



Former V-C Commissions Independent Power Project

The University of Port Harcourt is set to experience uninterrupted electricity supply from its Independent Power Plant (IPP) that was initiated by the Professor Joseph Ajenka-led administration. The project was commissioned last Friday by the former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajenka at the University Park, reports, *Williams Wodi*.

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Side Bar

The Pharmacists Council of Nigeria inducted 33 new Pharmacists into the profession on Friday, 3rd July, 2015. Details next week.

~Editor



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Lale Assumes Office As New V-C Today

By Obinna Nwodin, Humphrey Ogu
and Otikor Samuel

History will be made this morning as Professor Ndowa Lale steps into office to assume duty as 8th Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt. Lale's assumption of office followed the successful completion of a five-year tenure by his predecessor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, who handed over the baton of leadership to him in a colourful ceremony last Friday at the Convocation Arena.

Professor Lale, who emerged Vice-Chancellor on Tuesday, May 26, 2015 after a rigorous selection process by the Governing Council of the University, was formally installed as the 8th Vice-Chancellor in the full glare of the University community and a coterie of visiting dignitaries that graced the historic event.

Before handing over power to his successor, a visibly delighted Professor Ajenka had, once again, expressed gratitude to Management, Staff and Students of the University for their commitment to the development and growth of the University in the last five years, calling on all stakeholders to support his successor. He congratulated Professor Lale for emerging as the 8th Vice-Chancellor, urging him to perform his duties faithfully and diligently so as to take the University to greater heights.

"Today, the University would be making history; this is the first time we are holding such an investiture exercise. We humbly commit Professor Lale to leadership that stands on the protection and guidance of the Almighty. We want to commit ourselves

to building a modern University that would solve the problems of society and become relevant to our host communities," the former Vice-Chancellor said.

He further revealed that the University has

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Asale Assumes Office Today

By Williams Wodi

There is an atmosphere of eager anticipation as Professor Ndowa Lale mounts the saddle this morning as the eight Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt. Accessing the door to the exalted seat was a practised lesson in patience and divine decree, to put it rather mildly. Surmounting the constellation of forces weighed against his final emergence is an indication that the new helmman was destined to arrive where he is today. He deserves our collective admiration and congratulatory messages.

In his *Inaugural Address* to Congregation this morning, Lale is expected to lay out his vision and mission for the University of Port Harcourt by setting out a clear tone for the next 60 months of his administration. Having been in the academia for an unbroken period of over 33 years and still counting, the new Vice-Chancellor should easily know his way around and how to masterfully navigate the ship to shore.

With a plethora of talents that people the hallowed corridors of the administration and academia, there is no reason for the University to fail on his watch. Although some moments of institutional actualization may have been missed in the past, it would now be totally inexcusable for the emergent administration to pander to the needs of people with pecuniary interest to protect in the system. Apprehension in some quarters about what Professor Lale represents is understandable, but he should quickly turn the corner by pursuing the corporate interest of the University.

Luckily, the new Vice-Chancellor has the prodigious capacity and open enthusiasm to reinvent the University. Crucially, the human element will continue to be a moderating factor in any organization that desires to transcend its limitation and record giant strides. It is, therefore, important to place staff and students at the centre of all institutional activities to be initiated by the new administration as it settles down to business.

The growing culture of mediocrity amongst some teaching and non-teaching staff needs to be decisively checked to lead the University towards global best practice and local relevance. To achieve this critical goal, the new Vice-Chancellor would have to retol the control component of the University for enhanced service delivery to its growing clientele. This vital goal should be pursued with the zeal of a Pentecostal Minister to confound doomsday prophets, who usually stand on the ringside to cheer on the institutional demons that drive against traffic.

Since there is no one-size-fits-all approach to attaining institutional goals, the Vice-Chancellor should be eclectic in finding what works and what does not work in the process of reengineering the system in line with his vision of a wholesome and prosperous University. We must now improve upon the performance content of our core mandate, while systematically and progressively plugging all leakages that fester private pockets. To achieve this goal, knowledgeable and competent people in the system should not be relegated to the spectator stand anymore, while professional eye service personnel should be put where they belong—in the trash can.

Equipping students with the competencies of the 21st century knowledge economy requires a focused policy framework that is well-thought through, consistent, deliberate and pragmatic. That we have not remained consistently on the right track should not deter Professor Lale from fine-tuning the system and introducing workable innovations that should result in a wholesome and prosperous University on his watch. Restoration of the core values that once enabled the University to produce all-rounded graduates should fully preoccupy the new Vice-Chancellor, who appears firm enough to take on the onerous responsibility entrusted on his capable shoulders. Under Lale, we expect all command structures of the University to show uncommon cohesion and clear direction without needless distraction as we earnestly seek to rise to the high institutional standards we have set for ourselves.

