

## UNIPORT Reassures ETF On Project Implementation



**A**uthorities of the University of Port Harcourt have restated their resolve to judiciously manage allocations from the Education Trust Fund (ETF) to improve quality of research and teaching in the Institution. The Fund has also been told to expedite action on the implementation of projects aimed at enhancing learning in the University

-Reports Obinna Nwodin

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### Stop Press

Professor Oluwayomi Ehinu of the Dept Of Pharmacology delivers the 7th Inaugural Lecture this Thursday, entitled: "Rolling Back Malaria In Nigeria: The Love of the Field". Details next week.

-Editor



# UNIPORT Weekly

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## Friends, Associates, Heap Encomiums On Okoko At Senate Valedictory Session

By Obinna Nwodin

**A**n emotion-laden Professor Kimse Okoko of the Department of Political and Administrative Studies, could not restrain tears last week as he reflected on the contributions of colleagues, friends and family to his academic and public life during a Valedictory Senate Session to mark his formal

retirement from the pioneer staff of the University of Port Harcourt. University who made invaluable contributions to the development of the open, Chairman of Senate and Vice-Chancellor, University with over three decades of quality service. Professor Joseph Ajienka, said that the event which was significant in the history of the Institution, marked the celebration of an erudite scholar on his exit, describing Okoko as an academic general and a

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## THE RELIGIOUS PROTESTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN

**T**he recent protest by Muslim students at Nigeria's premier

university, the University of

Ibadan (UI), over the

demolition, by the authorities of the institution of a students' mosque could have been averted if the right thing had been done at the right time. There was negligence on the part of the UI authorities.

Since there was already a Central Mosque on campus where all Muslims could worship, it was needless allowing the indiscriminate erection of another mosque, or other worship places all over the campus by not only the Muslims but Christian students alike. The authorities failed in their duty by allowing the building of the mosque in the first place at a supposedly unauthorized location. Building another mosque was misplaced since it had the potential to spark unrest as witnessed on the fateful day.

Worldwide, a university is a place of academic enterprise and not a centre for religious pilgrimages and worship. The conversion of our campuses to centres of religious bigotry by students who should be engaged in academic studies should be a source of worry. According to reports, the authorities of UI had in an attempt to stem unbridled religious activities on campus embarked on the demolition of illegal worship centres in different areas of the campus.

In the process, a students' mosque was knocked down. Muslim students under the aegis of the Muslim Students Society (MSS) reportedly built the mosque. That was in addition to the Central Mosque on campus, where all Muslims were supposed to worship. The action of the University irked the students who alleged that the University demolished their mosque without their knowledge. Trooping out in hundreds, the students went on rampage and made life uncomfortable for the institution's community.

They reportedly locked the University's main gate thereby barricading the roads leading into and out of the campus. Tension and commotion reigned on campus. The action of the students created traffic gridlock on the campus' main highway and the UI/Agbowo-Sango Road outside the University. The situation forced motorists to make U-turns while pedestrians had a hectic time.

Students who had papers to write in the on-going first semester examination scaled the wall fence to access or exit the campus. This is unbecoming of an academic institution of the status of UI. It wasn't the first time that the University had been thrown into turmoil on account of religious fanaticism. Sometime last year, there was a similar riot on the campus following a provocative invasion of the Central Mosque by a female "born again" Christian. The intrusion of the lady

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together with her call on Muslims to repent or go to hell sparked a religious riot that engulfed the University for weeks.

We are alarmed that our universities have gradually been turned into arenas for all manners of religious activities at the expense of academics. Something should be done to stem the ugly trend. Gone were the days when undergraduates promoted academic enterprise by organizing debates, seminars and symposia. Today, it is a different ball game. These days, the students are neck deep into religious activities. They organize vigils, crusades and all manners of religious activities. In all this, academics play a second fiddle. The result is that many of those in this group come out as half-baked graduates. Many can't measure up in any academic engagement. It is a trend that is not in the interest of the country.

