

# UniPort Weekly

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## NUC Ends Resource Verification Exercise To Law Faculty

**P**reparatory to a smooth take-off of the Bachelor of Law programme in the University, a team from the National Universities Commission (NUC), has concluded the Resource Verification exercise of the Faculty of Law to enable it make informed judgment on the state of the University's readiness to fully commence its fledgling Law programme, reports *Chikor Samuel*.

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## Side Bar

*The Honourable Minister of Sports, Barrister Solomon Dalang, paid an unscheduled visit to the University last Thursday.*

*Details next week.*

*-Editor*

## 129<sup>th</sup> Inaugural

# Nwauche Identifies Factors Responsible For Increase In Blood Cancers

*By Obinna Nwadin*

**P**oor health seeking behaviour, inadequate personal health care plan, irregular health checks and late presentation, have been identified as major factors militating against winning the battle on rising blood cancers cases in Nigeria.

These were the findings of Professor Chijioke Nwauche of the Department Haematology, Blood Transfusion and Immunology in the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, Nwauche, who shared his research findings with a large audience during the 129<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Lecture of the University held at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, last Thursday, called for the establishment of a functional Cancer Research Institute in the University with generous provision for a Professorial Chair to address rising cases of blood cancers in Nigeria.

The Inaugural Lecturer, whose Lecture was entitled: *Blood: The Essence of Life—The life of the flesh is in the blood*, highlighted the importance of blood in the life circle. He

identified transportation, mother and child in the womb and in the post-natal period; immunity and defence of the body from

*More on p6*



## UniPort Mgt Wades Into Staff Cooperative-Ecobank Loans Repayment Dispute

By Williams Wodi

**V**ice-Chancellor, Professor Ndawa Lale, has expressed disbelief that knowledgeable staff of the University would allow themselves to be misled into signing away their hard earned money under the guise of servicing loan facilities presented on their behalf by the Unique UniPort Staff (Chiba) Cooperative Investment Society (USCIBS). Regretting that such bad business decisions by Cooperative Unions on Campus were causing his administration sleepless nights that should be devoted to more productive ventures, the Vice-Chancellor said that Management was prepared to deal with the loans once and for all to protect vulnerable staff from exploitation by banks and the leadership of such bodies that place profit over people.

"Bank interest rates are not usually presented to customers in a wholly transparent manner when loans packages are negotiated. It is advisable in this instance that our staff took what they thought was an 'easy loan', only to realise later that the repayment process is fraught with several unwanted conditions that burden the loan beneficiaries. Unfortunately, banks are in business to make profit, meaning that customers who take out loan facilities must service such facilities," Professor Lale said, pointing out that Management would do everything possible to arrive at a consensus among the warring parties.

Blaming the UniPort branch of ECOBANK and Management of the Cooperative Society for making grave errors that were allowed to last for 18 months, Professor Lale promised that such costly errors would be quickly corrected to give all affected staff a breathing space. "What this transaction proves is that we need to learn the language of finance and banking, especially the fact that loan facilities should never be taken up for purposes of financing pleasures," the Vice-Chancellor advised staff of the University.

In a presentation entitled: *Implementation of Amortisation Repayment Schedule and Way Forward*, a member of the Management Committee of the Cooperative, Professor Uweke Akpabidje, explained that the bone of contention was the repayment plan for the N3 billion loan facility obtained from ECOBANK Plc for re-lending to members of the Cooperative Society. He stated that the interest rate for the first year was erroneously spread over a period of 48 months, instead of the originally intended 12 month timeframe.

"The error was discovered about 18 months after the loan disbursement in April, 2014 and efforts by Management of the Cooperative to use the correct interest calculation to rectify the anomaly was stoutly rejected by a group known as 'Aggrieved Members',

which resulted in the current crisis," adding that the Committee set up by the University Management confirmed the error and recommended the use of Loan Amortisation Table to calculate the interest rate based on reducing balance.