There is now a compelling need for us to improve upon the emergent tradition of running a public service enterprise along industry lines if we hope to attain international certification that is anchored on quality research, exchange programmes and cross-cultural

collaboration that solves societal problems. Is it not a situational irony that Ghana with less resource endowment and manpower is now a preferred destination for Nigerian students in their desperate search of "quality education"? UniPort should show the other tertiary institutions the way to reclaiming Nigeria's glory days in the educational sector.

Lale has a sacred mandate to ensure that these self-inflicted institutional bottle-necks are speedily dismantled to enable the University soar to greater heights. For us to attain positive results within the shortest possible timeframe, drastic reforms need to be introduced at all levels of administration and the academic corridors, where most staff have become lethargic in the performance of the duties for which they receive salaries. The twisted thinking that the University is no man's charge must give way to a new culture of collective responsibility.

Lale should resolutely refuse to be held hostage by a few roadside bandits on this Campus, who shamelessly battle to safeguard their narrow pecuniary interests with successive administrations. If he fails to break their narrow and distasteful circle of influence peddling, they will finally break the University to assuage their rapacious lust for recognition. We must end the clientele system that fuels graft in places. In the new dispensation, reason must overtake sentiment if we must make that quantum leap to the next level.

The new administration should ensure that proper Faculty buildings are constructed to enable Lecturers have quality contact hours with their students, who are currently left to their own devices. Those who run their offices like self-validating Lords of the Manor should be stopped from elevating negligence into an abiding article of faith. The new helmman should be an institutional lever of all staff on matters pertaining to crime and punishment, including hard work and reward, if he hopes to seize the moral high ground. From this point on, staff and students should not infringe on the extant rule and regulations governing their conduct in the University at their own peril. The new helmman should not be afraid to step on both small and "big" toes alike as he prepares to give all of us a nudge in the right direction to do things right.

Those who have turned the University into a trading post must be put back in their place, while the Campus Environmental, Beautification and Sanitation (CEBAS) Unit should be reorganized to and empowered to achieve the University's clean and green dream. This will be in addition to restoring full municipal services, including Internet services that would enable the University to bridge the yawning digital divide and operate at optimum capacity.

As he settles into the high office, Professor Lale would need to initiate some bold contingency measures that would assuage the needs of staff and students before his anticipated elaborate institutional reforms can take shape. God has invested him with power through the earthly instrumentality of the Governing Council of the University and he should wield that power with a deep sense of utmost responsibility, firmness, fairness and forthrightness with an eye on the verdict of history. In this enterprise to steer UniPort to higher heights, progress will be slow and would require cooperation and extra sacrifice from all of us; but only a resolute and transparent leadership will take us to the Promised Land. The dwindling statutory allocation from the Federal Government is very worrisome as Lale takes office this morning, but his hand is already on the plough and he cannot step back now. He needs the courage of the Mafia and the divine guidance of Priest to succeed. As famous American Actress Alfre Woodard once said: "The hardest part about having power is not being able to use it when every fibre of your being wants to." Lale should go out there and use the enormous powers entrusted to his care for the good of the University of Port Harcourt.



Prof Lale
8th V-C, UniPort

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This critical project was initiated to assuage the vision of an administration that was totally distrust with the epileptic electricity supply that had grossly impaired the capacity of the University to discharge its core mandate of teaching, research and public service.

To address the parlous power situation on the Campus, the University wisely entered into a Public Private Partnership (PPP) agreement with a private investor, TOTAL SUPPORT, to build a gas-powered generating plant at the Permanent Site of the University. The critical project is aimed at generating and distributing uninterrupted electricity that would bring about enhanced productivity in the University.

Professor Ajenka who showed uncommon enthusiasm for the project right from its conception and implementation stages, noted that if the Independent Power Project successfully comes on stream as envisaged, it would ensure that the University becomes an important player in research and development and public service, both nationally and on a global scale.

He noted that no serious academic work could be achieved at its optimum if the University continued to rely on the unreliable public power supply system to run its activities in a knowledge economy. Although the Federal Government has unbundled the behemoth called Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), the new electricity generating and distributing companies (GenCos) and (DisCos) still lack the installed operational capacities to meet the power needs of the country. This sad turn of events makes the PPP the best guarantee of steady electricity supply that would enable the University to buy power from the service provider without bothering about expensive equipment maintenance and allied running cost.

If and when the gas generator power project that is now nearly completed is successfully test-run and put to use, the development would be quite germane in the process of effective service delivery in the University of Port Harcourt. This is because if the University is ambitious to become a serious player in quality research and development (R&D), then it must devise an effective and cost-efficient way to attain uninterrupted power supply which would ramp up the smooth-running of the system.

Chairman of the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory

Commission (NERC), Dr. Sam Amadi, recently assured worried consumers that electricity supply would exceed 5,500 Megawatts later this month based on an eagerly anticipated improvement in gas supply that would increase the country's transmission capacity.

Yet, analysts are of the opinion that Nigeria needs no less than 50,000 Mw to meet the total electricity needs of the people, who have wallowed in unremitting darkness for so long, despite over \$200 billion thrown at the critical sector by the last two governments.

