

## Ohuabunwa Lists Ways To Transform Nigeria's Economy At 30<sup>th</sup> Convocation Lecture

**W**ays of transforming Nigeria from consumption to a production-oriented economy was the main thrust of the 30<sup>th</sup> Convocation Lecture delivered by Mazi Samuel Ohuabunwa at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Thursday, June 11, 2015, reports *Humphrey Ogu*.

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### Side Bar

The Governing Council's Strategic Planning Retreat took place in Lagos last week. Details next week.  
~Editor



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## President Buhari, Wike Laud UniPort On Achievements

### ...As Chancellor Hails Peaceful Atmosphere

By Obinna Nwodim

**V**isitor to the University of Port Harcourt, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President Muhammadu Buhari *GCFR*, has advised authorities of the University to leverage on its 30<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony to reflect on its achievements and challenges with a view to recapturing the essence of its establishment by the founding

fathers of the Institution, urging Management to impact society positively in line with the socio-economic and political realities of the country.

President Buhari gave the advice in an address he delivered at the 30<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony of the University held on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 at the Convocation Arena.

Represented by the Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission (NUC),

Professor Julius Okojie, the Visitor, who stated that universities must strive to build innovative systems that would help government solve the socio-economic and political problems of the country, enjoined the authorities to enlist the support of corporate organizations, alumni associations, philanthropists and development partners to bridge the gap in government funding of universities. He charged the University to continue its research

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Pro-Chancellor, V-C Charge Graduates On Entrepreneurship



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UniPort Ends 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



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Faculties, Centres Exhibit Products



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Cookey Commissions UPWA Building



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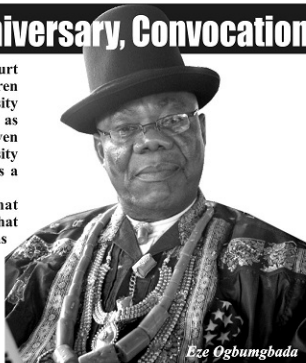
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# Monarch Congratulates UniPort On Anniversary, Convocation

By Humphrey Ogu

**A** Traditional Ruler in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area, Eze Ignatius Ogbumbada, has congratulated the University on its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and 30<sup>th</sup> Convocation ceremonies, stating that the University has come a long way in contributing to manpower and community development in its 40 years of existence. The Monarch, who is Nyenwe-Ali Rumualogu—the paramount ruler of one of the University's host communities, Rumualogu, spoke with *UniPort Weekly* after the 30<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony at the Convocation Arena on Saturday June 13, 2015.

“With the University of Port Harcourt here these years, many of our children have been able to receive University education without having to go as far as Ibadan as was the case in the past. Even those, who would not have had University education, are now graduates. That is a very positive development,” he said. The Royal Father, who noted that education is key to development, said that “the Convocation was very good. It was one of the best so far. The Vice-Chancellor mentioned many achievements the University has recorded in his address and that is very impressive,” expressing hope that the University will continue to grow and surpass its present achievements.



Eze Ogbumbada

## Pro-Chancellor, V-C Charge Graduates On Entrepreneurship At 30<sup>th</sup> Convocation

By Obinna Nwodin

**P**ro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council, Engineer Gesi Asamaoewi, has advised graduates of the University to apply the entrepreneurial skills they acquired from the University in order to become employers of labour. Engineer Asamaoewi gave the advice while addressing the 30<sup>th</sup> Convocation of the University that held on Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 at the Convocation Arena. The Pro-Chancellor, who stated that the time to unleash the power of private enterprise was now, said “to achieve the mission and in keeping with the entrepreneurial pursuit of the University, our curricula are tailored in such a way that students embrace inter-disciplinary approach to knowledge acquisition right from the first day on our Campus.”

The Chairman of the Governing Council, who commended the outgoing Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, for his exemplary leadership, said: “His five year tenure as Vice-Chancellor has no doubt, recorded tremendous achievements in infrastructural, human resources and academic development,” adding that under his Vice-Chancellorship, the profile of the University, has risen, both locally and internationally. The Council boss congratulated the incoming Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale on his appointment, expressing optimism that he would accelerate the tempo of development of the University during his tenure. The Pro-Chancellor also congratulated His Royal Highness, Major General Muhammad Iliyasu Bashir, Emir of Gwandu on his appointment and installation as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chancellor of the University, wishing him success as he puts his wealth of experience at the disposal of the University.