Members of the Cooperative were asked to either agree to deduction of the balance of their debt in equal monthly payment for the four-year period of the loan facility, or further spread the repayment period to five years.

On the way forward, Professor Akpabidje proposed Loan Amortisation repayment schedule, including investigation of alleged under-disbursement of loans and payment of cheques or cash into the private account of the former President of the Cooperative Society. He also suggested that the Treasury Department should grant deductions from all loan beneficiaries to facilitate reconciliation of the records, promising members that all other issues would be addressed to their satisfaction, especially continuous debt recovery from non-UniPort staff.

Rebelling ECOBANK against weighty allegations of colluding with Management of the Cooperative to shortchange loan beneficiaries, the bank's Zonal Head in charge of Public Sector in the South-South, Mr. Ajemura Famons, disclosed that ECOBANK engaged in what he described as "arm-length dealing with the Cooperative Society," revealing that Management of the Cooperative presented a different repayment schedule to the bank.

"Everything we did was above board and in compliance with extant banking rules. Looking back now, we should have been more proactive in our scrutiny of the modalities for disbursing the loan. The repayment schedule initially ran on an autopilot which made us allow the process to run without interference. But I want to assure you that we have notified what went wrong and are prepared to move forward," Mr. Famons told the members.

Earlier in his address, Acting President of the Cooperative, Professor Boniface Nwige, disclosed that he took office in the middle of a raging controversy, adding, "I inherited a confusing bundle of files that contained poor accounting and filing procedures which took time to sort out. We ruled many questions and the Vice-Chancellor tried to wade into the matter with the

hope of settling the contentious issues. There is an denying the fact that the Cooperative helped many members, but it is regrettable that the less than transparent administration of the loan facility now threatens to cause confusion. It is my hope that we will pay our debt to the bank to enable us return to normal frequency. I want to assure all our members that there is no proven case of corrupt practices so far and we intend to keep it that way to enable the Cooperative Society to achieve the purpose for which it was established," he said.

At the end of a heated interactive process, the Vice-Chancellor announced the setting up of a joint Committee, comprising aggrieved Congress members, the Management Committee, ECOBANK and Management of the University to resolve all grey areas in the contentious loan deal.



Prof Lale, V-C

## Retract Club Honours V-C For Impacting On Society

By Humphrey Ogo

**I**n recognition of his contributions to the development of society, especially in building the capacity of students in the University system, the Retract Club of University of Port Harcourt, which is the student wing of Rotary Club International, has conferred an award on the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndawa Lale.

Presenting a plaque to the Vice-Chancellor, on Friday, December 11, 2015, President of the Club, Elneto Desmond, said that the Retract Club gives succour to the less-privileged in society. "Here in UniPort, we have an office opposite Nelson Mandela Hostel. We source funds through donations from well-meaning individuals and organisations that wish to impact on the lives of the less-privileged in society.

"We chose to honour the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndawa Lale, because of his solid contributions in the area of capacity building of youths in the University and society at large. He has done so much in contributing towards the welfare of people and growth of the University even before he became a Vice-Chancellor," Desmond said.

Receiving the awards on behalf of Professor Lale, Special Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Kingsley Wogwa, commended the Club for the recognition, stressing the importance of honouring and encouraging selfless service in society.

"Let me on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, express gratitude to you for the recognition. I will convey the award and your message to him. I also encourage you to do more to make the society a better place through support for the less-privileged and recognising selfless service and genuine contributions to the growth of society," he advised the Club.



Prof Lale, V-C

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V-C, Prof. Ladan (2nd from left), Leader of the Team, Prof. Ladan (2nd from left), NUC Rep. Barr. Oparanya, Member of the Team, Prof. Oshale, (3rd from right), pioneer Dean, Prof. Ekeke (3rd from right) other Law Lecturers, some Principal and Senior Officers of the University

Cont'd from p1

Speaking at the Exit Meeting in the Vice-Chancellor's Committee Room after a painstaking verification exercise last Tuesday, leader of the team, Professor Muhammad Ladan, who disclosed that the team was in the University to verify necessary resources for the commencement of the programme, classified such resources under three broad categories.