Despite missing several completion deadlines by the independent service provider, the incoming administration of Professor Ndowu Lake owes us a duty to ensure that the gas-powered generating plant is completed and promptly put into use to assuage our crying need for electricity in this University. Additionally, concerted efforts should be made to complement our internally-generated electricity with supplies from the public power source. In the final analysis, no institution

Former V-C Commissions Independent Power Project

can generate all its energy needs.

The successful generation of electricity from the IPP will be our own *Eureka* moment! We heartily congratulate Professor Ajenka for his foresight in initiating the strategic IPP project and wish his successor, Professor Lale all the luck in the world as he solidifies the modest gains recorded in the University's critical power project. Other projects commissioned by Professor Ajenka was a Professorial Guest House Building at Gambia Ama, University Park and foundation laying ceremony of a Science Laboratory building for the University International Secondary School run by the College of Continuing Education (CCE), University of Port Harcourt. The building was donated by chairman of the Genesis group, Dr. Naeto Orzulike.



The Gas Turbine. Inset: Former V-C, Prof Ajenka, supported by some Senior Officers of the University and service providers commissioning the IPP

Another UMaT Student Batch Arrives UniPort

By Otiok Samuel

Following the renewal of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the continuation of the exchange programme between the University of Port Harcourt (UniPort) and University of Mines and Technology (UMaT), Tarkwa, Ghana, another set of 57 students has commenced internship programme in the University. The new batch was accompanied on the trip by seven of their teachers and chaperons.

Welcoming them to the University on Sunday, 5th July, 2015 at the International Students' Centre, immediate past Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, who was represented by the Director, Exchange and Linkages Programme Unit (ELPU), Professor John Otaigbe, expressed satisfaction with the renewal of the MoU that paved the way for the continuation of the exchange programme between the two sister institutions.

"We are building on this exciting collaboration

aimed at exposing the students and staff from both universities to global best practices and also bringing them closer to each other as brothers and sisters on the West African coast. This high impact programme has exposed our Ghanaian colleagues and their students to practical knowledge on the complex operational structure of the hydrocarbon industry in Nigeria. It is an established fact that our petroleum studies programme is the very best in Nigeria and sub-Saharan Africa. So, the valuable experience you gather here will benefit you, your institution and your country and also enrich our own cross-cultural experience as a University," the former Vice-Chancellor said, enjoining the visiting team to also avail themselves of the opportunity to freely interact with staff and students during their two-week stay in the University.

In his address, Acting Head of the Department of Petroleum Engineering, College of Engineering, Dr. Boniface Oriji, who listed some of the

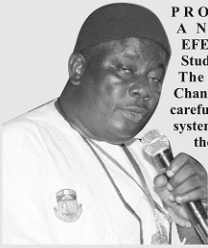
innovative steps taken to give direction to the exchange programme, disclosed that the students were now being exposed to both practical lectures and field trips to enrich their knowledge within the short period of the exchange programme.

"You need to be on your toes to grapple with the intensive lectures that are crammed with practical and field work in a limited timeframe," the Acting HoD advised the visiting students, praising the institutional partnership that he described as mutually-beneficial to both universities.

Speaking on behalf of UMaT, Team Leader, Mr. Richard Amorin, who conveyed the goodwill of his Vice-Chancellor to the University, expressed deep appreciation to Management of UniPort for renewing the collaboration, which he described as very beneficial to UMaT as the practical knowledge garnered from the academia and experts in the field was evident amongst students that participated in earlier exchange programmes to the University of Port Harcourt.

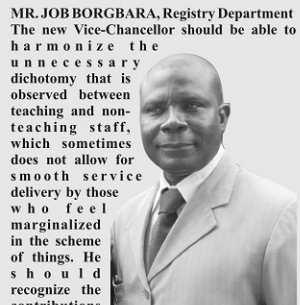


Director, ELPU, Prof Otaigbe (arrowed) flanked by UMaT Team Leader, Mr. Amorin (right), Acting Head of Department, Dr. Oriji (left), visiting staff of UMaT and staff of ELPU



PROFESSOR ANDREW EFEMINI, Dean, Student Affairs
The new Vice-Chancellor should carefully study the system to sustain the stability we have already attained. He should also address the critical

infrastructural deficit to enable us fair well in subsequent accreditation exercises and maximize the utilization of available personnel by appointing credible people who can help him succeed. I urge him to pay special attention to the Students' Affairs Department to strengthen its capacity to deliver quality service.



MR. JOB BORGBARA, Registry Department
The new Vice-Chancellor should be able to harmonize the unnecessary dichotomy that is observed between teaching and non-teaching staff, which sometimes does not allow for smooth service delivery by those who feel marginalized in the scheme of things. He should recognize the contributions of the non-teaching staff to the development of the University as a means of maximizing their input. I am happy that the outgoing administration initiated the Independent Power Plant (IPP) that should improve on power supply for enhanced productivity. We also expect the new Vice-Chancellor to improve on staff welfare during his tenure. I wish him well.