We think that it is time for parents to be involved in curbing the trend. Parents should appeal to their children to focus on their studies. It is incomprehensible how a student who is in the university to acquire knowledge would turn around to give more time and resources to religious activities. For instance, it is ridiculous that the UI students contributed money to build another mosque when there is already a Central Mosque on campus. Perhaps, those were monies meant for their books and other academic needs. But they preferred to use it to erect a mosque. But as earlier mentioned, the blame goes to the University. Where was the University when the students were erecting the mosque? Why wasn't it stopped at the time since it was unapproved?

What is happening at UI is a wake-up call as to what could happen should such religious riots erupt in any of the universities in the northern part of the country where there are many Muslim students. To prevent unforeseen ugly circumstances, it is high time the authorities of the various universities stepped up action to stop religious excesses on the campuses. Students should be made to face their studies. The authorities should restrict all religious activities that are outside those recognized by the university.

Culled from The Guardian newspaper

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## Our Students Know Academic Terrain Better

By Otikor Samuel

-Basic Studies Director

**D**irector, School of Basic Studies, Dr Ibilola Orupabo, has said that students who pass through the Basic Studies programme stand a better chance of making better grades than their counterparts who gain direct admission to the University through examinations conducted by the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB).

Dr Orupabo, who stated this in an interview with *UNIPORT Weekly* in her office last Monday, disclosed that Basic Students are more exposed to academic competitiveness, preparatory to their Undergraduate studies. "Basic Students are streetwise; they have added advantage of settling into the environment and understanding their Lecturers better", she added.

The Director expressed satisfaction with the level of enthusiasm students show in their studies, disclosing that the large number of candidates who patronize the programme prompted their sub-division into two groups to ease learning.

She, however, lamented that most parents and guardians want their wards in professional courses such as Medicine & Surgery, Pharmacy, Nursing, and

Engineering, positing that all professions are important and inter-dependent. "Parents would want to choose courses for their wards in anticipation of good job prospects, but such students tend to do better in the career course they make



Dr Ibilola Orupabo

themselves rather than those imposed on them by their sponsors".

Dr Orupabo who is a Chemical Pathologist, regretted that the admission quota for the Basic Studies is low compared to the high demand for the Programme, blaming it on stringent regulations by the National Universities Commission and other relevant agencies that insist on annual admission ceilings that the University cannot exceed.

Speaking on the Basic Studies building, Dr Orupabo lamented what she described as architectural wastage and poor quality of work done on the complex. She urged contractors executing projects in the University to always strive towards delivery of quality jobs, adding that the School plans to re-design some of the undefined architectural spaces to serve as library for students.

Some students running the programme; Nador Miller of Geology and Chuks Arinze of Civil Engineering both commended Lecturers for prompt attendance to classes. They however, separately, called for splitting of classes into Departments to minimize over-crowding in lecture halls and ensure effective learning.

The students argued that the division into Groups A & B has not paid off in the absence of megaphones or audio-aiding equipment in the Auditorium to enhance learning and ensure efficiency of the programme.

**D**ean, Faculty of Agriculture, Professor Ndowa Lale, has disclosed plans to establish a *Teaching and Research Farm* which would enable the Faculty contribute to the development of indigenous farming through relevant researches.

Professor Lale who made the disclosure to *UNIPORT Weekly* last Monday, said that though the Faculty currently runs *Demonstration Farms* that have mushroom, snail and poultry, the proposed *Teaching and Research Farm* would enable students acquire hands-on training as against the theories taught in the classroom.

"With the Faculty presently involved in developing techniques to manage pest, nematodes, weeds and disease organisms and the use of locally-available grains and materials as feeds for poultry, more efforts would be geared towards transmitting information from researchers to end-users, including local farmers and agricultural agencies", the Dean noted.



Prof Ndowa Lale  
Dean, Faculty of Agriculture

## Agric Faculty Plans Research Farm

By Ethel Wopara & Humphrey Ogu

Meanwhile, an Entomologist and Lecturer in the Department of Crop and Soil Science, Mr Zakka Usman, has cautioned farmers on excess use of fertilizer and pesticides and consumers on the dangers of patronizing inorganic food, stating that if not properly handled, such inorganic products could cause health hazards.