"We are neither a probe panel nor an accreditation team; our job was to sight and verify written claims made by the University of Port Harcourt to the National Universities Commission under three categories which are human, material and physical resources. We went round the facilities and from what we saw, we think they are reasonably okay for the initial commencement of the Law programme here," Professor Ladan said, praising the University on the effort it has made so far in putting the right facilities on ground to realise the programme. He was particularly pleased that the University has equipped the Faculty of Law with current resources materials in the Library and also recruited high calibre teaching and non-teaching staff for the take-off of the programme.

## NUC Ends Resource Verification Exercise

Professor Ladan, who observed some grey areas that needed to be improved upon to facilitate full accreditation to run a full fledged Faculty of Law that could compete favourably with the existing 54 Law Faculties in the country, tasked the emergent Faculty to update its Journal holding and provide more Library Assistants and Porters to ensure close monitoring of the rich materials in the Library.

Responding, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndura Lale, who earlier welcomed the NUC team members to the University on Monday, expressed gratitude to them for their frank observations and recommendations aimed at improving what the University had already put on ground over the years in anticipation of final approval for the commencement of the programme.

"From your Exit Report, I now understand the daunting challenges facing any university hoping to establish a Law programme and why it has taken us this long to start this crucial programme. However, with all the sacrifices we have made so far, we are optimistic of securing the necessary approval to commence the programme. I want to

thank you for the forthright observations you have made for the improvement of what we have on ground. We will not rest on our oars to improve on our facilities with the stated aim of becoming one of the finest Law Faculties in the country," the Vice-Chancellor told the team.

The Resource Verification exercise took the team round the temporary and permanent structures of the Faculty where it sighted teaching and non-teaching staff and also inspected physical structures for the proposed Departments of Private and Property Law, and Public Law.

Other members of the Resource Verification Team were Professor Oluwalade Oshale of Ogun State University, who advised the Faculty to improve its *Nigeria Weekly Law Report* stock, and Mrs. Lilian Oparanya, a Legal Officer with the NUC.

Also present at the meeting were Principal and other senior officers of the University including the pioneer Dean, Professor Kaniye Ekeke, Acting Dean, Professor Bibile Warkia, Professors Adewale Mazaan, Owanla Okeni, Dr. Theodore Okonkwo and Mrs. Esther Joe.

## UniPort, Elano Investment Sign MoU On Training

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The University of Port Harcourt has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Elano Investment Limited on the training of 12 persons on Catering and Hospitality Management.

Speaking shortly after the signing ceremony which held at the Faculty of Management Sciences Library, Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Administration, Professor Anthony Ibe, who reiterated Management's commitment to ensuring a hitch-free training programme for the beneficiaries, expressed hope that the relationship between the University and the company would be sustained.

In her address, Director of the Entrepreneurial Centre, Dr. Edwinah Anah, disclosed that the proposed training programme would be jointly undertaken by the Centre and the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management in the Faculty of Management Sciences, describing it as the first of its kind. "We promise to put in our best in providing quality training that would transform beneficiaries of the package into

skilled employees of labour. It is a six-month training programme and certificates would be issued on to participants on their successful completion of the training programme," she remarked.

Deputy Managing Director of Wider Perspectives Limited and Consultants to Elano Investment Limited, Mrs. Edugbohin Hanson, noted that the MoU signed by the company would cover tuition and other entitlements. "These persons would be trained under the Youth Empowerment Scheme programme of Elano Investments Limited," she stated, adding that the choice of the University of Port Harcourt was as a result of the entrepreneurial drive of the Institution.

"As Consultants to Elano Investment on behalf of Chairmen of the Board of Directors and Education Committee, respectively, Gamba Okanjo and Professor Walter Ofori, we congratulate both parties and believe that beneficiaries of the training programme would be nurtured to become better people with capacity to impact meaningfully on the development of society," Mrs. Hanson said.