MR. OSARO OBARI, Department of Pol/Admin Studies
We hope to see a new administration that would run the system with integrity and inclusiveness; fine-tune what the previous administration achieved in the

critical area of staff welfare, as well as improve on the already available infrastructure on Campus. The new Vice-Chancellor should endeavour to identify and deploy the right personnel in the right places to achieve the

Respondents Set Agenda For Lale

As he assumes office today as the 8th Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, Professor Ndowa Lale has his work cut out for him by an expectant community. In these interviews anchored by Editor, WILLIAMS WODI, respondents set agenda for the new administration on how to take Unique UniPort to the next level. Please read on:

desired result. Most crucially, Professor Ndowa Lale should as much as possible not to be misled by sycophants who set out to ruin new administrations.

DR. JOHNSON OKPAKO, Acting HoD, Human Kinetics and Health Education
My expectation of the new administration is very high from every corner, but there is no university in which one Vice-Chancellor can meet all the demands of all stakeholders. I want the new Vice-Chancellor to carry everyone along in the scheme of things, by making all stakeholders aware of his administrative road-map. He should pay close attention to issues bothering on staff and students' welfare. The new administration should not wait until students begin to chant "we no go gree ooo" before it addresses their legitimate needs. He should avoid professional praise-singers and before he consults with the people, he should first consult God. He should also line up achievable projects within the timeframe available to him, rather than conceiving projects that would be abandoned.

OTAMI AKUBOM, College of Graduate Studies
What I want to see in the next five years are policies and programmes that would enhance the productivity of the non-teaching staff of this University. I know that electricity is a big challenge that we hope would be addressed by the gas turbine generator that was the initiative of the immediate past Vice-Chancellor. I would want the new Vice-Chancellor to ensure that we have uninterrupted power supply on Campus that would enable us operate our maximum output. Virtually all our office equipment



are dependent on power supply.

AUGUSTINE NWAGOR, Student Affairs Dept
I hope that the new Vice-Chancellor would be committed to staff welfare as his first priority. It is my hope that he would carry everyone along



Prof Lale, New V-C

in the scheme of things. Let him run an open-door administration, where every member of staff will be carried along. It is also my expectation that he would appoint capable hands that can discharge their duties effectively and add value to his administration.

BLESSING OSOKOLO, V-C's Office
My hope is that the incoming Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, will sustain the good programmes and initiatives of his predecessor, especially in the area of supporting arts and culture. He should also encourage sports development and welfare of staff. In addition to creating an enabling environment for job satisfaction among staff, he should provide



training opportunities for non-teaching staff to enhance productivity and service delivery.

DR. CHRIS AGWU, Curriculum Studies & EduTech

I am hopeful that Professor Ndowa Lale will meet the objectives of the University in teaching and research and the overall training of knowledgeable young men and women. He is known to be committed to a culture of excellence and it is obvious that the glory of God radiates around him. The new Vice-Chancellor should ensure that every discipline has a curriculum that is competence-based to create good products that will satisfy the needs of the society. If our disciplines are competence-based, the individuals that will pass through the system will acquire the requisite knowledge that would enable them deliver quality goods and services. This dimension of creativity and innovation should be incorporated into the concept of an Entrepreneurial University that the Professor Joseph Ajenka-led administration bequeathed to the University.

JULIUS AKANI, LECTURER, Dept of English Studies

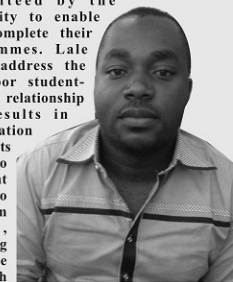
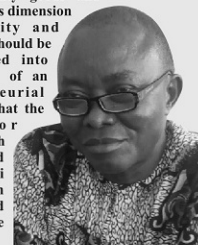


I want the incoming Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale to continue to steer the ship of the University on the path of glory and honour. He should ensure that the University remains a unique citadel of learning, particularly as an

Entrepreneurial University. He has a duty to take the University to higher grounds in terms of better infrastructure and partnerships.

PROFESSOR VINCENT IDEMYOR, Visiting Scholar
Professor Lale should prioritize scholarship to properly position UniPort to take its rightful place in the league ranking of Universities by global rating agencies. University of Port Harcourt placed just 36 in the 2015 ranking of African universities by Journals Consortium. It is only the scholarship of integration which cuts across disciplines that can drive UniPort to higher visibility and ranking. Senior academics with global exposure must provide academic mentorship to their younger colleagues to grow in the academy. We should concentrate our efforts on the impact factor of our research and development initiatives. One quality research endeavour can be more impactful than 50 low quality articles that are targeted at promotion alone. We need to update our curriculum to help scholarship. While buildings can beautify the skyline, we now need full capacity utilization of all available intellectual resources to join the global competition for relevance in research and development. I don't expect Professor Lale to disappoint us in this respect.

