmission to humans is thought to originate from infected bats or primates that have become infected by bats; undercooked infected ham and primates (popularly known as bush meat) transmit the virus to humans; the average living between five to eight days of gestation. Human-to-human transmission is only achieved by physical contact with persons who are already ill from the Ebola virus or contact with body fluids transmission to humans is almost exclusively among care-giver family members or health care workers leading to the very ill. The virus is easily

## Hard Facts About Ebola Epidemic

*By Obinna Nwodim*

killed by contact with soap, bleach, sunlight or drying, while a washing machine will kill the virus in clothing saturated with infected body fluids.

An infected person can incubate the virus without symptoms for between two - twenty-one days, the average being five to eight days before manifesting symptoms of Ebola. Such persons are not contagious until they are severely ill; only when ill does the viral load express itself first in the blood and then in other bodily fluids (to include vomit, faeces, urine, breast milk, fluid and sweat); if you are not walking around, you are not infectious to others.

There are documented cases from Kikwit in DRC of children never touching an ill adult. Children living for days in small one room huts with parents who died from Ebola did not become infected. It is, however, important that we dispel some myths about the mode of spreading the virus: you cannot contract Ebola by handling money, buying local bread or swimming in a pool; there is no known medical reason to stop flights, close borders, restrict travel or close embassies, businesses or schools. As always, practice good hand-washing techniques, but you will not contract Ebola if you do not touch a dying person.

It is important that as a knowledge community, staff and students should be able to have basic information about what this is all about and in turn educate those who are outside the University. It was disturbing that most staff and students punctuated Friday, scandalously brought into unfounded rammer that a water bath with salty water and drinking it would prevent an individual from contracting the virus. This was very ridiculous as many fell for it without taking a second thought of the negative implications of such salt to the body system, particularly those suffering from hypertension. We also heard reports of how some people ended up in the hospital out of sheer ignorance. Some also bought into the rumour that bitter kola was an antibiotic to the killer virus. Health Minister, Professor Onyebuchi Chukwu, was prompt to dispel such wild allegations, sadly after the damage had been done.

It is important that individuals should wash their hands regularly with clean running water and soap in order to guard against the virus. We should also be

prompt in reporting all known cases of illness—especially high-grade fever—for proper examination by qualified medical practitioners. If possible, there is need to avoid or limit the culture of handshake. This is just for the time-being until we enter the post-Ebola phase. Let us remember that prevention is far cheaper than curing an Ebola victim.



Prof Onyebuchi Chukwu  
Minister of Health

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The visibly-elated stakeholders who converged at the building site included representatives of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) which is the project benefactor, the contracting firm and consultants, as well as some Principal and Senior Officers of the University.

Expressing satisfaction with the pace of work at the project site, Deputy Director, Head of Projects of CBN, Mohammad Nuhu-Koko, conveyed the gratitude of the apex bank to all stakeholders for contributing towards the realization of the project within the stipulated timeframe on the contractual agreement. He stressed the resolve of the bank to intervene in infrastructural and capacity development of the citizenry. The Deputy Director, who disclosed that the UniPort project was the first out of the three awarded the same period to get to its present completion stage, lauded the speed and accuracy with which the contracting firm was executing the project, restating the commitment of CBN to build a modern economy that would impact positively on beneficiaries of the project.

In his remarks, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajieka, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Ndaka described the "Top-Up Ceremony" as exciting and memorable, commanding the contractor for completing the first phase of work with commendable safety record.

"We know how challenging it was at the initial stage of commencing this project, but we are happy with the standard of the work that has been achieved by the contractor. Our joy knows no bounds and we thank the CBN for awarding the project to reputable contractors and consultants, who have so far worked assiduously to realize the building complex, but permit me to add that there



*Front view of one of the CBN Building facilities under construction*

is need for proper drainage system and even a swimming pool for a gigantic building such as this," Vice-Chancellor said.