He said: "We are here to enlighten the University Community on the importance of organic agriculture. Organic farming is the cultivation of crops without the

use of inorganic materials such as pesticides and fertilizer. We know that these chemicals have injurious effects on our health due to ignorance in handling them", adding that "It is our belief that if we enlighten the University Community, the information would also get to rural farmers to enable them take necessary precautions to safeguard their health, even as they strive towards attaining improved yields".

He called on the University Community to patronize the *Demonstration Farm* at Choba Park, disclosing that "We have organic mushrooms, maize, vegetables, among others". Mr Usman emphasized the importance of reducing intake of meat, recommending consumption of more mushroom to ensure good health.

"Reduce excess use of fertilizer, cut down on the use of pesticides and save the environment is the message we wish to pass across", he said, explaining that "Even the insecticides we use in our homes and the environment, all have a cumulative effect on human health".

Mr Usman, who disclosed that there are so many ongoing experiments on crops in the Faculty of Agriculture, said: "In our research farm, we cultivate onions, ginger, turmeric, carrots and other crops that were hitherto considered impossible of growing in this part of the Country", stating that "All that is required to grow new species of crops is to understand the crop, soil and the right time to plant".

Mr Usman who pointed out that "We have gone past the age of drudgery in agriculture, where it is backbreaking", said "Today one does not need a vast piece of land to start urban agriculture where one can start a fish pond or poultry".



Mr Zakka Usman

## Campus View

# Agro-Econs Dept Commences Pilot Village Extension Project

By Ethel Wopara

...Records Best Graduating Student In Faculty

As part of on-going research efforts in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, a *Social Network Programme* also known as *Pilot Village Extension* has been introduced with the aim of reaching out to rural farmers on technological advancements and best practices in agriculture.

Acting Head of Department, Dr. Olufemi Adesope, who made the disclosure, last Tuesday, said that the project which has already started in Rumuekini Community would be extended to other Communities in the Niger Delta Region. He expressed hope that the pilot project would expose students to the basics of participatory research which is a contemporary technique to research approach in development studies.

Dr Adesope, who noted that the project would also serve as a Social Laboratory for students, researchers and agricultural extensionists, said that to enhance their competence and knowledge, staff of the Department undergo regular international and national training programmes. He cited the cases of Mrs Zelda Efe-Omojevo, who is currently participating in an African Union-India Scholarship in the Tamilnadu Agricultural University, Combatore, India and Mrs Mercy Ogaraku, who is involved in a research consortium in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Acting Head of Department noted that part of the training also includes a long-term excursion programme for himself and Mr.

Anthony Onoja on *Agricultural Mechanization and Irrigation* to map out irrigated areas in the Country, organized by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), America and the National Centre for Mechanized Agriculture, Ilorin, Kwara State.



**Dr. Olufemi Adesope**  
Acting HOD, Dept. Of Agric Econs/Extension



**Mr Anthony Onoja**

Disclosing that the Department also benefitted from the *Centre Technique de Coopération (CTA)*, Netherlands *Web 2.0 Programme* in collaboration with the Rivers State University of Science and Technology (RSUST), Dr Adesope noted that staff were trained on how to use web facilities for improved agricultural research.

With the first batch of 17 students due to graduate this June, he noted that the best graduating student in the Faculty, Miss Linda Ozuzu, emerged from Agricultural Economics and Extension Department with a Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 4.43.



**Mrs Zelda Efe-Omojevo**  
African Union-India Scholarship in India



**Mrs Mercy Ogaraku**  
Researching in Nairobi, Kenya

## Eat Less Liver, Kidneys, Lungs, Scientist Cautions Consumers

By Obinna Nwodin

Contrary to the popularly-held view that some parts of animals such as liver, kidneys and lungs have nutritional values, a Professor of Environmental Chemistry, Michael Horsfall, has disclosed that such animal parts which are the centre bio-accumulation for heavy metals may be



**Prof Micheal Horsfall**

dangerous to the body, after all. Professor Horsfall of the Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry cautioned that the rate of their consumption should be drastically reduced to avoid adverse impact on humans.