In his address, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajienka, who congratulated the graduates, said that they have been well trained and equipped to contribute their quota to the development of society. “We have trained you well. Be confident wherever you find yourselves and serve the nation with pride,” advising them to be worthy ambassadors of the University. He also congratulated the three Honorary Degree Awardees, urging them to become great friends of the University by making it more Unique in their own special ways. Professor Ajienka whose address was entitled: *In Praise of Guidance and Grace*, stated that the main objectives of his administration “was to expand the frontiers of knowledge through creativity and innovation, bringing forth rich intellectual harvest, deepen academic culture in the finest tradition of the citadel of learning, forging collaboration and cooperation with international institutions of learning and Nigerian agents in Diaspora for the internationalization of higher education at home,

which saves a lot of cost; partnership with industry to produce operations-oriented employable graduates; and collaboration with professional bodies to ensure quality assurance and professional certification.”

The Vice-Chancellor, who stated that “the goal is to become an entrepreneurial university where, through creativity and innovation, by which we can capitalize knowledge for socio-economic development and academic culture in the finest tradition of a citadel of learning,” stressed that to achieve this, “we extended the concept of Triple Helix of Government-Academia-



Pro-Chancellor, Engr. Asamaoewi



V-C, Prof. Ajienka

Industry Partnership to Triple Helix PLUS to deepen industry participation in joint programme life cycle development; national and international academic collaborations and partnership with national and international professional bodies for industry certification, applied technology workshops for technology transfer.”

Professor Ajienka used the occasion to outline a number of achievements recorded during his five-year tenure in office which included being designated as a World Bank African Centre of Excellence for Oilfield Chemicals Research; five consecutive times NUGA and three consecutive times WAIG champions, as well as being an OlympAfrica and IAAF African Centre of Excellence in sports; first Nigerian partner institution with the African Virtual University (AVU) leading to the establishment of an international Open, Distance and e-Learning (ODEL) Centre, amongst others.

Speaking on behalf of the Bachelors Degree graduates, Valedictorian, Dickson Ibanga of the Department of Adult and Non-Formal Education, who thanked the authorities of the University for the quality of training they received, pledged to be worthy ambassadors of the University.

A total of 18,363 graduates received various categories of degrees in divers areas of specialization, while three distinguished Nigerians were conferred with Honorary Doctorate degrees for their achievements and distinguished services to the University and society.

They are President of the Athletics Federation of Nigeria, Chief Solomon Ogha, Executive Vice-Chairman, Moni Pulo Limited, Chief (Mrs.) Seinye Lulu-Briggs, as well as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Genesis Group, Ichie Naeto Orazulike—all of who were conferred with the Doctor of Science (*Honoris Causa*) degrees.

Responding on behalf of the awardees, Dr. Orazulike, who expressed appreciation to authorities of the University for finding them worthy of such an honour, said that the award would spur them to greater services to humanity and also pledged their continued support for the University.

A breakdown of the figures of graduates indicates that a total of 13,394 were awarded the Bachelor's degrees, out of which 41 obtained First Class Honours; 2,214 Postgraduate Diplomas, 2,616 were awarded the Master's degree, while a total of 450 Candidates were conferred with the Doctor of Philosophy degree.

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Delivering the lecture, Oluwabunwa, who is the Founding Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Nigerian International Pharmaceuticals Plc, recalled that "In 1980, industrial capacity utilisation was about 70 per cent, crashing to 35 per cent in 2000 and have since been struggling to remain above 40 per cent," adding that "In 1980, manufacturing contributed over 10 per cent to the Nation's GDP, declining to 8.6 per cent by the late eighties and since 1996 has remained prostrate within the range until the recent rebasing of the economy, which took it to 7 per cent."

The Guest Speaker, who x-rayed the nation's journey from a productive to consumptive economy, noted that the productive sector of Nigeria's economy nosedived between late 70 and early 80s, citing the 1973-1978 oil boom and the introduction of Nigeria's Indigenisation Policy in 1978, which resulted in de-industrialisation, as two major events that diverted Nigeria's economy from production to consumption.

He observed that there are strong indications that the country has arisen from the consumption-induced coma, adding that "Nigeria's industrial capacity is on the verge of a reversal, especially with some aggressive domestic investment being made in cement, flour and sugar manufacturing."

"Also, former President Goodluck Jonathan's Transformation Agenda, and its subset, the Agric Transformation Agenda (ATA), motivated by the Vision 2020 project, seemed to be providing the oxygen and nutrients needed to help rebuild our productive muscles. This renewed focus on the Agriculture and the Agric-Value Chain, and with new investments in Commercial Farming, Fertilizer plants and food processing plants raise hopes of a renaissance," Oluwabunwa said.

On ways to transform Nigeria from a consumption to production-oriented economy, Oluwabunwa recommended that Nigeria should attract extensive physical infrastructure development, institute more liberal access to credit at low interest rate, maintain macroeconomic stability, institute a regime of investment promoting and consistent policy framework, promote, incentivise research and development and innovation, produce skilled manpower and build a nation of order under God.