Speaking on behalf of the contracting firm, China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC), Mr. Adesola Adebayo, stated that: "You will all agree with me that after two years on this project, we have indeed progressed appreciably despite the initial challenges we faced as we attempted to mobilize to site. The swampy site terrain, community interferences, prolonged sand-filling period, labour strikes, late/non-resumption of sub-contractors to site and the unpredictable weather in the Niger Delta terrain are just a few of such challenges that CCECC had to surmount."

Mr. Adebayo pointed out that, "Surmounting the

initial odds and getting to this stage of the project indeed, calls for celebration. We now have all the structures in place awaiting fittings by nominated sub-contractors," adding that CCECC is incorporated in the country with presence in 27 States of the Federation.

In his goodwill message, the consulting firm represented by its Managing Director, Interstate Architects Ltd, Mr. Olusegun Ladego, thanked all stakeholders for the opportunity given to the company, stating that consulting for the construction of the complex edifice had again brought out the best in them. He was also grateful for the safe completion of the structural work, expressing hope that the next critical stage would bring out the best design of the building.

## We Have Internationalized UniPort, Says ELPUs Director

*By Obinna Nwodim*

**A**s the University strives to engage in cross-fertilization of intellectual activities for the advancement of knowledge, Director of the Exchange and Linkage Programme Unit, Professor Jabs Otaigbe, has said that the Unit has contributed to the promotion and internationalization of the ideals of the University, as well as promoted its image in the comity of universities.

Professor Otaigbe made the assertion in an

interview with *UniPort Weekly* last Monday in his office, while reviewing the activities of the ELPUs during his tenure.

The Director, who disclosed that "the mandate of the Unit was to internationalize the activities of the University, initiate strategic partnerships with other institutions, government agencies and corporate bodies, which should devolve into exchange of staff and students in capacity building, exchange of academic material, joint hosting of conferences, seminars, workshops, research activities and publications", added that the ELPUs had signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with about 20 institutions within and outside the country.

Professor Otaigbe said that it was a major step in the process of collaborations and exchanges as envisaged by the University administration. "The University has signed MoU's with such reputable institutions as University of Witwatersrand in South Africa; University of Texas, in Austin, USA; University of Dundee, Scotland; Tasma London School of Business; Walter Sisulu University, South Africa; London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of Gothenburg, Sweden; Kwame Nkrumah University, as well as the University of Mines and Technology, both in Ghana. He said that these exchanges were necessary as they afforded the partnering institutions mutual benefits that would help advance knowledge and research.

Professor Otaigbe, who is about rounding up his tenure as Director of the Unit, stated that the linkage programmes in the University have given the Institution leverage by way of expansion of

what it has capacity to do best. "Our linkages have given the University a better rating and have acted as a basis for proper representation of what the Institution stands for both within and outside the country.

The University stands tall in terms of internationalization of its programmes. It is not a University you mention and people will begin to think or ask you where it is on the global intellectual map. Once you say UniPort, people already know where it is and its areas of strength as an attractive brand that they wish to associate with," he stated, stressing that as a result of the growing reputation of the University, several other institutions have expressed willingness to collaborate with the University in areas of mutual institutional interest.

On the collaboration with the University of Mines and Technology, Tarkwa, Ghana, which he described as the most visible as a result of the yearly visit of UMaT students to the University on field trips, the Director said that although the Agreement had lapsed with the last batch of students that recently left the University, there was a provision for renewal of the process which authorities of UMaT were obliged to do in the interest of their students.

Professor Otaigbe, who also stressed the need for a full-time Director for the Unit, with the requisite experience and wide reach to actualize the original objectives of the ELPUs, identified issues of electricity supply, vehicular mobility, functional Internet facility and security around the office as challenges facing the Unit as it strives to serve the University better.



