Oshioh mole Tasks NLC on Economic Policies

By Obinna Nwodi

Edo State Governor, Comrade Adams Oshiomhole, has challenged the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) to articulate pragmatic economic policies that would bring about the much-needed changes that would benefit the Nigerian citizenry.

Oshiomhole gave the advice while speaking as Chairman of a Public Lecture organized by the Claude Ake Professorial Chair of Political Economy at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, last Thursday. Describing the late Professor Ake as one of Nigeria's academics who identified with the organized labour, Oshiomhole said that in fashioning public policies, they must conform to the character of the State, pointing out that there was no one size fits-for-all model in addressing the serious economic problems facing the countries.

More on p6
UDSS Board Presents Portrait To V-C As Farewell Gesture

By Otitkor Samuel

A head of the official retirement of Professor Joseph Ajienka as the 7th Vice-Chancellor of the University, the Board of Governors and Management of the University Demonstration Secondary School (UDSS), have paid glowing tribute to him for his achievements in office. The delegation also handed over a progress report of activities in the School in the past four years at the Committee Room on Friday, June 26, 2015.

In a letter jointly signed by Chairman of the UDSS Board of Governors, Professor John Ikimalo and Principal, Mr. Anie Ogechi, the Board and Management of the School disclosed that the visit was meant to brief the Vice-Chancellor on developments that had occurred under his watch.

The Board Chairman pointed out that “in his resolve to take the University of Port Harcourt to an enviable height, Professor Ajienka constituted a Committee of five persons, chaired by Dr. Ngozi Onu to review a five-year (2015-2020) Strategic Plan for the developmental of Delta Demonstration Schools (Nursery, Primary and Secondary). The Vice-Chancellor’s leadership and administrative style was appreciated in his quest for quality assurance and control, financial prudence and accountability, prompt attention to correspondence, fairness in appointments, amongst other popular actions that endeared his administration to stakeholders in the affairs of the University.”

Professor Ikimalo, who averred that the Vice-Chancellor carefully appointed men and women of proven track records of administrative, academic and entrepreneurial abilities to realize the objectives of his administration, praised the numerous developmental strides of the Ajienka administration.

The Board Chairman commended his predecessor and the dedicated team led by the current Principal, Mr. Ogechi for giving UDSS purposeful leadership that led to its rapid rejuvenation.

He listed past Chairmen of the Board within Professor Ajienka’s tenure as Professors Lawrence Igwe (2011-2012), John Onaigbe (2012-2013) and himself from 2013 till date, enumerating their contributions to the growth of the School, which included donation of their sitting allowances for the purchase of equipment for the Computer Laboratory and Scholarship to some students from the host communities.

On infrastructural development, the Board Chairman revealed that 26 classrooms and verandas were tiled, wooden windows replaced with GMP windows in all the classrooms and offices, executive flush doors installed in all the classrooms, leaking roof fixed, asbestos replaced with long-span aluminum and PVC ceilings fixed in the Senior Secondary classrooms.

“The Biology and Chemistry Laboratories were also renovated. A new laboratory block to house Physics, Introductory Technology, Home Economics and Computer is under construction and is 50% completed. It will be ready for use in the next session,” part of the report read. On the Library block which was one of the most dilapidated buildings in the School, the Board Chairman said that the block has been completely renovated to a modern building which also houses the offices of the Vice-Principals and Counselling Unit.

“The boys’ dormitories were completely fenced; a new large multipurpose hall for Prep, Dining and Chapel was built, equipped and commissioned during the period under review. The Sickle Bay has been renovated by the Parent-Teacher-Association (PTA). The School’s performance in external examinations has impressively hovered between 80% and 100%. Over 95% of our products have successfully gained admission into universities within and outside the country, especially with the introduction of the post-JAMBIB,” he added.

On human capital development, Professor Ikimalo said the Faculty of Education was developing an annual teaching update programme for the teaching staff, adding that the Faculty had an investment of 104, including 51 non-teaching and 53 teaching staff and a student population which rose from 1000 in 2011 to 1,395 in 2015.

The delegation later presented a copy of the report and a portrait of the Vice-Chancellor to Professor Ajienka.