## Oluwabunwa Lists Ways To Transform Nigeria's Economy



Convocation Lecturer, Mazu Oluwabunwa (left) handing over a copy of the Lecture to V-C, Prof Ajenka

Oluwabunwa, who chairs the UniPort Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee, commended the Institution for setting up the University-Industry Advisory Committees in various areas, stressed the need for the reorientation and transformation of Nigeria's education to be need-driven, hands-on and problem-solving, noting that "We believe the University of Port Harcourt should be in the forefront of the effort to produce fit-for purpose graduates by intense interaction with the Business community."

Earlier in his welcome speech, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, had commended the guest lecturer for an insightful lecture, thanking other guests for being part of the University's 30<sup>th</sup> Convocation.

In their separate addresses, S<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, and Acting Director, University of Port Harcourt Foundation, Dr. Ngazi Odu, thanked the Convocation Lecturer for delivering what they described as a very important lecture.

Highlight of the lecture was the unveiling of the *Unique Entrepreneur* magazine by the Guest Lecturer, who noted that the publication was a classic confirmation that UniPort has already transformed into an Entrepreneurial University. Unveiling the magazine, Oluwabunwa said: "If I was an examiner and I see this entrepreneur magazine, I would tell those who sent me that I am preaching to people who are already converted."

UniPort Ends 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary With Carnival

By Otiok Samuel

**F**orty helium balloons were released to formally end the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the University of Port Harcourt on Monday, June 8, with an impressive carnival staged by the various Colleges, Faculties and Units, including the University Demonstration Secondary School (UDSS), University Demonstration Primary School (UDPS) and host communities with the Nye Nwe Ali Choba, Eze Raymond Okocha and some members of his Council of Chiefs in attendance.

The event kicked-off on January 26, 2015 with a Medical Outreach organized by the Faculty of Dentistry, College of Health Sciences.

In his address, a visibly delighted, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, who gave an institutional profile of the University from its inception as a University College in 1975, to the attainment of full university status in 1977, commended the students and leaders of the host communities for their contributions to the growth of the University.

"Overall, the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is our own modest way of celebrating the achievements of the University in the last 40 years—ranging from teaching, research, public service, inventions/discoveries, capacity building and arbitration of refined taste in society," the Vice-Chancellor said.

Professor Ajenka, who listed some areas of strength in the academic content of the University, said the

Institution was the best in West Africa in oil and gas studies and sports, amongst other fields.

Earlier, Chairman of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, Professor Tony Arinze, had praised staff and students of the University and the host communities for rolling out the drums to celebrate forty years of quality research, teaching and unbroken engagement with society.

"Since the celebrations commenced on January 26, the various Faculties and Colleges have put up superlative individual shows, which have made the University very vibrant in the last several months," he said, expressing confidence that the next forty years would witness the advancement of the frontiers of knowledge.

In his goodwill message entitled: *Choba-UniPort Relations: A History of Shared Goals*, the Nye Nwe Ali Choba, Eze Okocha, who recalled the commitment of the people of Choba and other host communities to actualize the process of establishing the University, stated that "In order to enable the University take-off, the Choba people had allowed the Institution to make use of the Government Technical College to serve as a temporary Campus of the University before the necessary infrastructure was built at the Delta and University Parks."

"There was no doubt that the advent of the University of Port Harcourt has had a positive impact on Choba community in various dimensions. In the field of education, the institution created opportunities for Choba indigenes to further their education. In 1977, when the University began academic activities, Choba had only one operation, Mr. Bertam Iye, who was in the Department of Biochemistry. This meant that when the University turned out its first batch of graduates in 1981, there was only one Choba graduate. By 1985, the number had increased to 10 and today, more than 30 Choba sons and daughters graduate from UniPort every year," the Nye Nwe Ali told the gathering.

The royal father, who praised the relationship existing between the University and the community, listed other areas of benefit to include employment opportunities for members of the host communities, boosting of the local economy and provision of community service, expressing commitment to continue to accommodate the University.



V-C, Prof Ajenka releasing the Helium Balloons to mark end of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, while his wife, Mercy (left), incoming V-C, Prof Late, Chairman, Annis. Ctee, Prof Arinze (right) and others watch on

# BGS Plants 30<sup>th</sup> Convocation Tree

## ...As V-C Charges Students On Hard Work

By Mercy Adeniji

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka has charged students to take their studies very seriously, even as he urged those who made the First Class grade to go out and prove to the world that they were deserving of their new status on the academic pecking order.

"All eyes will, henceforth, be on you as First Class materials and you will have no excuses not to meet the high expectations of society. The onus is on you to prove at all times that you are a First Class product," the Vice-Chancellor told them at the 30<sup>th</sup> Convocation Tree Planting exercise. Professor Ajienka, who was represented by the Director of Quality Assurance and Quality Control, Professor Tony Arinze, gave the charge shortly before the Best Graduating Student (BGS), Mr. Dickson Ibanga, planted an Iroko tree at the University Park to mark his peak performance on Wednesday, June 10, 2015.