Prof. Ibe, DV-C, Admin

# MSF To Support UniPort Battle Gender Violence

By Humphrey Oye

**E**fforts aimed at mitigating the psychological and health effects of sexual violence on rape victims has received a major boost following an emergent partnership between emergency health providers, Medicines Sans Frontières (MSF) and the University of Port Harcourt.

Disclosing its mission to authorities of the University, representatives of MSF, also known as Doctors Without Borders, said the team was in the University to work ways of collaborating on tackling the physical, psychological and health challenges associated with sexual violence in tertiary institutions and the State.

Medicines Sans Frontières is an international humanitarian medical organisation, which has been in Port Harcourt since 2005. Most of our activities focused on traffic accidents at the Trauma Centre located in Teme Hospital until we ended the project in 2013. Early in 2015, we focused on post-election violence," MSF Field Coordinator, Inari Schattner explained, adding that the current project has to do with gender-based violence.

Schattner, who disclosed that MSF had opened a clinic to handle cases of sexual violence at a Rivers State Ministry of Health facility located at the Ovwigbo Health Centre, Port Harcourt, said patients were treated with utmost confidentiality, adding that the agency also handled reports of cases from police stations.

Leading the Rivers State Deputy Governors, Dr. Isidore Rungtu, for her on-going support for MSF activities, Schattner stressed the need for partnership with the media and educational institutions in sensitising the populace to curb the menace. He noted that a good number of rape victims seen at the facility were people between 18 and 25, mostly of males on females and postpuberty. "We have seen 198 cases since last year and because of the stigma attached to it, most rape victims do not present themselves to us. So, we need to do more in the area of sensitisation to let people understand that they need help."

Also speaking, MSF Medical Team Leader, Kiera Sengram, disclosed that they have a team of Doctors, Nurses and Counsellors, who are ready to offer free medical services and counselling to rape victims seven



The visiting MSF team and some Senior Officers of the University at the O.R. Lado-Beggs Health Centre

days a week, advising that victims should call MSF on 09035554545 for immediate assistance. "Pain from physical injury lasts for one or two weeks, but psychological trauma lasts for years and requires clinical remedy," she noted, adding that the agency has been seeing many cases and needed to collaborate with reputable institutions to create awareness about its services.

"We provide emergency healthcare for victims of sexual violence," she explained, listing Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) and traumatic injury as cases handled by the agency. She advised rape victims to "seek medical assistance within the first 72 hours to guard against HIV, sexually-transmitted diseases and counselling."

Responding, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Eke, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sabina Lado, commended the MSF team for proposing to collaborate with the University in fighting the menace of sexual violence in Nigeria. "Let me assure you that the University is ready to collaborate with you to provide support to victims of sexual violence, especially where

such cases occur in tertiary institutions. We also hope that MSF would offer capacity training for staff of the Health Services Department to enable them treat rape victims," Professor Eke said.

Welcoming the MSF team to the O.R. Lado-Beggs Health Centre, Acting Director of the Health Centre, Dr. Chima Eziro, reported that most victims of sexual violence do not report for assistance, saying: "We will appreciate it if your organisation would help train our health personnel on handling trauma cases arising from sexual violence."

On his part, Deputy Registrar in-charge of Information, Williams Wodi, who took the visiting team round, observed that it would be mutually beneficial to the University and society, if MSF would give awareness talk to students of the University to equip them as dependable partners in the fight against sexual violence. Highlight of the visit was a facility tour of the O.R. Lado-Beggs Health Centre and expatriate talks on best ways of forging a mutually-beneficial partnership. Other members of the MSF team were Assistant Field Coordinator, Clifford Standish and Outreach Officer, Abhayan Daniel.

**A**s a way of encouraging academic excellence and forging closer interaction the Department of Educational Management in the Faculty of Education organised an Interactive Departmental Summit for Lecturers and Graduate Students on January 21, 2016 at the International Students' Centre, University Park.

Speaking at the historic event, representative of the Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the Faculty, Professor Lawrence Igwe, described the gathering as the first of its kind in the Faculty, commending the Department of Educational Management for initiating such an important forum to address issues bothering on academic excellence and welfare of Graduate Students.