The avid researcher, who made the disclosure in an interview with *UNIPORT Weekly* in his office penultimate Friday, stated that "In the environment, the way metals exist in available and non-availability forms permeate into plants that animals especially—cattle consume. This makes it imperative that virtually all the food we eat have some form of contamination that is dangerous to human health".

According to him, heavy metals such as lead, arsenic, cadmium, zinc, copper, mercury and iron are found in individual and group activities on daily basis, stressing that these metals which are released by way of industrial and domestic processes, find their way into the environment when rain water washes them into the soil. They contaminate plants which are consumed by either animals or humans, pointing out that such metals find their way into parts of the body such as liver, lungs, kidneys, thereby compromising human health.

Professor Horsfall, whose major research interest is on absorption of heavy metals from industrial effluents, using waste materials, advocated that more attention be paid to environmental issues. Said he, "Change in attitude, from individuals, government and industry players would help to reduce environmental risks associated with heavy metals".

According to him, paint manufacturers add lead to their product in developing countries. "In advanced societies, that is not so. If our industries do not secretly add lead to paints, we would be solving part of the problem. We can conclude that most of the problems are human-made", he averred.

Professor Horsfall who recently received a Research Fellowship from the Royal Society of Chemistry, United Kingdom, also fingered illegal mining in which participants are exposed to a lot of heavy metals, as another cause of the problem, advising that all hands should be on deck at all levels to ensure that the discharge of heavy metals on the environment is minimized thereby saving the environment and its inhabitants from dangerous consequences.

**F**ollowing power outage on Campus last week, authorities of the University have explained reasons for the unfortunate situation, appealing to staff and students to bear with Management as frantic efforts have been made to rectify the situation and avoid future occurrence.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who made the appeal when he separately addressed the Congregation, as well as Student Union Executive at emergency stakeholders' meetings last Monday, said that Management was concerned over the situation as it affected the supply of municipal services, blaming it on non-availability of diesel, coupled with the failure of Power Holding Company of Nigeria to provide regular power supply to the University during the period.

Professor Ajienka, promised to implement the recommendations of the Professor Anthony Ibe-led Committee on Electricity, after Council's ratification, acknowledging that the sudden blackout on Campus over the weekend, right through working days posed a serious challenge to the administration's efforts to run normal activities in the University.

"We found ourselves in a very critical situation. The 66,000 litres of diesel which we previously purchased at six million naira is now over nine million naira. The supply lasts for only three days when public power supply does not complement the running of our private plants and if we go by the new trend, it means that all our Internally-Generated-Revenues would be expended on power supply alone", Professor Ajienka explained, regretting that the total

## V-C Appeals To Staff, Students, On Poor Electricity Supply

By Otikor Samuel & Obinna Nwodin

blackout which denied the University community access to basic municipal services placed much burden on the administration.

The Vice-Chancellor regretted that some unscrupulous elements were suspected to be sabotaging genuine efforts aimed at ensuring stable electricity supply to the University, disclosing that electricity would become stable when Council ratifies the proposal on Gas Turbine which would be promptly implemented by Management.

In his own response, President of the Student Union, Rhino Owthorkire, who commended the Vice-Chancellor for the prompt briefing, reiterated his resolve to embrace dialogue in resolving contentious issues. Other students who spoke appealed for regular supply of water through tankers and rationing of electricity in the various halls of residence for students who were still writing their examinations.

At the Congregation, Management was advised to cut down on hours of running the power generating plant, clean the water pipes and pursue the proposal to install gas turbine.



Prof Ajienka  
V-C, UNIPORT

## Central Instruments Lab Receives More Equipment

By Mercy Don-Baridam

**F**ollowing receipt of more equipment from the MacArthur Foundation of Chicago, the Central Instruments Laboratory (CIL) has been repositioned for better services to improve research activities in the University and serve clients in industry. Conducting our Correspondent round the Centre last Tuesday, the Director, Professor Gideon Abu, disclosed that the new equipment were procured through funding made available by MacArthur Foundation under the Procurement Installation Service and Maintenance of

Scientific Equipment (PRISM) project, following a research proposal developed by Professor Gideon Okeokwasili of the Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science.