"We are celebrating our best today as we also strive to be the best University in the country. The National Universities Commission (NUC) ranks this University among the best in Nigeria, so we have a lot of respect outside here and most of you may not recognise this fact until you go out there and tell them you are a product of the University of Port Harcourt. The Lecturers who teach you are the best in their disciplines", he said, recalling that when the pioneer Vice-Chancellor, Professor Donald Ekong was recruiting staff to work in the University, he went for the very best.

The Vice-Chancellor, who commended Mr.

Ibanga of the Department of Adult and Non-Formal Education in the Faculty of Education for his diligence and focus which resulted in his emergence as the BGS for the 2013/2014 session, disclosed that "we are a University that celebrates achievements, hard work and excellence. We are not a University that produces First Class anyhow, because we have standard and quality control. We are proud of what is happening in the Faculty of Education,

and we want them to up the ante in that Faculty." Dean of the Student Affairs Department, Professor Andrew Efemini, congratulated Mr. Ibanga, Ogun Timi Fredrick and other First Class and graduating students for excelling in their academic pursuits, urging them to continue to shine wherever they may find themselves.

Speaking on behalf of the graduating students, Mr. Ibanga expressed gratitude to God, Management and Lecturers of the University for providing him and his colleagues an enabling environment to excel.

Highlight of the tree planting was a dance performance by a troupe from the Department of Theatre and Film Studies.



Best Graduating Student, Mr. Ibanga, assisted by a staff of CEBAS Unit, Mr. Robinson Odum during the tree planting exercise

# Faculties, Centres Exhibit Products At Research Fair

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Academics and researchers in the University had an opportunity to showcase their products at University-wide research fair during the 30<sup>th</sup> Convocation ceremony, which featured Faculties and Centres at the Donald Ekong Library, University Park on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June, 2015.

At the Fair, Centre for Malaria Research and Phytomedicine (CMRAP) offered free malaria tests and administered drugs to persons who tested positive to the parasite. Medical Laboratory Scientist, Maureen Enebeli, disclosed that the exercise was part of research on malaria carried

out by the Centre and a way of giving back to the University Community.

At the Department of Mechanical Engineering stand, Chief Technologist, Richard Ibeneme, was on ground to explain some equipment fabricated and designed by the students as part of requirements for graduation.

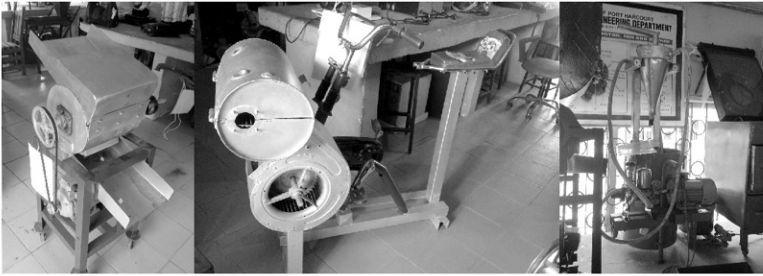
A pedal-powered barbecue produced by Izuchukwu Nwadazie of the Department is a two-in-one exercise bicycle which utilizes the energy produced to fan a barbecue stove. The components used for the production include parts of a bicycle and a constructed stove and blower.

Solar Lawn Mower produced by Prince Ukeka and Micheal Worlu, aims at reconstructing condemned

lawn mowers with bad engines. The engine is replaced with a Direct Current electric motor, a car battery and a solar panel. The solar panel recharges the battery continuously while the mowing machine cuts the grass. This saves the trouble of buying and maintaining a mowing engine and the cost of fuel.

Dual Mode Aluminium Can Crushing Machine designed and fabricated by Chinyerem Chukwudi and Kekay Eko aims at preventing environmental pollution. The equipment is produced to crush and reduce the size of cans. The crushed cans are sold as secondary production materials to manufacturing companies.

Oil-water separating hydro-cyclone produced by David Adelowo, Chinedum Okere and Onyedikachi Francis was produced for remediation of oil polluted environment. In addition to controlling environmental hazards and improving living conditions of the people, it facilitates retrieving the oil for further use.



Array of locally-made equipment produced by students of Engineering College

# V-C Tasks First Class Recipients At Graduation Dinner

By Otokor Samuel

**V**ice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, treated First Class graduates to a sumptuous dinner on Wednesday, June 10, 2015 at his official residence as part of activities that marked the 30<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony of the University.