The Dean, who spoke extensively on the Overing Policy of the University and its implications for Graduate Students, advised them to strive towards

## Educational Mgt Fetes Graduate Students, Inaugurates Alumni Exco

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

timely completion of their programmes within the stipulated timeframe.

In his address at the occasion, Acting Head of Department, Dr. Nathaniel Abraham, noted that the Summit was aimed at bringing the students to interact with their Lecturers in an informal setting to ventilate issues bothering on their programme.

"We want to evaluate where we have failed and where we got it right. The whole idea is to see how we can make your stay here as memorable as possible.

Our aim is to ensure that on graduation, you would happily return as Alumni to contribute meaningfully to the development of the Department and your Alma Mater," Dr. Abraham told the Graduate Students.

The Acting Head of Department, who commended the Lecturers for working tirelessly to impart knowledge on the students, also praised them for choosing the University and the Department as their preferred destination for graduate studies. "We have come up with the tradition of interacting with

our students to address some of their concerns by building a solid relationship with that would last beyond their programmes here," he remarked, urging the students to work hard so as not to be affected by the Over Stop Policy of the University and plagiarism check on their research work.

Highlight of the event was the inauguration of a seven-man Interim Executive Committee for the newly-inaugurated Departmental Alumni Association. In his remarks, pioneer Interim President of the Association, Dandanyo Jaja, called for support from members to achieve the objectives for which the Association was formed, describing the emergent Alumni Association as a platform to move the Department to enviable heights in the Faculty.



Dean, Faculty of Education, Prof Igwe (C. Right) and members of the Departmental Alumni Interim Exco

**T**he Executive Committee of Ascension High School Old Boys' Association, was in the University on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 to felicitate with one of their own, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndolewa Lale and wish him a Prosperous New Year.

Speaking on behalf of the Association at the occasion, President of the Association, Chief Dreshari Korper, said: "It is a good thing that happened to us that we attended the same secondary school in our youthful days. We charge you to represent us well by breaking new grounds and doing things that would continue to reflect the inspirational Motto of our great Alma Mater."

Citing his Inaugural Address at the Bori Zone of the Association, the President noted that the school had produced captains of industry, a Governor, top politicians, Polytechnic Rector, Vice-Chancellor, judges and other respectable nation-builders, expressing hope that Professor Lale will make the Association proud during his tenure as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt.

In his response, Professor Lale said: "Thank you for the great recognition that you have accorded me since I assumed this office. God in his infinite wisdom has lifted us up, despite our humble beginnings in these difficult days. Convey my very sincere debt of gratitude to the Executive and Congress of the Association. If not for the Bori Chapter, the Association would have died by now. I want to express gratitude to you for keeping it alive and I urge other members to redouble support for the

## AHS Old Boys Salute V-C, Presents Him With 2016 Calendar

*By Humphrey Ogu*

Association," assuring them of his resolve to make the Association proud in any position he may be privileged to occupy.

The President was accompanied on the visit by

the General Secretary of the Association, Elder Lucky Ali and another member, Mr. Samuel Oghoghe, who is also Special Assistant to the University Bursar. The Association also used the opportunity to present copies of the 2016 Calendar to the Vice-Chancellor.



*President of AHS Old Boys, Chief Korper (left) handing over a copy of the 2016 Calendar to V-C, Prof Lale*

## Staff, Students Speak On Expectations For 2016

*As the New Year gradually unfolds, UniPort Weekly Correspondent, ETHEL TIMI-JOHNSON went round to sample opinion on the expectations of staff and students for the New Year. Her findings are presented in this report:*



**CHIDI ELEE,  
SENIOR  
ACCOUNTANT,  
BURSARY DEPT**

**A**s a staff of the University, I am going to put in my best to ensure the growth of the University, especially in the Payroll

Unit of the Bursary Department. I plead with the Vice-Chancellor to carry out grassroots supervision of all the Units in the University, using all the personnel in the various Units to check laxity. I also look forward to improving myself academically, because I believe that if I improve myself, I am also improving the standard of the University.