ENDWELL CHUKU, President, Student Union EXCO
We want Professor Lale to urgently address the poor state of hostels in the University to create an enabling environment for academic excellence. We also want him to build more classrooms and laboratories for effective learning and research. Indigent students should receive loans guaranteed by the University to enable them complete their programmes. Lale should address the very poor student-lecturer relationship that results in victimization of students who do not want to compromise, including some harsh academic policies that adversely affect us as students.



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been ranked first in Nigeria and sixth in Africa in research by the Times Higher Education Supplement, a United Kingdom-based authoritative source for information about higher education, stressing that the welcome development would encourage the University to rise to the top.

In his response, the new Vice-Chancellor said that his administration would need the support of all stakeholders to take the University to greater heights as a first choice destination for the pursuit of quality higher education, promising to commit himself to the actualisation of the dreams of the founding fathers of the University.

"I will commit myself to actualising the lofty dreams of the University to become one of the world-class universities known for excellent teaching, groundbreaking research, innovation and creativity. I will also like to promise with a keen sense of solemnity that I will neither disappoint you nor betray the confidence you have all reposed in me to deliver on your expectation," he pledged.

"I plan to take the University to the desired haven through: re-thinking the structures for driving our academic programmes, implementing creative resource-mobilisation strategies to fast-track infrastructural development; incentivising and motivating staff for sustained productivity by instituting a robust welfare scheme; promoting scholarship amongst staff and students and implementing strict discipline to stem the spate of unethical and unprofessional practices amongst some staff and students," Professor Lale disclosed. The event was also used as a Special Convocation Ceremony for the conferment of the Doctor of Science degree (*Honoris Causa*) on the Managing Director of Access Bank, Mr. Herbert Wigwe, who attended the ceremony with his family members, close associates and well-wishers.

Lale Assumes Office Today



Immediate past V-C, Prof Ajenka, new V-C, Prof Lale (1st and 2nd right) and Honorary Doctorate Awardee, Dr Wigwe and Wife, Doreen

Responding after his admission to the degree of Doctor of Science (*Honoris Causa*), a visibly delighted Dr. Wigwe expressed profound gratitude to the Management of the University for honouring him, thanking his parents for giving him a sound education and his wife Doreen and family for standing by him. Dr. Wigwe, who described education as key to a successful future, endowed a Professorial Chair in Safe Motherhood in honour of his wife, promising to build an Auditorium in honour of his parents, Pastor and Mrs. Shyngle Wigwe.

In a related development, Management of the University organized an elaborate send-forth party for the former Vice-Chancellor, Professor

Ajenka at the Convocation Arena, last Thursday. Expressing gratitude to the University Management, Staff and Students for the honour done him and the support his administration enjoyed in the last five years, Professor Ajenka urged all stakeholders to rally round his successor to uplift the profile of the institution in the next five years.

The event also featured a live art painting by Professor Ajenka, which was auctioned, American style. Other events included cultural displays and renditions by the UniPort Concert Chorus. It also featured presentation of gifts by Colleges, Faculties, Institutes, Centres and individuals.

Meet Our New Helmsman, Lale

By Humphrey Ogu

The ship of Unique UniPort sets sail today with a new captain in command. This is not to suggest that the ship was ashore all along, but to bring to the fore the fact that a new captain is already in the cockpit for the next five years. The new helmsman is Professor Ndowa Ekoate Sunday Lale, a pilot of no mean experience and exposure.

Armed with a First Class Honours degree in Crop Science from the University of Maiduguri, Borno State, where he studied between 1978 and 1981, Lale proceeded to the University of Newcastle upon Tyne in the United Kingdom in 1984 for further studies. He returned to Nigeria after obtaining the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Agricultural Entomology in 1987.

Apart from his many years of research and teaching experiences as a globally-recognized scholar, the new Vice-Chancellor served as a Consultant to the Rivers State Sustainable Development Agency (RSSDA) on the

popular Songhai Rivers Initiative. He was Editor-in-Chief of the *Nigerian Journal of Entomology*; President, African Sustainable Development Network; Member, TETFU Screening and Monitoring Committee under the National Research Fund Intervention (Science, Technology and Innovation Sub-Committee), amongst other responsibilities. The list of Lale's academic exploits is endless.

Professor Lale, who was pioneer Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture in the University, is a consummate leader in the complete sense of the word. In addition to his leadership prowess, Lale has a track record of emerging first in every contest he lines up to participate in. For instance, he contested for the position of Vice-Chancellor of the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Nkpulu-Oroworukwo, where he predictably emerged first, before the high-tension politics took centre stage there to abort his formal appointment to the exalted position.

His emergence in first place at the referendum organised for aspirants to the Vice-Chancellorship position by the University of Port Harcourt branch of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) is a final confirmation that the Professor Lale is truly a man of excellence on many fronts.