Under the grants, "We have received some of the laboratory equipment which include A Varian 450 GC (Gas Chromatograph) which is a highly sensitive instrument used in analysing substances that contain pollutant such as crude oil components like Benzene, Toluene, Xylene, Phenol, Poly Aromatic Hydrocarbons. Another is the Varian Atomic Absorption Spectrometer (AAS), which can also be used for analyzing heavy metals

such as Lead (Pb), Mercury (Hg), Cadmium (Cd) among others, the Director disclosed.

He added that other equipment available for installation include: the Varian Ultra Violet (UV) Visible Spectrophotometer, High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC), Milli Pore Water Purification System (MPWPS), and the Global Positioning System receiver. He noted that the instruments could also assist in building up a Geographic Information System data base, promising that the sensitive equipment would be handled with utmost care to ensure their utility and longevity.

Professor Abu said that the Laboratory would help to generate income for the University when fully operational and also cater for the needs of clients, who may bring their samples for analysis, assuring the University Community that Technologists would be empowered to process such samples for a fee.

According to him, the vision of the Centre, is to have a state-of-the-art Laboratory with advanced research equipment to serve industry and the academia in the South-South region with a fast Turn-Around Time (TAT), hinting that Lecturers and Graduate Students would also benefit immensely from the Centre.

The Director said that a research team for the Centre has been set up under the auspices of International Foundation for Science (IFS), stating that the initial efforts of the Centre would be in the area of environmental remediation and agricultural production.

The Professor of Microbiology said that the Centre is still expecting a Scanning Electro-Microscope (SEM) and a Gas Chromatograph Mass Spectrometer (GC/MS), expressing hope that the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrometer (NMR) would soon be added to the number of equipment already received. He also hoped that the Centre would soon move to its permanent site, explaining that plans are currently on the drawing board to construct what the Vice-Chancellor designated as a Science Institute Building to be situated at the back of Ofir Hall.

On the staff strength at the Centre, Professor Abu said: "We have a Director, an Assistant Director, two Chief Technologists, an Assistant Chief Technologist, Resident Technologist, Laboratory Attendants and a Chief Superintendent Driver.



Prof Gideon Abu, Director Central Instruments Lab



Some of the new equipments

## Friends, Associates, Heap Encomiums On Okoko At Senate Valedictory Session

*Cont'd from p1*

the people of the Niger Delta, noted that he was among those who set the pace in the emergence of the Department of Political and Administrative Studies. He also described him as a man of integrity and a bridge-builder who the authorities were proud to have had in the University, adding that he could be sorely missed on Campus.

In his remark, Governor of Rivers State, Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi, Nig was represented by the Commissioner of Housing, Mr. Marshall Stanley Uwom, said that Professor Okoko is an instrument of change and transformation not only in the State, but the Country at large, adding that his exemplary conduct shows that he is an icon and a worthy role model to the younger generation.

Also speaking, Governor of Bayelsa State, Chief Timipre Sylva, represented by Secretary to the State Government, Mr. Gideon Ekweke, said that Professor Okoko, who has been in the forefront in the Niger Delta struggle is a social transformer and teacher of development studies, who has endeared himself to a lot of people. He noted that Professor Okoko who is one of the most patriotic sons of Bayelsa State is an academic giant who has contributed greatly to the development of society. Former Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Mark Anikpo, observed that during his service years, Professor Okoko was an embodiment of vision that strengthened the foundation of the Faculty of Social Science, describing him as a Scholar who was able to combine academic service with public service and family life.

Also speaking, Professor Francis Sikoki of the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, described the retiring Don as a friend indeed who is selfless, honest, truthful and extremely steadfast and committed to his career and principles.

To Former Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Osaretin Odia, Professor Okoko was a good neighbour, who diligently

supported his wife and family greatly, despite his very busy work schedule.

Professor Ebi Awotua Efebo, Dean Faculty of Education, described Professor Okoko as a strict and honest man of integrity, who does not disappoint himself and his friends on matters of principle.

Also speaking, Vice-Chancellor of Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Professor Chris Ikporikpo, described Professor Okoko as a great democrat, patient and honest man, who has provided great leadership in the University, adding that he always stood for justice and honesty even as Pro-Chancellor of Niger Delta University.