### EMEMALADE, REGISTRAR'S OFFICE

**I** believe there would be better welfare packages for staff this year, not just monetary packages, but better work incentives that would motivate us to give of our very best. Staff should also be assured of

safety in the workplace and should also be encouraged to bring up new ideas that would enhance service delivery in the University.



**EMEDIONG  
JOHNSON, YEAR II STUDENT, PURE  
AND INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY**

**I** really hope that we would write examinations and have our results published immediately. I hope reading materials would be made available early enough to enable us prepare for assessments and examinations. I also expect that this year,



the University Administration would provide Public Address Systems in lecture halls to enhance the learning experience. I wish to commend the Management on the new direction the University is taking and pray that it continues to improve the quality of academics that would make our graduates competitive in the job market.

### GABRIEL OGEDEGBE, YEAR II STUDENT, MEDICINE AND SURGERY

**W**e need more lecture halls and teaching staff to accommodate the growing number of students admitted into the University. There is need to improve on students' welfare, especially in the critical area of hostel accommodation. I look forward to improving myself academically; because that is the primary reason I am here. I want to score good grades and graduate on time to enable me contribute my own quota to national development.





## Engineering Faculty Opens Ombudsman's Office

By Othman Samari

On the successful conclusion of the 2014/2015 academic year, while wishing them well ahead of the new semester, the advised them to continue in the tradition of rendering quality service that would help reputation the Faculty to discharge its core mandate to all stakeholders in its affairs, expressing hope that 2016 would start in a new era of growth.

After speaking, Faculty Officers, Mr. Mito Ngeh, advised staff of the Faculty to refrain from involving themselves in acts that were capable of putting them

against extant rules governing the terms of their employment and belittling the Faculty's efforts.

"As we resume work in 2016, we should reflect on our strengths, challenges, opportunities and threats to prepare us for enhanced service delivery to the Faculty in particular and University of Port Harcourt at large. We will no longer continue staff who flout orders or those who engage in acts capable of bringing the Faculty into disrepute in the 'New Year', the Faculty Officers warned, promising improved welfare that would motivate staff to give of their very best in the accelerated growth of the Faculty.

As part of its determination to receive feedback and monitor staff performance on the job, the Faculty of Engineering has opened an Ombudsman's Office just next door to the Professor Chiboka Seminar Room. The new office is expected to address complaints by staff, students and other stakeholders who are either dissatisfied with service delivery or those who may wish to make observations and suggestions that would lead to improved productivity in the Faculty.

Dean of the Faculty, Professor Mamoon Ekeke, who broke the cheering news at an End-of-Year party for non-teaching staff which held at the Chiboka Seminar Room, Chaka Park on Wednesday, December 16, 2015, advised prospective complainants to drop their correspondence at the office with or without their names, warning that nobody should abuse the process through frivolous petitions that would defeat the purpose for which the new office was established.

"We created this office to facilitate the resolution of internal matters that crop up now and again in the Faculty. We no longer want matters arising from Departments under this Faculty to go directly to the University Management, so I wish to advise anybody who feels grosslyly aggrieved on any issue or has other an observation or suggestion to properly articulate and drop them at the Ombudsman's Office. We now have different lanes for teaching, non-teaching staff and students for that purpose and it is our hope that aggrieved parties would henceforth take full advantage of the new office to forward their complaints to the attention of the Faculty through the office of the Ombudsman," the Dean said, advising staff to treat students and visitors with utmost respect in important stakeholders in the smooth operations of the Faculty.

Professor Ekeke further said that the End-of-Year party was packaged to bring non-teaching staff together and also thank them for their contributions



A conversation of staff of the Faculty at the party. Inset: Dean, Prof Ekeke (right) and Faculty Officers, Dr. Ngeh

## UniPort Student Wins NIMN/ Unilever 2015 Award

By Mercy Adeniji

As further proof of the quality of training she received from the University of Port Harcourt, an excellent of the Department of Marketing in the Faculty of Management Sciences, Miss Mercy Ekeke, has won the 2015 National Institute of Marketing (NIMN)/Unilever PLC Best Student of the Year Award.