In the area of research, Professor Lale, who has over hundred journal articles and book chapters cited across

the globe, won the George Forster Research Fellow (Alexander von Humboldt Foundation), Institute for Pathology and Plant Protection, Entomological Section, Georg-August-University, Göttingen, 6, D-37077 Göttingen, Germany between 1999 and 2000. Through his engagements, the new helmsman has created both local and lifelong international linkages in Nigeria, the United Kingdom and Germany that facilitated teaching, research collaboration and further exchange programmes for both staff and students.

It is on record that the new Vice-Chancellor exhibited an exemplary nationalistic disposition that was evident in the recruitment and staffing structure during his tenure as pioneer Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture. He also possesses a high degree of competence in the academia, technocracy and administration, deep appreciation of Emotional Intelligence/Literacy and Empathy, skills that enabled him to excel in interpersonal interactions, leadership and management of human and material resources.

The new Vice-Chancellor is a motivational speaker, marriage counsellor and active media contributor. He is also a devout Christian and preacher of the gospel. An accomplished administrator with great oratorical skill, Professor Lale brings his trademark dynamism and mentorship to bear on the new job.

Born in Agbata, Egbu, Eleme on 31st January, 1956, Lale attended Ascension High School, Ogale, Eleme from where he obtained the West African School Certificate in Division One. Between 1976 and 1978, the new Vice-Chancellor obtained his Advanced Level Papers in Biology, Chemistry and Geography from the Federal Government College, Port Harcourt.

He is married to Mrs. Joy Akate Lale, a Chief Nursing Officer with the O. B. Lulu-Briggs Health Centre, University of Port Harcourt. They have four children.

Professor Lale possesses an enviable degree of integrity, transparency and team spirit—true virtues that form a solid foundation for building trust and counts with people in leadership positions. This is in addition to his expertise in conflict management and resolution. That is the new helmsman in the cockpit as the ship of Unique UniPort sets sail in a new direction this morning. It is ship ahoy! Ship ahoy!! Ship ahoy!!!



New V-C, Prof Lale and UPWA President, Mrs. Joy Lale

Aijenka Tasks Senate On Sustainable Development Education At Valedictory Session

...Renders Stewardship To Congregation

By Obinna Nwodin

Seventh Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Aijenka, has challenged members of the University Senate to strive towards improved service delivery, as the educational system in the country becomes increasingly characterized by competition for quality assurance and control amongst managers and students. He also tasked the apex academic policy-making body on the need to fully embrace sustainable development in education as advocated by global agencies.

Professor Aijenka gave the advice at a Valedictory Session during the 409th Extra-ordinary Meeting of Senate held at the Senate Chambers, last Wednesday. The former Chairman of Senate, whose presentation was entitled: *Education for Sustainable Development*, said that the concept was a requirement which the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) advocated for all higher institutions, recommending that the University of Port Harcourt should move in that direction if it wished to emerge as a global player in the knowledge industry.

Professor Aijenka, who stressed the need for Management to pay attention to students, particularly graduate and final year students, described universities as centres of creativity and innovation that needed to be properly funded and managed to discharge their core mandate of teaching, research and public service. He noted that many solutions to world problems and inventions were brought about by young people and hence the need to cultivate and mentor them in the right direction.

He advised academics to engage in quality research that would solve the problems of society in order to be relevant, rather than stagnating in the outdated practice of publish or perish. "In the knowledge economy of today, we need to patent, publish and produce and be known by the industry we trained for if we hope to be relevant in our chosen profession."

"It is important that we begin to cultivate good values and also carry out researches that are globally recognized and locally relevant," he said, adding that "due to the highly competitive nature of the system, we need to regain our image and rethink our strategies for marketing ourselves and becoming more competitive in knowledge production." He suggested the need to re-engineer the structure and content of the curricula, with the component of entrepreneurial education, while regretting that statistics showed that candidates who indicated interest in studying in the University had declined tremendously based on perception of the image and programmes offered by the University.

Professor Aijenka thanked members of Senate for their commitment to academic excellence and progressive decisions taken in the past five years of his administration, urging them to keep up the trend under his successor, Professor Ndowa Lale. He added that the various Committees of Senate served very creditably on his watch. "We did not miss any Senate session; if anything, we had extra meetings that resulted in a more vibrant and result-oriented Senate," he told his colleagues. The former Chairman of Senate also expressed gratitude to the Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Provosts, Deans, Directors and Heads of Department he worked with in the past five years. According to him, one of the things that gave him joy was that the University was beginning to pay attention to graduate programmes, describing the graduate school as the flagship of any university, because of their research output that transforms society.

Professor Aijenka, expressed the need for the august body to cooperate with the new administration, advising younger colleagues to tap from the experience of senior colleagues as they climb up the academic ladder. "We need to support and learn from the wisdom

of our very senior colleagues, as well as cultivate a good academic culture that would help the University grow from strength to strength," he advised.