Addressing the super brains, Professor Ajienka, who congratulated them for their hard work which paid off with their graduation with First Class, reminded them that the feat comes with the additional responsibility of being in the academic spotlight. "With your new status as First Class graduates, you can no longer hide yourselves because others will always see you as experts in your various fields. We have trained you very well, so wherever you are, always fly the flag of the University of Port Harcourt very high as special ambassadors of your *Alma Mater*. I urge you to be very proud of your University at all times and do nothing that would bring it to disrepute," he admonished them.

The Vice-Chancellor stressed the need for the First Class graduates to continue to improve themselves by seeking further studies for efficient service delivery, urging them

to carve a niche for themselves in innovation and creativity. He informed them that the National Universities Commission (NUC) awards scholarship to those who meet the stringent requirements that would enable them advance their studies. "You should be thinking of the College of Graduate Studies for your higher degrees. In a knowledge economy, you should first of all pursue knowledge and money will pursue you later. Once you have your Doctor of Philosophy degree, you will have jobs around you in teaching and in research," the Vice-Chancellor told the First Class graduates.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellors in charge of Academic matters, Professor Igbo Joe and his counterpart in Administration, Professor Anthony Ibe, also took turns to advise the First Class graduates who convoked at an impressive ceremony that held on Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2015.

"To make a First Class is not an easy achievement. We have been singled out as First Class graduates, not because we have any special preference for you, but because of your hard work; and so you must start now to think about how to contribute to a better society. Don't be carried away about how to make quick money because

money is transient," Professor Joe, who was also Chairman of the 30<sup>th</sup> Convocation Committee advised them, while his counterpart told the super brains that: "You have no choice but to continue in your studies. You are like a gold fish that cannot hide, so you better think of what to do to prove that you are truly First Class products."

Others who presented goodwill messages included the incoming Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, who himself was a First Class product; a member of the Governing Council, Professor Georgewill Owunari; immediate past Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Ndaka; Director of the Emerald Energy Institute, Professor Wumi Iledare and Director of the Sports Institute, Dr Ken Anugweje. Head of the Department of Music, Professor Onyiah Nwankwala led the *UniPort Concert Chorus*, including Duet, Precious Omuku and Ihechi Achom, to thrill guests at the event. Highpoint of the dinner was a hilarious graduation dance by the graduating class. The Best Graduating Student, Dickson Ihang, who spoke on behalf of his colleagues at the dinner, promised that the group would continue to fly the University's flag very high.



Group photograph of the First Class graduates with V-C, Prof Ajienka (arrowed) and some Principal and Senior Officers of the University

## Cookey Commissions UPWA Building

By Mercy Adeniji

**S**econd Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Sylvanus Cookey, was on hand to commission the first phase of a multipurpose hall built by the University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA), under the tenure of its outgoing President, Mrs. Mercy Ajienka.

The colourful event which took place on Wednesday, June 3, 2015, was part of a two-day celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the University that climaxed on Monday, June 8, 2015 at the Convocation Arena. The event kicked-off with a rally and commissioning of the multipurpose building at the Gladys Cookey Children Resource Centre, University Park.

Declaring the event open, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, commended UPWA members for the cooperation and efforts channeled towards repositioning the body in the last five years. "We thank UPWA for its support for the University and for keeping up with the calendar of activities in the University.

"We thank you for keying into the celebration in your own way; this shows that you are also part of the

community and we indeed appreciate every one of you for working hard to commission your multipurpose building and for also keying into the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the University. I am hopeful that the building would be finally completed and when this is done, we would know that it is the sweat of everybody in UPWA," the V-C told the women.

Giving a brief history of the Centre and the Association, Chairman of the occasion, Professor Joseph Okoh, disclosed that the School first started in Delta Park and then to Choba Park, before finally moving to its Permanent Site at the University Park. "Today, the International Day Care Centre has grown into a sprawling Daycare, Nursery and Primary sections, following the tenure of successive wives of Vice-Chancellors.

"When the wife of the 5<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor, Mrs. Data Briggs came on board, the Association became very active as she added colour to its activities, in line with the dream of the founder, Mrs. Gladys Cookey. The wife of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chancellor, Mrs. Victoria Baridam added her own effort and today, the Association is still moving to higher grounds with the wife of the 7<sup>th</sup> Vice-

Chancellor, Mrs. Mercy Ajienka, who has made her own contributions through the construction of a multipurpose building. We commend her for her contributions to the growth of UPWA. It is our hope that the wife of the new Vice-Chancellor would continue from where her predecessors stopped.

Speaking on the journey so far, UPWA President, Mrs. Ajienka, disclosed that the Association's mission was to foster unity amongst women and contribute to the accelerated development of the Institution. "Our School is doing very well and we have introduced new uniforms and books, trained teachers and child minders on regular bases to attain quality service delivery for our children among other innovations," she recalled, expressing gratitude to members for their interest in sustaining UPWA.