In his speech, Mayor of Yenagoa City Council, Mr. Michael Ogholosingha, said that Professor Okoko, who is a great son of Yenagoa, has made his people proud through his numerous achievements, as well as motivated so many people to positive action.

Responding, Professor Okoko expressed gratitude

to all who contributed in different ways to his successful career in the University which spanned over three decades, promising to be an Ambassador of the University even in retirement.

Also speaking, Head of the Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Professor Henry Alapiki, thanked authorities of the University for honouring a pioneer staff in the Department for his contributions to the development of the University.

The Valedictory Session was followed by the presentation of a book entitled: *Identity Politics in Nigeria* at the Convocation Arena, as well as a Lecture on *Niger Delta Question and Nigeria's Political Evolution* by Professor Winston Bell-Gam of the Department of Geography and Environmental Management. A major highlight of the event was endowment of a *Professorial Chair* in Political Science in honour of Professor Okoko by Chief Ken Etete.



V-C, Prof Ajenka (arrowed), Prof Okoko and a cross section of guests at the event

## Youth-Friendly Centre Appeals For Support To Attain Goals

*By Mercy Don-Baridam*

Management of the Youth-Friendly Centre has appealed for more assistance to enable it provide enhanced services to the University Community aimed at achieving the goals for which it was set up by the authorities of the University. The Centre

which is co-sponsored by ECOBANK Plc, and the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA), provides counselling and information on the Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in the University and its environs.

Speaking to *UNIPORT Weekly* last Tuesday, Co-ordinator of the Centre, Dr (Mrs) Chinwe Ezirim, regretted that ECOBANK is yet to redeem its pledge to donate a new building for the Centre, noting that the Counselling and Testing services have been temporarily moved to the Health Services Department, because of inadequate accommodation at the Centre.

Dr Ezirim said Management of the Centre is planning to refurbish the facilities there to make it more appealing for use, lamenting that care and support for HIV-positive students have been a great challenge and a burden for the Centre.

Dr Ezirim solicited more budgetary allocations to facilitate the work of the Centre, stating "We need a bus to move around, to catch the youths young; we need to educate peer educators to enable them reach out and touch the lives of vulnerable groups".

Mrs. Ifeoma Ofurum, who is an Administrative Staff at the Centre, said that those who benefit from the Centre are basically students, explaining that plans are underway to reach out to young people, especially those in neighbouring communities and schools. "We collaborate with National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA), State Agency for the Control of AIDS (SACA), Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS), and the Centre for Health and Development (CHD)", she said explaining that these

Centres and Agencies assist the Youth-Friendly Centre in equipping the Counsellors with better skills through periodic training, free HIV test kits for the pre-registration exercise of First Year students.

The Co-ordinator who was represented by the Mrs Ofurum, said that the Youth-Friendly Centre (YFC) has a huge impact on the University Community, adding that it has so far counselled many students in the past few months. "Last year, we organised a programme entitled *Universal Access and Human Rights*, as part of activities marking the World AIDS Day. The programme was aimed at creating awareness about the Centre and also to emphasize what it stands for," she said.

The Centre presently has a Co-ordinator, an Assistant Co-ordinator, Chief Health Officer, Administrative Officer, Programme Officers, Counsellors, Laboratory Scientist, Cybercafé Manager and a Caterer.



Dr (Mrs) Chinwe Ezirim  
Co-ordinator, Youth Friendly Centre



Mrs. Ifeoma Ofurum

## Notice Board

### 75<sup>th</sup> INAUGURAL LECTURE

The 75<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Lecture of the University holds on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2011, at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium at 3:00pm. The Lecture entitled: "*Rolling Back Malaria in Nigeria: The Law of the Few*" is to be delivered by Professor (Mrs.) Omotayo Ebong of the Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences. The University Community and the general public are cordially invited.

### 76<sup>th</sup> INAUGURAL LECTURE

The 76<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Lecture holds on Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2011, at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium at 3:00pm. The Lecture entitled: "*It's a Matter of Arrangement: Beauty and Wellness*" is to be delivered by Professor Chukwudi Onyeaso of the Department of Child Dental Health, Faculty of Dentistry. The University Community and the general public are cordially invited.