In their separate speeches, Deans of the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education, Professors John Enemugwem, Henry Alapiki and Lawrence Igwe on one hand, and Provost of the Colleges of Health Sciences and Graduate Studies, Professors Christie Mato and Roseline Konya, as well as Emeritus Professor Otoni Nduka, praised the sterling qualities of

Almighty. "We need to build a University on the right foundation where our future is rooted in God alone," he told Congregation, adding that "we should strive always to do the right thing if we want the University to stand in the grace of the Almighty."

Professor Aijenka, who is also the immediate past Chairman of the Association of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities (AVCNU), said that he set out a 7-point agenda which included the attainment of the spirit of entrepreneurship, deepening academic culture, learning from international best practices, securing the future of the University and the sustainable



7th V-C, Prof. Aijenka at Senate Valedictory Session

Professor Aijenka, noting that his five-year tenure witnessed significant improvements in the University. They all urged his successor, Professor Lale to follow in that direction to give the University another mileage in the next five years.

In a related development, Professor Aijenka had advised staff and students to strive towards building a University that would trigger the development of the Niger Delta region, Nigeria and the world at large, describing the strategic region as a trigger that could fire the African continent to great scientific and technological breakthrough.

Professor Aijenka gave the advice in a presentation at a Special Valedictory Meeting of the University Congregation held at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, last Tuesday.

Aijenka, whose presentation was entitled: *The Making of an Entrepreneurial University*, stated that there was need for staff to brace up for the challenges of the future, adding that the University should lead the quest for solutions to the challenges facing society. "We should be part of the vanguard of people who seek to find solutions to world problems," advising that as a community, there was a need to ensure that "we seek to fulfill the Lord's Prayer so that our University can continue to grow." According to him, it was important to build upwards with the will of the Almighty and ensure a University that stands by His guidance and grace.

The immediate past Vice-Chancellor, who stated that on assumption of office in 2010, he wanted a University where scholars appreciated the harvest of creativity and innovation, stressed the need to help build the University so that it can stand on the grace of the

development of town and gown, said that he had kept the work plan he marshalled out in his *Inaugural Address* in July, 2010, ensuring that they were implemented to the best of his ability.

He stated that "we have tried to develop a development model. What we call the *Triple Helix PLUS*." He expressed the need for universities to build an indigenous knowledge, regretting that due to the fact that the opposite was the case for Nigeria, the universities have so far failed in their responsibilities to lead the society in finding home-made solutions to the problems facing the country and the continent.

Professor Aijenka, who disclosed that debts owed contractors were generally defrayed on his watch, said that he tried to ensure that the incoming Vice-Chancellor did not inherit any such debt that could bug down his administration. Describing leadership as a relay race, the former helmsman called on stakeholders to support the new Vice-Chancellor to continue the task of building on the tradition already established by successive administrations.

In their separate speeches, 2nd Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sylvanus Cookey, 5th Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, 5th Registrar, Dr. Chris Tamuno, a Member of the Governing Council, Professor Regina Ogah, amongst others, described Professor Aijenka as a leader, who exhibited the attributes of humility, sacrifice and transparency that resulted in the success recorded in the last five years.

A major highlight of the event was the decoration of some staff with the famous *UniPort Muffler* for their selfless services to the University during his tenure.



Immediate past V-C, Prof. Aijenka (arrowed) flanked by his wife, Mercy, Emeritus Prof. Briggs, Prof. Ken Anugweje, Mrs. Dorcas Otto (right) and 2nd V-C, Prof. Sylvanus Cookey, Prof. Konya, Julie Okoh (left) and others at the Valedictory Session of Congregation

Professional Colleagues, Associates Mark Aijenka's Disengagement With Festschrift

By Williams Wodi and Mercy Adeniji

Professional colleagues, friends and well-wishers of Professor Joseph Aijenka from the Industry and the University held a well-attended *festschrift* to honour him for his five-star performance in office as the seventh Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt.

Declaring open the event, which held at the Ebbitimi Banigo Auditorium, on Saturday, July 4th, 2015, Chairman of the occasion, and 5th Vice-Chancellor of the University, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, congratulated Professor Aijenka for his enormous contributions to the development of the University in the past five years of intensive restructuring and forging institutional partnerships, both locally and internationally.

Emeritus Professor Briggs commended guests for finding time to grace the event, which he said signified their deep appreciation of the solid contributions of the former Vice-Chancellor to the growth and visibility of the University on his watch. "We are here to honour a great achiever and if you know the meaning and how to pronounce the word *festschrift*, you would appreciate that it is a very strong German word for celebrating memorable writings in honour of an accomplished scholar.