*Prof Otaigbe*

# RCBDC Director Unveils Vision For Centre

By Mercy Adeniji

The Director, Regional Centre for Bio-resources Development and Conservation (RCBDC), Professor Edith Elewaa, has disclosed plans to develop a world-class Nature Park/Global Centre and Resort that would conduct research studies and training in environmental conservation. Professor Elewaa, who made the disclosure to UniPort Weekly last Monday, stated that in a bid to enhance the development of Bio-resources local content, "The Centre hopes to identify and domesticate the flora and fauna in our own environment based on indigenous knowledge, thus promoting their utilization and sustainability, establishing standard Bio-resources outfit such as the botanic, horticultural and zoological gardens, plant herbarium and mycological/microbial culture type collection."

"The Centre also hopes to provide and strengthens capacities and facilities for conferences, workshop and lectures, including the establishment of community outreach and extension network, development, conservation and creation of a one-stop shop on Campus for procurement, supply, distribution, manufacture and sale of all manner of natural bio-products, accessories, equipment and materials needed for study,



Prof. Elewaa

training research, recreation, relaxation, decoration and beautification," he noted.

Professor Elewaa, recalled that the Centre has been able to conduct a base-line survey of plant species diversity of the site and forwarded the documentation to the Botanic Garden Conservation International (BGCI), for inclusion in the Botanic Garden Directory of the World. "We have also conducted a survey of the horticultural gardens and practitioners in parts of Port Harcourt, especially around the University. We have registered with the International Association of Botanic Gardens (IABG) and the University is listed in the International Directory of Botanic Gardens."

Professor Elewaa said the Centre comprises a standard botanical garden with an herbarium for propagation of forest plant species and seedlings, medicinal plants farm for pharmaceutical research, standard zoological gardens with Animal Houses/Livestock Pens, Fish Ponds and Fisheries, Horticultural Centre for flower nursery-seedlings and a biotech entrepreneurship research laboratory, among other components.

The Director disclosed that the Centre has drawn up programmes to host a maiden seminar/workshop for horticulturist/flower and garden operators. "We are also collaborating with the Faculty and Institute of Agricultural Research to host seminars for farmers on awareness and solutions to plant disease control and advisory services."



Founder, House of Sapphires Women Foundation, Mrs. Ladi-Awofeso flanked on her right by Vice-President, Students' Union, Miss Wokoma and other students

## NGO To Partner Student Body On Women Empowerment Sept 18

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

**D**riven by a passion to empower younger women, Vice-President of the University of Port Harcourt Students' Union, Miss Obiele Wokoma in conjunction with a Non-Governmental Organization, *House of Sapphires Women Foundation*, is organizing a Conference for young Women in the University.

The programme which is scheduled to hold on September 18, 2014, at the Ehimini Basaga Auditorium, University Park is titled: "Empowering the Nigerian Women". The Founder and President of the Foundation, Mrs. Braila Ladi-Awofeso, is expected to present the Keynote Address at the event that is expected to attract a large pool of students and sponsors from within and outside the University.

Briefing a *UniPort Weekly* Correspondent on the forthcoming event last Monday in separate interviews, Mrs. Ladi-Awofeso and Miss Wokoma, disclosed that a sensitization workshop would hold on August 22 at the Convocation Arena, University Park, to create

## CGRP To Host Int'l Confab August 27

By Humphrey Ogi

**T**he Centre for Gas, Refining & Petrochemicals, Institute of Petroleum Studies, University of Port Harcourt, has announced plans to hold its 3<sup>rd</sup> International Downstream Conference/Exhibition on Gas, Petroleum Refining, Petrochemicals and Fertilizers tagged: "PORT HARCOURT 2014".

The Conference, which is being organized in collaboration with the World Bank, African Centre of Excellence, and Centre for Petroleum Research &

Training, would take place at the Banquet Hall of Hotel Presidential on Wednesday, August 27, 2014.

A statement by Director of the Center, Professor Godwin Igwe, said that stakeholders in the oil and gas sector would attend the Conference to enable them gain insight into issues affecting Gas, Petroleum Refining, Petrochemicals and Fertilizer Industries, adding that it would afford participants an opportunity to network and establish new business contacts that could form potential future collaborations."