Evaluating views with UniPort Weekly in his office, Mr. Oghaji, Acting Head of the Department of Marketing, (Mr. Oghaji-Oghaji), said the objectives of the programme was to expose students of Marketing in tertiary institutions in the profession and also motivate them to strive towards creativity, excellence and a competitive spirit.

Outlining the modality for the award, Mr. Oghaji disclosed that two final joint students from each tertiary institutions in the country offering Marketing competed for the prize. The (jointed) award was presented to Miss Ekeke in a ceremony held in Lagos on Tuesday, November 24, 2015 at Gulf View Hotel, C&A

Hotel. He further said our Correspondent that the celebrated event was attended by experts of industry, media practitioners and members of the academic, amongst other dignitaries.

"At the final stage of the competition, our student Miss Ekeke, best of her contestant from the University of Nigeria Nsukka, Ashkale Aguin University, Babcock University, Federal Polytechnic, Nekede and Benue State University, to emerge the overall winner," a jointly conferred Acting Head revealed, describing Miss Ekeke as the first student from the University to win the coveted award since its inception in 2005.

"The competition is organized by the National Institute of Marketing of Nigeria (NIMN), but sponsored by Unilever Plc. The competition is executed in two phases: the first phase is the written test, in which contestants are evaluated on three broad subject areas—namely, Marketing Practice, Marketing Theory and Case Analysis. Based on their scores in the written test, the best five contestants are invited to an oral interview, which ultimately culminated in the award ceremony involving the final winner. The prize, which ranges from cash, book donations and automatic employment for the overall winner, are usually made available by Unilever goods giant (Unilever Plc). Following her spectacular victory, our student has

been given automatic employment by the company and is already undergoing a six-week mandatory training programme in readiness for her placement," Dr. Oghaji disclosed.

The Acting Head also added that "By this feat, our student has not only got her name down in the annals of history as the first to achieve this rare feat from this University since the competition started in 2005, but she has also positively projected the image and reputation of the Department of Marketing, Faculty of Management Sciences and University of Port Harcourt at large," noting that this feat could not have been possible without the unprecedented support of the University Management and the Faculty.

"My advice to other students is that hard work pays, it also pays to be confident and courageous in whatever they are doing. It pays for students to read by and what they are taught in the classroom. They need to be academically, morally, socially sound, including in written and oral communications. Your ability to balance all aspects of life is what matters, and so I urge students to inspire themselves to face the daunting challenges in a new knowledge economy that requires brain workers, rather than those who depend on paper certificates," he advised students of the University.



Miss Ekeke

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT WEATHER OBSERVATORY							
FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 31 – SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 06, 2016.							
DATE	TEMPERATURE (°C)	RELATIVE HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	WIND SPEED	SEA STATE	SKY CONDITION	REMARKS
SUNDAY, 31 JAN, 2016	17.4	52.0	SE	1	-	0.00	Mostly sunny day throughout
MONDAY, 01 FEB, 2016	16.8	50.0	SE	1	-	0.00	Sunny day reported.
TUESDAY, 02 FEB, 2016	16.0	50.0	SE	1	-	0.00	Sunny day throughout
WEDNESDAY, 03 FEB, 2016	16.0	50.0	SE	1	-	0.00	Mostly sunny day throughout
THURSDAY, 04 FEB, 2016	16.0	50.0	SE	1	-	0.00	Mostly sunny day reported
FRIDAY, 05 FEB, 2016	16.0	50.0	SE	1	-	0.00	Mostly sunny day reported
SATURDAY, 06 FEB, 2016	16.0	50.0	SE	1	-	0.00	Mostly sunny day reported

Dr. Gladys Emenike

Acting MO

Dr. Prince Mwanu  
AO, Director, (CDMO)

# UniPort, RSUST Agree To Partner On Institutional Growth

By Williams Wodi

History was made last Tuesday when the Vice-Chancellor of University of Port Harcourt, Professor Science Lale led a high-powered delegation to pay an official visit to his counterpart, Professor Blessing Dibia at the new Senate Chambers of the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Ngpia, Port Harcourt.