Festschrift is a term given to a conglomerate of writings by scholars in praise of a very important colleague, who in their opinion has recorded great achievements. The gentleman we are here to honour is an achiever, who has done very well. As Professor Aijenka bows out of office, the University would continue to tap from his wealth of experience," he assured the former Vice-Chancellor, who was accompanied to the occasion by members of his immediate family. Presenting a Keynote Address entitled: *To Build a University that is Entrepreneurial in Spirit*, Chairman of Emerald Energy Resources, Dr. Emmanuel Egbogah, commended Professor Aijenka for his landmark achievements as Vice-Chancellor, pointing out that he did not expect anything less from Professor Aijenka, who was his former student at the University of Ibadan. Egbogah, who was represented by the Vice-Chairman of the company, Dr. Jude Amaefule, gave a rundown of the emergent concept of *technopreneurial* universities in America, urging the incoming Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, to deepen the academic content and culture of the University to make it competitive in a knowledge economy that demands the very best.

Dr. Egbogah disclosed that the world was undergoing great economic paradigm shift in the 21st century, with growth coming not so much from large companies employing large numbers of people, but staffed by a small number of people with large ideas, noting that the competitive advantages of nations will shift from possession of extensive natural resources and large populations to possession of skilled and imaginative

workforces, who can create wealth through exploring innovation in science and technology, particularly in the fields of information technology, life-sciences and entertainment.

Speaking on the need for collaboration, Dr. Amaefule noted that for the University of Port Harcourt to play a major role in Nigeria's economic development, it would have to go beyond being a repository of knowledge and producer of manpower to becoming an engine of entrepreneurship and development. "We need to collaborate with industry partners in order to get to where we want to be. The Faculty of Agriculture can, for instance, work together with the Petroleum Engineering Department, Electrical Engineering or any other discipline to advance research and development. We also need intra-departmental and inter-university collaborations between Professors to consolidate their research endeavours for the benefit of society," Dr. Amaefule recommended.

Earlier in a commencement speech, a one-time Director of the General Studies Unit, Professor Atuboyedira

would be at his disposal. As humans, we are always in the state of being and becoming. We must study what obtains elsewhere if we hope to fit into a very competitive world that demands creativity and innovation. Stretching ourselves in the line of duty is beneficial to the human spirit," the former Vice-Chancellor said, calling for full support for his successor, Professor Ndowa Lale, to enable him succeed on the job.

Also speaking, new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lale, promised to continue to build from where his predecessor stopped. "We owe a great debt of gratitude to Professor Aijenka for his dedication to duty and contributions to the development of the University. I am particularly grateful to him for initiating a smooth transition process that was devoid of the distasteful bitterness and rancour that characterize the political arena," Lale said, appealing for the same measure of support for his new administration.

A goodwill message of the Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission, Professor Julius

Okojie, was delivered by former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Iyo and Chairman of NUC's Standing Committee on Private Universities, Professor Akaner Essien, while a Member of the University's Governing Council, Professor Ogunari Georgewill, read the goodwill message of the Pro-Chancellor, Engineer Gesi Asamaewi at the event. Both men praised Professor Aijenka for taking the University to a higher pedestal, urging his successor, Professor Lale to the solid legacy left behind by his predecessor.



Immediate past V-C, Prof. Aijenka and his wife, Mercy

Oblinme, recalled that few weeks after the University celebrated 40 years of academic excellence, friends of Professor Aijenka in the University and the industry thought it wise to honour him for his immense contributions to the development of the Institution. "We are all gathered here to celebrate excellence, humility and the goodness of a man of great vision. In our considered opinion, Professor Aijenka has done very well and we owe him great gratitude for his effort in the last five years as Vice-Chancellor."

Responding, Professor Aijenka expressed gratitude to sponsors of the event for honouring him. "I was aware that some of my colleagues were writing a *festschrift* in my honour. Many who have pledged to buy the book thought it was a work on the concept of an Entrepreneurial University, which I advocated in the past five years; it is rather a book on Petroleum Engineering, put together by my colleagues from the Industry and the University, and I would like to thank them immensely for this honour.

"The up-building I announced at the inception of my administration was a form of foundation designed for us to do things better. It is important that we continue to build the University and I expect my successor to do far better than I did, despite dwindling resources that

Highpoints of the event included a panel discussion, book presentation, musical rendition by *UniPort Concert Chorus*, solidarity speeches by friends and well-wishers of Professor Aijenka, and a dinner/cultural night at the Atlantic Hall of Presidential Hotel, Port Harcourt.

Other activities that marked Professor Aijenka's end of tenure included Valdictory Senate and Congregation sessions, Send-Forth by the Management Committee, Meeting with Directors in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor and University of Port Harcourt Foundation, Reception by the University of Port Harcourt Chapter of the Nigerian Institute of Management, a Musical Evening by the Department of Music, another Reception by the Students' Union Executive, a Novelty Football Match by the Senior Staff Club, a University-wide Farewell Ceremony and another Reception by the Okrika Community in the University.

The grand finale of all the farewell ceremonies was the formal installation of Professor Lale as the 8th Vice-Chancellor of the University at a colourful ceremony at the Convocation Arena last Friday.