Disclosing that the Keynote Speaker would be Dr. Tin Oken, whom he described as the brain, the planner and strategist behind Nigeria's petroleum policies, Professor Igwe said that the Conference would attract some of the business moguls that manage the nation's oil blocs.

Among the participants expected at the gathering, which would have the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, as Chief Host, are Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Energia Limited, Mr. Charles Odita, Executive Secretary of the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF), Mr. Olufemi Ajayi, MD/CEO, Midwest Oil, Registrar of the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN), the Managing Directors of Port Harcourt Refining Company (PHRC) and the Research and Development Unit of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC). Others include the Director-General, National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP), Dr. Umaru Bindir, Igwe Achebe of NUPENG, Mr. Iga Welu of Shell, amongst others.



Prof Igwe

**F**ive candidates seeking admission into three different Colleges in the University had a tie with a score of 312, emerging the highest scorers in the just-concluded Post-Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (Post-UTME) held for all the Colleges and Faculties penultimate week.

The candidates are: John, Wisdom Ifeanyi; Okonkwo, Sonia Chidera and Nwou Ikachukwu (Medicine and Surgery); Monage, Osyeka Virginia (Petroleum Engineering) and Akwatachibe, Kechie Stanley (Mathematics/Statistics).

Director, Information and Communications Technology Centre (ICTC), Professor Anthony Ibe, who made the disclosure in a telephone interview with this Correspondent last Monday, stated that for the fourth year running since the introduction of Computer-Based Test in the University, the just-concluded exercise would be adjudged the best in the series. "It was the best and smoothest exercise we conducted since the University embraced the use of computer for the Post-UTME," he said.

Professor Ibe, who gave the total number of candidates who wrote the PUTME as 14,449, further presented the breakdown of the PUTME 2014/2015 figures as follows: Agricultural Economics and Extension 59, Forestry and Wildlife Management 2, Animal Science and Fisheries 11, Physiology 54, Human Anatomy 98, Medicine and Surgery 2,209, Nursing Science 972, Dentistry and Dental Surgery 168, Adult and Non-Formal Education 9, Education Technology and Curriculum Studies 53, Educational Foundations 163, Educational Management 209; Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling 176 and Human Kinetics and Health Education 22.

# UniPort Releases Post-UTME Result, As Best Candidates Score 312

By *Otikor Samuel*

Other Departments are: Electrical and Electronics Engineering 458, Petroleum and Gas Engineering 1,930, Chemical Engineering 227, Civil Engineering 400, Environmental Engineering 60, Mechanical Engineering 498, English Studies 207, Fine Arts and Design 47, Foreign Languages and Literatures 12, History and Diplomatic Studies 176, Linguistics and Communication Studies 811, Music Studies 15, Philosophy 42, Religious and Cultural Studies 26 and Theatre Arts and Film Studies 193.

The rest are: Accounting 760, Finance and Banking 217, Hotel Management and Tourism 71, Management 760, Marketing 147, Pharmaceutical Sciences 534, Animal and Environmental Biology 17, Biochemistry 238, Computer Sciences 501, Geology 331, Mathematics and Statistics 61, Microbiology 388, Physics 26, Plant Science and Biotechnology 13 and Pure and Industrial Chemistry 76.

The total figure of 14,449 that chose the University in the current academic year represents a drastic drop from previous years. Investigations by UniPort Weekly indicates that candidates appear to be avoiding UniPort on account of what was described as the difficulty they face in securing admission into the institution in the past.

necessitating the need for the authorities to re-evaluate the stringent admission procedures.



*Mrs Matilda Nnodim, Registrar*

## V-C Commends ITOCA On Training In UniPort

By *Ethel Timi-Johnson*

**V**ice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, has commended the Information, Training and Outreach Centre for Africa (ITOCA), for organizing a TEEL and AGORA Programmes Train-the-Trainer Workshop in the University.