### POST-HUMUOUS ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr (Mrs) Gloria Ibeh, of the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science, has been promoted to the rank of Professor of Medical Biochemistry, effective May 4, 2010. Professor Ibeh who passed on last month has since been laid to rest.

### POETRY NIGHT FOR SENATORS

This month's post-Senate Meeting performance will feature a *Poetry Night* with Professors Martin Bestman of the Faculty of Humanities and Oleka Udeala of Faculty of Pharmacy. Venue is *The Crab*, Delta Park. Time: 7:00pm.

Contact: Coordinator, Professor Femi Shaka

### SSANU WOMEN FORUM

The *Women Forum* of University of Port Harcourt branch of Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) will be inaugurated on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium. Time: 10:00am. President of University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA), Mrs Mercy Ajienka, is expected to chair the event. Mrs Christy Nworu will be formally unveiled as *Woman Leader*.

Contact: Chairman, SSANU

### SEND-FORTH/GET TOGETHER

A *Send-Forth Ceremony* was held in honour of Professors Samuel Okibelu of Department of Animal and Environmental Biology and Emmanuel Anosike of Department of Biochemistry at the New IPS Park along East/West Road, on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2011. The event had friends and well-wishers of both retiring Scholars in attendance.

**HSEALERT!**  
BE SAFETY CONSCIOUS:  
SWITCH OFF ALL ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES,  
INCLUDING WATER TAPS AT THE CLOSE OF  
WORK.

## SSANU Pleads For Family Of Late Member

By Williams Wodi

Following the demise of its member, Mr. Samuel Offiong on active duty, the University of Port Harcourt Branch of the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), has sent out a passionate appeal to Management to extend some specified welfare packages to his dependants in recognition of his services to the University.

The plea was contained in a letter addressed to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka and made available to *UNIPORT Weekly* last Monday by Chairman of the Union, Mr. Abel Ejiohor who specifically solicited assistance for the family of his deceased member, Mr. Offiong, in the areas of financial compensation and employment for his widow.

SSANU also appealed to Management to allow the family to retain its late breadwinner's official accommodation, in addition to provision of what the Union described as "Adequate safety equipment for staff on relevant duty schedules in the University".

The Chairman also pleaded with all categories of staff to participate fully in the burial rites of their deceased colleagues,

pointing out that death, as a leveller of all mortals, could knock on any door at anytime without discrimination. Mr. Ejiohor assured SSANU members of the Union's preparedness to champion their welfare at all times, even as he advised them to continue in the tradition of putting in their very best in the line of duty to justify the agitation for improved remuneration.



Abel Ejiohor  
SSANU Chairman, UNIPORT

## 4<sup>TH</sup> SCHEDULE FOR CERTIFICATE VERIFICATION EXERCISE REGULAR/PART-TIME

### PART-TIME

S/No.	DAY	DATE	FACULTY/DEPARTMENT
1	Monday	23-05-2011	Computer Science (U2006)
2	Tuesday	24-05-2011	Finance & Banking (U2006) Accounting – PH (U2006/351 to 598)
3	Wednesday	25-05-2011	Accounting – PH (U2006/599 to 598) Accounting – Yenagoa (U2006)
4	Thursday	26-05-2011	Management – PH (U2006/301 to 549)
5	Monday	30-05-2011	Management – PH (U2006/550 to 690) Management – Yenagoa (U2006)
6	Tuesday	31-05-2011	Marketing (U2006)
7	Wednesday	01-06-2011	History (U2006) English Studies (U2006) Religious Studies (U2006) Philosophy (U2006) Linguistics (U2006-PH & Yenagoa)
8	Thursday	02-06-2011	Sociology (U2006-PH & Yenagoa)
9	Monday	06-06-2011	Geography (U2006-PH & Yenagoa)
10	Tuesday	07-06-2011	Public Admin – PH (U2006/351 to 700)
11	Wednesday	08-06-2011	Public Admin – PH (U2006/701 to 903) Yenagoa (U2006)
12	Thursday	09-06-2011	Economics U2006 (PH & Yenagoa)

To be continued next week



## UNI

PORT Reassures ETF  
On Project Implementation

*Cont'd from p1*

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, gave the assurance while declaring open a one-day Seminar on *Fiscal Responsibility and Core Financial Management Skills for ETF Beneficiaries of the High Impact Special Intervention Projects (SIP)* held at the Council Chambers, University Park last Monday.