Commissioning Phase I of the multipurpose building, Professor Cookey congratulated all those whose vision resulted in the construction of the magnificent edifice.

"The President of UPWA, Mrs. Mercy Ajienka and her able team have indeed surprised the University community by embarking upon this project that has added to the beautiful landscape of the University," Professor Cookey said.

In her contribution, an Honorary Alumnus, Dr. Selinye Lulu-Briggs, who was formally installed as UPWA Life Patron at the event, commended members of the Association for erecting the building, promising to sponsor the landscaping of the premises.

Also speaking, Chairman of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, Professor Tony Arinze, praised the Association, revealing that when the Vice-Chancellor came up with the idea of celebrating UniPort at 40, "I did not know it would get to this extent, as every arm of the University keyed into the celebration."

In their separate goodwill messages, Mrs. Data Briggs; Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim who was represented by the SPATS Officer, Mr. Job Bogbara; Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Aliezi and Librarian, Dr. Obiageli Nwodo, commended UPWA for the giant strides it has so far recorded.

Highlights of the event were a rally, dance, drama by students of the Theatre and Film Studies and presentation of awards to distinguished personalities and Friends of UPWA.



UPWA members in a group photograph after the commissioning

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# President Buhari, Wike Laud UniPort

activities into finding meaningful and appropriate solutions to the challenges of their operational environments to remain relevant to society.

"The University of Port Harcourt has the good fortune of being located in the Niger Delta region. This also means that it is beset by problems unique to that environment, particularly environmental degradation and pollution, as well as youth restiveness," he stated, adding that "the government was aware of the concerted efforts being made by the University in various aspects of research, particularly in the area of oil and gas studies, through the Institute of Petroleum Studies."

According to him, while Government appreciates the efforts of the various research institutes in this and other universities in Nigeria, there was need to pay attention to the quality of research in order to guarantee their status as true centres of academic excellence.

President Buhari congratulated the University for winning one of the World Bank supported African Centres of Excellence in Oil field Chemicals. He noted that the Federal Government was aware of the problems associated with students living off-campus and its attendant risks, advising authorities of universities to collaborate with their host communities and security agencies to ensure peace and security on Campus and in the host communities.

In his address, the Governor of Rivers State, Chief Nyesom Wike, who expressed the willingness of the State Government to continue to support the University, said that a society that does not value education is a lost society.

The Governor, who was represented by his Deputy, Dr. (Mrs.) Ipalibo Banigo, commended authorities of the University on the landmark 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its establishment. He said that his



Prof Okojie (left) Executive Secretary of NUC representing the President and Deputy Gov of RS, Dr. Ipalibo Harry (right)

Administration would lay emphasis on the improvement of the quality of education at all levels. He promised a boom in the educational development of the State through the blueprint his Administration has outlined, as well as effective implementation of the Universal Basic Education scheme.

Also speaking, 3<sup>rd</sup> Chancellor of the University, His Royal Highness, retired Major-General (Dr.) Muhammad Iliyasu Bashir, acknowledged the fraternal relationship that has existed between the University and its host communities since it was established in 1975, advising Management, Staff and Students to sustain the excellent peaceful relationship with these host communities to enable the University achieve its core mandate of teaching, research and community service. He also commended Traditional Rulers, Opinion Leaders and Youth Groups from the University's host communities for the peaceful co-existence

that has enabled it grow in the last 40 years.

The Chancellor, who is also the Emir of Gwandu in Kebbi State noted that the accelerated progress recorded in the University was a testimony of the collective resolve of the unions to build a reputable University that would be worthy of emulation by other institutions in the country and beyond.

"You have so far demonstrated a collective sense of responsibility that has taken the University to the enviable level it now finds itself," he stated, advising the Unions to always embrace dialogue in resolving issues between them and the University Management.

Major-General Bashir, who congratulated recipients of Higher and Honorary degrees of the University on their well deserved honours, stated that the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration was a clear indication that the Institution had the capacity to go far beyond its present level of institutional development.

## Faculties Hold Class Day Activities

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

A s part of events that marked the 30<sup>th</sup> Convocation ceremony of the University, which held on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of June, 2015, the various Colleges and Faculties held Class Day Activities and interactive sessions with graduating students.

Addressing the graduating students, Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Professor Iyeopu Siminialay, commended them for the choice of the University for Higher Studies and the study of Anatomy and Physiology in particular. "This is an opportunity to review the challenges you encountered as students, make suggestions on ways of improving the programmes and lift the Departments to greater

heights," he remarked, wishing them well in their future endeavours.

Describing Dentistry as a young, but highly respected Faculty in the country, the Dean, Professor Chukwudi Onyeyaso, advised the students to maintain the high standards already set in the Faculty. Introducing Drs Evi Addoh and Steven Victor as the Best Graduating Students to the other students, Onyeyaso advised the duo to share their success formula with others. "This is a platform to share your challenges and proffer a way forward for excellence," Professor Onyeyaso stated.