Making the commendation during the opening ceremony of a Workshop mounted by the University Library, last Tuesday, at the Elsevier e-Learning Room, Donald Ekeng Library at the University Park, Professor Ajienka noted that the Workshop which was co-sponsored by the Albert R. Mann Library of Cornell University, United States of America, would facilitate the quality of academic work, including research embarked upon academics in the University.

Expressing delight that a new Department of Library Studies has been established in the University, the Vice-Chancellor, tasked participants to pass on the knowledge gained at the training to their colleagues for the overall benefit of the University. "We hope to support the development of higher education in Library Studies in line with the Port Harcourt World Book

Capital project", he said, lauding the Library Department for initiating the training on use of e-resources to update the knowledge of staff and students desirous of engaging in quality research.

University Librarian, Dr Obiageli Nwodo, who also commended ITOCA for organizing the free training in UniPort for the third time running, noted that it would facilitate researches in Health, Agriculture and the Sciences. "We want to thank you for making UniPort your first choice south of Nigeria for the programme in Africa", she said, praising the Rome-based Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) for funding the important project.

Also speaking, ITOCA Facilitator, Professor Dele Fawole of the University of Ibadan, who disclosed the willingness of the organization to sustain the partnership with the University, said that mastery of the modules by participants would aid them in the use of electronic resources for career development, as well as enhance teaching and research aimed at boosting food security and improving healthcare delivery in the country.



*V-C, Prof Ajienka (centre), flanked on his left by Univ Librarian, Dr Nwodo and others*

## STOP PRESS

### CERTIFICATE VERIFICATION C'ITTEE

**F**ollowing the two-day *Eidul Fitri* Holiday to mark the end of the Muslim festival of Ramadan which was observed on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2014, a slight amendment had been effected on the 11<sup>th</sup> Certificate Verification Schedule of Regular Students (up to 2010) for Departments earlier scheduled on the affected dates. Consequently, Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> August has now been fixed for the Departments of Microbiology and Geology, while the Departments of Computer Science, Mathematics and Statistics are scheduled for Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2014. The affected Departments and students are advised to take note of the new dates and adhere strictly to the new verification schedule.

### NEW DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT OF CHARGES

**R**eturning Students for the 2013/2014 academic session are informed that the initial deadline for payment of charges has been further extended to Friday, August 29, 2014. The Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim, in a memo dated August 14, 2014, advised all affected students to avail themselves of the final extension of the deadline to pay all outstanding charges and register their courses online, adding that a mandatory surcharge of 50% will apply after August 29, 2014.

*Cont'd from p1*

**functional measures to contain the scourge and ensure that the rumour mill is not allowed to overrun vulnerable members of the University Community while Ebola lasts.**

"If the University, which should generate and disseminate knowledge about such disease outbreaks fails to live up to its core responsibility, charlatans and superstitious people would cash in on such negligence and spread false information that would be very detrimental to the health of the citizens," he warned, citing recent rumours about the efficacy of bathing salted-water as a strategy of fighting the Ebola virus, which regrettably led to several deaths and hospitalizations in parts of the country, as a result of excessive consumption of table salt, as compelling reasons for the University Community to be penitent on how to tackle the epidemic that is exacting a high human toll—mainly on the West African Coast at the moment.

Professor Ajenka, who named the Acting Head,

# V-C Inaugurates C'ttee On Ebola

Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Dr Best Oredinosa and the Deputy Director, Health Services, Dr Chiwe Ezelin, as Co-chairs of the Committee, charged the members to see the epidemic as a life-threatening emergency and immediately swing into action to prevent incidents of Ebola on the University Campus, emphasising that the epidemic is an emergency that required concerted effort of experts in medicine, social works and other health professionals, backed up by an effective information dissemination network aimed at creating awareness in the University Community and its environs as containment measures.