Professor Nduka, who represented the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka at the event, lauded Management of the Fund for organizing the Seminar, stressing that "With our participation we will derive more benefits from ETF". He noted that the move would impact very positively on the new concept of Entrepreneurial University being pursued by authorities of the University.

The Executive Secretary, ETF, Professor Mahmood Yakubu, represented by Assistant Director, Internal Audit, Mrs Gloria Olotu, said that the Board of ETF deemed it necessary, as part of preparations for disbursement of the University's allocations, to reiterate the need for efficient and effective financial management of the intervention funds, as well as ensure strict adherence to government rules and regulations for use of

public funds.

"We are going to have periodic independent Audit Reports on each of the Projects, from eminently qualified firms of Chartered Accountants, in order to keep a close tab on progress made on the Projects and the way and manner the funds to be expended", she noted.

The Seminar featured paper presentations such as: *Public Procurement Procedures in Public Sector Fiscal Responsibility and Medium Term Budget Framework, Review of Expert Rules and Regulations and*

*Auditor General's Guidelines for Proper Maintenance of Project Accounts*, as well as presentation of ETF Financial Return Forms 01 and 02, Quarterly Evaluation Form and Customized Payment Vouchers. It would be recalled that last Tuesday, Senate of the Federal Republic passed the bill on Tertiary Education Trust Funds, aimed at mandating the Education Trust Fund to focus on the funding of tertiary institution alone. When the new bill is finally signed into law, it would remove the burden of funding Primary and Secondary Schools from ETF and allow the Universal Basic Education Commission to fully undertake the responsibility. It also implies that ETF would henceforth be known as Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETF).



Participants at the ETF High Impact Projects Seminar

## Ejezie Emerges New Dean of Engineering ...Says It Is Now Business Unusual

By Humphrey Ogu

The much-awaited election into the Office of Dean, Faculty of Engineering, which was preceded by a lively debate between the contestants, has come and gone with Professor



Prof Samuel Ejezie

Samuel Ejezie of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering emerging as winner.

Speaking with *UNI*PORT *Weekly* shortly after the election last Monday, the newly-elected Dean said: "I am overwhelmed and humbled by the massive support of my colleagues in the Faculty; the outcome of the election is a clear indication of the fact that they want a change", disclosing that "Henceforth, in the Faculty of Engineering, it would be business unusual. That is our slogan. It is necessary for the desired change to happen".

He promised that "We would move the Faculty from its present low ebb to its rightful place. By right, Engineering should occupy the number one position in the University. Those who study Engineering are the *primus inter pares*—first among equals", adding that "The thrust of my administration would be to bring our professional experience to the advantage of the Faculty, in particular and the University in general. We would make sure that it grows in reputation, earns respect and becomes a Faculty of choice".

A visibly elated Professor Ejezie told our Correspondent that "In the meantime, I can only say a big thank-you to my Board members, who

considered me worthy for the Office", promising to run a selfless tenure anchored on high moral probity, accountability, fairness but firm principles.

"We have internationally-recognized Professors whose wealth of experience would be of immense use in our bid to move the Faculty forward. I have many years of experience, having served the University in diverse capacities and I am the leader of professionals in my area of specialization, Civil and Geotechnical Engineering, in Africa. As Dean, I will ensure that the benefits of such position flow down to the Faculty," he promised.

Professor Ejezie, who noted that, "The entire Faculty is my constituency, both those that voted for me and those who voted against me, we are one big family", said he and his opponent, Professor Anthony Ibe, embraced each other after the election in the spirit of sportsmanship, inviting all stakeholders to join him in moving the Faculty forward. "From now onward, it would be business unusual", he declared.

Meanwhile, the outgoing Dean of the Faculty, Professor John Okdi has described the elections as "Free, fair and open", stating that "The Faculty has spoken and it is acceptable to us".