In a side line interview with *UniPort Weekly*, Best Graduating Students for the 2013/2014 session in the Faculty, Drs Addoh and Victor, described their stay in the University as

memorable. Adhoh, who emerged the overall winner of the first National Dental Competition organised by the National Association of Dental Students (NADS), remarked that "It was a beautiful experience studying in a unique Faculty in a unique University. My most exciting moments were graduating to new classes. My induction was the most memorable event and being a member of Team UniPort was awesome". On his part, Dr. Victor stated that "passing my final examinations and graduating to become a doctor is a dream come true. My stay in the University was filled with thrilling activities, having served as pioneer Secretary-General of the Port Harcourt University Students Association (PUDSA). Having undergone rigorous training under the guidance of erudite scholars and professionals, I would rate my training as five-star."

For the Best Graduating Student of the 2012/2013 session, Dr. Chinonso Obiajunwa, his most memorable experience was passing the MBBS/BDS professional examinations at one sitting. Obiajunwa, who rates his training 95 per cent, declared that "being elected as pioneer President of PUDSA and my induction by the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCAN) were my most memorable moments in UniPort."



Dean, Faculty of Dentistry, Prof Onyeyaso (arrowed) flanked by staff and students after the Class Day activity

# GUIDEPOST

## APPOINTMENT

**Professor S.A. Uzoigwe**, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, appointed Dean of Faculty, effective June 15, 2015 to June 16, 2017.

**Dr. E.N. Mbanefia**, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Faculty of Humanities, appointed Acting Head of Department, effective June 15, 2015 to June 16, 2017.

**Mr. Isaac Ewa**, Department of Physical Planning and Development, appointed Acting TET/und Desk Officer. The appointment is with immediate effect, until further notice.

## RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

**Professor S.N. Wokhe**, Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, granted a one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016.

## REVIEW OF STATUS

**Dr. Endurance Diemudeke**, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Production Systems and Communication Engineering, College of Engineering, elevated from *Lecturer II* to *Lecturer I*, effective December 2, 2014

## EXTENSION OF STAY

**Professor Vincent Idemiyor**, Department of Clinical Pharmacy, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted 12 Month *Extension of Stay as Lead Scholar*, effective July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.

## PART TIME APPOINTMENT

**Miss Chinegwelum Obianyo**, Faculty of Law, offered *Part-Time Teaching Appointment as Lecturer I* in the Faculty of Law, effective on assumption of duty.

**Mrs. Onimhin Jacks**, Faculty of Law, offered *Part-Time Teaching Appointment as Lecturer I* in the Faculty of Law, effective on assumption of duty.

**Mr. Nimi Walsom-Jack**, Faculty of Law, offered *Part-Time Teaching Appointment as Lecturer I* in the Faculty of Law, effective on assumption of duty.

## CHANGE OF NAME

### MRS. GLORYEKIYE INNOCENT

Former Miss. Glory Oshi of the Staff Development Unit now wishes to be known and addressed as Mrs. Glory Ekiye Innocent. All documents bearing her former remain valid.

## STOP PRESS

### PENSION ALLIANCE LIMITED- MOBILE SERVICE

This is to inform all staff who registered with Pension Alliance Limited (PAL) that Pension Alliance Management is introducing an initiative called Mobile Service Bus. This is a Mobile pension clinic where the Bus conveying Customer Service Staff and fitted with Internet enabled computer equipment will be visiting the University on Monday, June 22, 2015 to Friday, June 26, 2015 from 9:00am to 3:00pm daily.

Details Contact: Mrs Ime Ibangwa

## DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT WEATHER OBSERVATORY

### FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 21 – SATURDAY JUNE 27, 2015.

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE SUNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY 21 JUNE, 2015	29.0 23.0	77	NE	-	6:22 18:46	Mostly cloudy day forecasted.
MONDAY, 22 JUNE 2015	31.0 23.0	68	NE	-	6:22 18:46	Partly sunny day anticipated.
TUESDAY 23 JUNE 2015	31.0 24.0	69	NE	3.2	6:22 18:45	Thunder storms expected late in the day, breaks of sun expected late in the day.
WEDNESDAY 24 JUNE 2015	30.0 23.0	75	N	2.5	6:22 18:46	Thunder storms expected early in the day. Mostly cloudy day forecasted..
THURSDAY 25 JUNE 2015	30.0 23.0	72	N	-	6:23 18:47	Partly sunny day anticipated.
FRIDAY 26 JUNE 2015	30.0 23.0	77	N	3.4	6:23 18:47	Widely scattered thunder storms expected. Mostly cloudy day anticipated.
SATURDAY 27 JUNE 2015	30.0 23.0	80	N	9.2	6:23 18:47	A few thunder storms expected. Partly sunny day forecasted

Dr. Gladys Emenike  
Acting HoD

Dr. Prince Mmom  
AG. Director, (CDRMS)

## Staff, Student Revisit 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Following several rallies and lectures organised as part of the celebration of UniPort at 40, the Central Organizing Committee headed by Professor Tony Arinze put up an impressive carnival that marked the grand finale of the celebration on Monday, June 8, 2015 at the Convocation Arena. In this interview, some staff and student spoke on the euphoria of joining Management to celebrate the event, reports MERCYADENIJI.