The Vice-Chancellor stressed the need for Lecturers to spend the first few minutes of their lecture periods to sensitize students on the dangers of the Ebola epidemic and its preventive measures, noting that every member

of the University Community was highly vulnerable to the disease. He called on Pharmacists and other health experts to intensify research efforts to deliver a cure for the deadly virus, without always waiting for foreign solutions to Nigerian problems.

In her contribution, the Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnadi, noted that it would be necessary for students to have ways of sensitizing the University Community on the need to imbibe personal hygiene and make concerted efforts towards ensuring that nobody on Campus contracts the disease.

On his part, Dr Best said the first step was to dispel fears about the epidemic, stating that "the fatality is more when transferred from animal to human beings than from human to human."

Also speaking, Dr Ezelin emphasised the importance of providing necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to staff at the University's Health Services Department, whom she said now suffered from low morale on the job due to palpable fear about contracting the deadly disease in the line of duty.

Other members of the Committee included the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) Professor Ethelbert Ndaka, who was charged with the responsibility of closely monitoring the Committee's activities, and Professors Kisi Abo and Vincent Ifeanyi both of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Others are Williams Wodi of the Information Unit of the Vice-Chancellor's Office, Dr Ken Umeh of the Health Services Department, Dr Glory Amadi of the Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Drs Christian Orji and DiscBari Baday, both of the Department of Sociology.



V-C, Prof. Ajenka (arrowed) addressing members of the Committee

## Decentralize Fees Pay Point ~Post-NCE Students Plead

By Mercy Adeniji

**F**ollowing the seeming difficulty being encountered in the process of payment of fees and registration by the Post-NCE Sandwich Degree Programme students, they have called on Management of the University to decentralize fee pay points to facilitate the process within the stipulated time-frame.

Speaking to UniPort Weekly last Monday in his office, Acting Co-ordinator, Post-NCE Sandwich Degree programme, Dr Gospel Kpee, who shared in the passionate appeal made by the students to Management, stated that all preparations about commencement of the programme were set in motion before the official resumption date of July 14, 2014, regretting that the

greatest challenge they faced was to have the authorities fine-tune the payment arrangement to reduce the hassles encumbered by this category of students.

"The mobilization was so intensive that some students arrived early enough to pay their fees, but they were disappointed because right from the morning of resumption until now, most of the students have not yet been able to pay up their fees due to the delay at designated pay point," he disclosed.

Dr Kpee, explained that the programme has a lot of plans for the students which included the orientation exercise among others, regretting that the unforseen delays and inefficiency of banks on Campus had militated against prompt payment of fees by Sandwich students. He appealed to Management to assist the Unit in decentralizing the pay point to enable the students pay up their fees on time to enable them fully concentrate on their main purpose of enrolling in the programme.

The Acting Co-ordinator further expressed gratitude to the Sandwich Students for working hand-in-hand with his Office, disclosing that very soon, the body would make a donation to the Unit as promised. He revealed that prior to this time, the student body also donated benches to the Unit to enable their fellow

students sit properly while waiting to be attended to by the authorties.

In his contribution, leader of the Sandwich Students, Mr. Saturday Ayili of the Department of Education Management (Economics option), praised Management of the University for putting in place all that the students needed to ensure that they studied in a conducive environment. He regretted that the only challenge the students currently faced was payment of fees to enable them face their academic work without further distraction.

Corroborating the views of the Coordinator and leader of the Sandwich Students, another student, Mrs. Regina Ovoro, and Mr Okechukwu Ijeh, also called on Management to assist the students in lightening their burden in the process of registration. The duo further thanked Management and their Coordinator for giving the students listening ears, appealing to Management to build more classrooms to accommodate students.

## SECURITY TIPS AGAINST TERRORISM

In view of the current security and terrorist threats in some parts of our country, the Nigeria Police Force is calling on the citizens to stay vigilant and join hands with the security agencies in making Nigeria a safer place.