The visit was aimed at forging closer institutional relationship between the two sister universities that provide specialised manpower for Rivers State, the Niger Delta and the rest of Nigeria.

Noticing his rapid growth, a visibly enthused Professor Dibia expressed excitement at the visit, commending Professor Lale for returning an earlier visit he paid him shortly after assuming office last July. He also expressed hope that the growing institutional ties would mutually benefit researchers and administrators in both universities.

"On assumption of office here, I met a strong and dedicated team of academics and administrators, that are capable of running a first rate university anywhere in the world. Our Registry, Library, and other areas of the University are working well and I can declare with a high degree of certainty that RSUST is working because we are working very hard here. This landmark visit will further reinforce

institutions.

"This is actually my second visit to this great University after I left in less than pleasant



UniPort V-C, Prof Lale (in headphones), his RSUST counterpart, Prof Dibia and others in the study of RSUST Radio

circumstances that I wish to keep in the past and I am very happy at the pace of development going on here.

Your Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dibia, is one of the kindest human beings I have ever met and I am proud that RSUST can be where it is today under his able leadership. As a Council member here, I helped to introduce some important innovations that undoubtedly laid the foundation for a new beginning in this great institution to that process."

The visiting Vice-Chancellor told his host, Commending his counterpart for providing purposeful, honest and transparent leadership that the University community has enthusiastically responded to, Professor Lale called for more support that would enable him take RSUST to greater heights.



Visiting UniPort delegation, Principal and Senior Officers of RSUST in a group photograph



Army of state-of-the-art seats at the Law Auditorium

my commitment to the development of this University and I am very happy that people here are fully committed to my vision of building a world-class University that has capacity to proffer solutions to many of the problems facing the Niger Delta region and beyond," the Acting Vice-Chancellor told his guests.

Listing his achievements within his short tenure to include refurbishment of Radio RSUST, with a new television station in view, a new Computer Science Laboratory, recovery of the Nimi D. Briggs Hospital from a private proprietor, reconstruction of the dilapidated Senior Staff Club, rehabilitation of Staff Quarters and Student Hostels, promotion of deserving staff, amongst others, Professor Dibia also disclosed that his administration organised a highly-commended and well-organised Forgiveness and Reconciliation Service that enabled the once combustible institution to shed its troubled past and face the future with renewed confidence under divine guidance.

In his own remarks, Professor Lale, who was a member of the RSUST Governing Council up till May 2012, told his host that he had mixed feelings stepping into the Campus, expressing delight that the once illusive project had materialised to the pioneer University of Science and Technology in the country to the delight of all stakeholders in the affairs of the

the President, Professor Ken Akasimor praised the important partnership between the two sister institutions.

"I wish to use this opportunity to express the gratitude of members to my personable and visionary Vice-Chancellor for giving the Club a facelift that has resulted in increased patronage. One 'strong man' woke up one morning, looked up this Club and pocketed the key without sensitivity to the welfare needs of the University community and it is by the grace of God that Professor Dibia was appointed to this exalted position and the difference has been clear ever since he arrived here," the President said.

In the UniPort entourage included the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, Registrar, Mrs. Bernice Oke, Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Aliot, University Librarian, Dr. Susan Umotot, Director of the Sports Institute, Professor Ken Anagwiri and Special Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Kingsley Wogwa. The Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor of RSUST, Professor Boma Owarak, Registrar, Mrs. Constance Olanibade, Bursar, Mr. Kennedy Abraham and University Librarian, Dr. Blessing Akintola, including Provost of the College of Medicine, Professor Raphael Oramah, Deans and other senior officers of the University were on hand to receive the August guests.