Dr. Amah

Dr. Briggs

Mr. Sofolabo

Miss. Jeremiah

The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration had all categories of staff, students, UDSS students, UDPS pupils, the host communities, the mass media and other invited guests in attendance.

Reflecting on the Anniversary, a member of the Anniversary Committee, Dr. Edwinah Amah, described the event as a befitting way of celebrating the University, following the numerous achievements it has recorded at 40. "We are happy to be part of the system, as UniPort has contributed in making us what we are today. Majority of the staff are products of Unique UniPort. The University has also contributed to the development and sustainability of manpower for the country and beyond. We congratulate Management for this innovation that should be kept up."

Acting Head of Department and Member of the University at 40 Anniversary Committee from the College of Engineering, Dr. Tobinson Briggs, commended Management for celebrating the University, noting that "celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is a fulfillment of the scripture, because the bible says we should count our blessings and name them one by one and it would surprise us what the Lord has done for us. In that respect, the community has used this occasion to count God's blessings in the growth and progress of the University in the last forty years.

In his contribution, a Lecturer in the Department

of Physics, Mr. Adekunle Sofolabo congratulated Management for celebrating the landmark achievements of the University. "UniPort is meant to be celebrated, considering all the University has achieved in the past 40 years, especially being the first Entrepreneurial University in the country, in sports and film studies—including the dominance of the home movie industry popularly known as *Nollywood*. We also have the largest number of endowed Professorial Chairs in the country," adding that "the University is also proud to be one of the first to produce a President of the country and three State Governors. The International Sports Academy is also domiciled in the University through the High Performance Centre and we are proud because in the past few years, we have remained champions in the NUGA and WAUG sporting tournaments," Mr. Sofolabo said.

A Year Two Student in the Department of Music, Faculty of Humanities, Miss Violet Jeremiah, praised Management for celebrating the University at 40, describing the landmark event as a welcome development that should be sustained. "The event was very impressive and I have never experienced such spectacle in the University since I gained admission here; everybody was happy and in a joyous mood. We saw staff, students and guests in their cultural attires; it was great fun and something worth preserving," she recalled.

## SERVICOM CORNER

SERVICOM (Service Compact with all Nigerians) was established by the Federal Government as a means to address service failure in the Public Service. The provision of this Compact says: "We dedicate ourselves to providing the basic services, which citizens are entitled; timely, fairly, honestly, effectively, and transparently." The inauguration of UNIPOST SERVICOM was a critical step to sustain this SERVICOM initiative in the University.

If you have any complaints about service failure please reach us.

SERVICOM is here to make things right!! You can reach us via: [servicom@uniport.edu.ng](mailto:servicom@uniport.edu.ng); 08033400064, 07038650174, 08063558445, 08034211712, and 08155303412



## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the University of Port Harcourt which kick-started on Monday, January 26, 2015 ended with a grand finale on Monday, June 8, 2015 with an impressive carnival featuring the various Colleges, Faculties, Centres and Units. Our cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU** captured highlights of the event as shown below:



Chairman, 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, Prof Anthony Arinze, welcoming guests



Vice-Chancellor, Prof Joseph Ajenka presenting his address



Incoming Vice-Chancellor, Prof Ndowa Lale speaking at the event



Dean, GSNAAMS, Prof Gregory Awiri, Provost, CNAS, Prof Nnenna Frank-Peterside, and Acting Executive Director, UniPort Foundation, Dr. Ngozi Odu, in a celebration mood



Incoming Vice-Chancellor, Prof Lale (left) and sitting Vice-Chancellor, Prof Ajenka



V-C, Prof Ajenka welcoming Nye-Nwe-Ali Choba and a member of his Council of Chiefs



University Demonstration Primary School dance group performing at the event



Students of University Demonstration Secondary School



Head, Dept of Music, Prof Onyee Nwankpa conducting the UniPort Concert Chorus



Cross section of participants



UniPort Women Association during the carnival



V-C, Prof Ajenka, releasing 40 helium Anniversary balloons, flanked by Prof Lale (r) while others look on



Prof Lale, planting the Anniversary Tree, while V-C, Prof Ajenka (l' right), watches on