- ❖ Legitimate sellers of chemicals such as fertilizer, ammonium products, acid, etc should be wary of persons they sell such products to. All suspicious orders should be immediately reported to the security agencies.
- ❖ Always check your surroundings for suspicious, unexplained and dangerous objects, and immediately inform the Police where any such object is found.
- ❖ Never accept to take possession of or watch over any bag or object kept by unknown person or persons.
- ❖ Be vigilant at public places as objects such as bombs can be kept by unscrupulous persons in unattended bags, packages, containers, cars, etc.



# GUIDEPOST

## RENEWAL OF APPOINTMENT

*Professor Daniel Ogum, Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted a one-year Renewal of Adjunct Appointment, effective 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2014 to 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2015.*

*Dr Nwachukwu, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Chemical Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, granted a one-year Renewal of Adjunct Appointment, effective 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2014 to 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2015.*

*Mr. Nkosi Okirika, Deputy Vice-Chancellor's Office (Academic), granted a one-year Renewal of Contract Appointment, effective 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 to 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2015.*

*Mr. Allwell Okenwa, Campus Environmental Beautification & Sanitation (CEBAS) Unit, granted a one-year Renewal of Contract Appointment, effective 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2014 to 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2015.*

*Mr. Success Mson, Campus Environmental Beautification & Sanitation (CEBAS) Unit, granted a one-year Renewal of Contract Appointment, effective 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2014 to 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2015.*

## SABBATICAL LEAVE

*Dr. Marcel Ngweke, Department of Physics, Faculty of Physical Science and Information Technology, College of Natural & Applied Sciences, granted a one-year Sabbatical Leave, effective 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2014 to 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.*

## FEES WEAVER

*Mr. Eric Abuneni, Legal Unit, Vice-Chancellor's Office, granted 40% Fees Waiver for Master's degree programme in International Trade and Development at the Bamanga Tukur Institute, University of Port Harcourt, effective 2013/2014 to 2014/2015 academic sessions.*

## STUDY LEAVE

*Mr. Rotimi Ogunwakin, Faculty of Physical Science and Information Technology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, proceeded on a 16-month Study Leave with Pay to pursue a Master's degree in Advanced Computer Science at the University of Manchester, United Kingdom, effective 1<sup>st</sup> August 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2015.*

## CHANGE OF NAME

**MR DEEZIA, BARIMENE JONATHAN.** Former Barimene Ipiamee Jonathan of the Student Affairs Department now wishes to be known, called and addressed as Deezia, Barimene Jonathan. All documents bearing his former name remain valid.

# AIESEC UniPort Inaugurates New EXCO

*By Ethel Timi-Johnson*

**A**n international student organization in the University, AIESEC, has inaugurated a new Executive for the 2014/2015 Academic Year. Members of the new Executive led by its President, Miss Eniola Nwielagh, paid a courtesy visit to the Information, Publications and Public Relations (IPPR) Unit of the University last Monday, to acquire the University Community of its planned activities for the Service Year.

Receiving the team, Deputy Registrar in charge of the Unit and Public Relations Officer, Williams Wodi, noted that the Unit has maintained a long fraternal relationship with the organization giving the nature of its activities, which also includes offering Internship opportunities to international students from Africa and other parts of the world. "Since these foreign students come to UniPort and Nigeria mainly for humanitarian purposes, we all must work very closely with the Security Department to ensure that they are adequately protected while on their various missions in Nigeria", he added, describing the student organization as very responsible in its activities on Campus and around the world as is evidenced by the sheer scale of the level of humanitarian and other public-spirited assignments that AIESEC embarks upon all year round.

Commanding the University Management for supporting the activities of the Organization, the new President, Miss Nwielagh, disclosed

that AIESEC UniPort has a new Chairman of its Board of Advisors in the person of Professor John Otaigbe, who is also Director of the Exchange and Linkages Programme Unit (ELPU). She also noted that recruitment was ongoing for intending members, who she said must meet the stringent criteria for recruitment.

"Our selection criteria are strict as we recruit only focused and passion-driven students, who must be willing to contribute to the objectives of the organization", she said, adding that the Empowerment Project for orphans in Rivers State was still ongoing, while a Career Fair is slated to hold in the University this October.

Vice-President, Outgoing Exchange, Evaristus Esekwen, who spoke extensively on AIESEC Exchange Programmes, advised students of the University to seize the opportunity provided by the organization for Internships in several African countries to broaden their world-view. Meanwhile, a new Intern, Bridgette Avenegah of the University for Development Studies, Ghana, has joined the team on its empowerment project.

"I am open to diverse opportunities and gaining more experience, which I hope to take home with me to my country. I am also very excited about participating in splitting the lives of children in two orphanages in Port Harcourt," she added.

The new Intern will be deployed to David Babusse Empress and Global Foundation, both in Port Harcourt.



*Deputy Registrar (Information), Wodi (centre behind), new AIESEC President, Miss Nwielagh (2nd left), and other members*

## DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT WEATHER OBSERVATORY

FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 17-SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2014

DATE	TEMPERATURE E HI LO (°C)	HUMIDIT Y (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (hrs) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY 17 AUG 2014	27.0	22.8	N	-	6:26 18:45	Scattered cloud expected. Hot day forecasted.
MONDAY 18 AUG 2014	30.0	24.8	NE	-	6:26 18:45	Partly sunny and cloudy day expected.
TUESDAY 19 AUG 2014	28.0	23.8	N	-	6:26 18:45	Partly sunny and warm day anticipated.
WEDNESDAY 20 AUG 2014	28.0	23.8	E	-	6:26 18:47	Scattered cloud than sun expected.
THURSDAY 21 AUG 2014	28.0	22.8	E	-	6:26 18:47	Partly sunny with occurrences of broken clouds anticipated.
FRIDAY 22 AUG 2014	29.0	24.8	N	-	6:26 18:47	A few showers expected late in the day. Mostly cloudy and warm day expected.
SATURDAY 23 AUG 2014	28.0	23.8	NE	-	6:27 18:49	Mostly cloudy and warm day expected

OR GLADYS ENEMIKE

ACTING HOD

PROF SAMUEL ABDOKOYE  
DIRECTOR, ICDRMDS

## SERVICOM CORNER

The quality of Service Delivery is unlikely to change significantly irrespective of the channel adopted in providing social services, if our clients, customers, and students are not capable of holding service providers accountable.

The SERVICOM of the future aims to provide a critical level of empowerment to our clients, customers, and students, so they can have a clear understanding of their rights and be able to exercise their rights to service.

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0703665074, 08063358445

# 7<sup>th</sup> NAPE Mini-Conference

**S**takeholders in petroleum geosciences gathered at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park for the 7<sup>th</sup> Mini-Conference of the National Association of Petroleum Explorationists (NAPE) held on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2014. Pictures below by our Cameraman, HEADMAN ALU captured some major highlights of the event.



Representative of the V-C and RV-C (Akssu), Prof Igbojue welcoming V-C, Alvan Dibia State University, Prof Sunday Peters, while President, NAPE, Mrs Adedigba Ojirabhi watches on



Members of the High Table rise for National and UniPort anthems



RV-C (Akssu), Prof Joe welcoming guests



President, NAPE, Mrs Ojirabhi presenting her address



V-C (Akssu), Prof Peters making presentation as keynote speaker



Chairman, LOC, Prof Michael Ony, a guest and Acting Executive Director, University of Port Harcourt Foundation, Dr Ngwu Odua



Provost, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, Prof Nwosu Frank-Peterside exchanging pleasantries with Prof Peters, while Prof Ony looks on



President, NAPE, presenting award to Vice-Chancellor of Akssu



Mrs Ojirabhi presenting award to former President of the Association, Dr Kanle Adesida



Prof-Joe, Peters and Ony in a tête-à-tête



Prof Chidi Ibe (right) and other guests at the event



A cross-section of participants



Some of the participants pose for a group photograph