Responding, the Vice-Chancellor, who expressed gratitude to the Board and its Chairman, Professor Ikimalo for the accelerated infrastructural development that took place in the School, also commended past Chairmen for their achievements, including the donation of their allowances to set up a Computer Laboratory.

“We need to do a lot more to return the School to a time when it was more than the Akwa Ibom’s pride. The University of Port Harcourt, UDSS has an attractive brand name; we should gradually be thinking of putting decent buildings in place to attract those parents that took their children away from the School. I will pass the message to my successor to improve on the efforts already put in place so that the School will continue to grow from strength to strength under the new dispensation,” the Vice-Chancellor assured the delegation.

Doctoral Candidates Donate To Human Kinetics Dept

By Mercy Adeniji

As part of efforts aimed at supporting the smooth running of the Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education in the Faculty of Education, some doctorate degree candidates in the department have donated a power generating set to improve electricity supply aimed at enhancing productivity.

Receiving the donation from the students in his office on Wednesday, June 17, 2015, Acting Head of Department, Dr. Johnson Okpako, lauded praises on the candidates for their generous gesture and support for the Department and Faculty, commending their laudable effort to their counterparts in other departments and faculties to ensure accelerated development of the University.

Dr. Okpako, who assumed duty on March 24, 2014, revealed that there were challenges here and there in the Department; one of them being acute power outage that does not conduce for efficiency in the Department. "I met with all the students from the first degree to PHD to acquaint them with the felt need for certain facilities in the Department and I am very gratified to note that they have started responding positively," he said, revealing that a group of six doctoral candidates visited the office to seek information on what they could do to alleviate our plight. Before I knew it, I saw a giant FIRMAN electricity generating plant to assist in the provision of an alternative power supply to the Department.

Dr. Okpako, who donated the power generating set to Team Uniport, said that in a bid to encourage other donors, he decided to write to the Management of the University to officially thank the student donors for their generous and laudable gesture, calling on others to emulate the good gesture of the students.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Prof Joseph Ajienka - Publisher
Prof Emn Elukwe - Editorial Chair
Dr. Austen Sado - Editorial Adviser
Willy Alexi - Editor
Obinna Nwokoyi - Associate Editor

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EII Hosts National Petroleum, Power Policy Forum

Cont'd from p1

The event, which was organised by EII in collaboration with the Nigerian Association for Energy Economics (NAEE), Centre for Petroleum, Energy Economics, Law and Policy (CPEEL), University of Ibadan and the International Institute for Petroleum Energy Law and Policy (IPELP), had Oil, Gas and Power Economics: Policy Issues, Prospects and Strategic Options for Nigeria as its central theme. The forum featured paper presentations and panel discussions on how to tackle the numerous challenges bordering on disjointed policy direction, perennial petroleum crises and poor electricity supply in Nigeria that result from low generation and distribution networks.

Welcoming guests to the University, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, noted that Nigeria’s petroleum challenges are complex and multi-faceted, pointing out that the country’s electricity crisis is not just a result of inadequate generation but also due to a lack of transmission, distribution and distribution networks. He expressed the hope that the forum would provide a platform for stakeholders to share ideas and solutions to the country’s energy challenges.

V-C Commissions Nursing Lab

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The ceremony was attended by various stakeholders including faculty members, students, and representatives from the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) and the National Universities Commission (NUC). The lab is equipped with state-of-the-art technology and will provide students with the necessary skills to excel in their respective fields.

V-C, Prof Ajienka cutting the tape, while immediate past Provost, CHS, Prof Akani, his successor, Prof Chibuzo Mma and others watch on.

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V-C Commissions Nursing Lab
Pol Science Dept Fetes Ibobje On His Retirement From UniPort

By Obinna Nwodim

In appreciation of his contributions to the growth and development of the Department, staff and students of the Department of Political and Administrative Studies in the Faculty of Social Sciences, formally bade farewell to one of their founding fathers, Professor Samuel Ibobje, who retired from the services of the University, last May. The event which attracted friends, colleagues and former students of Professor Ibobje, took place at the International Students’ Centre, University Park, on Wednesday, June 17, 2015. Speaking at the event, Chairman of the occasion, Professor Emo Ekokwe, described Professor Ibobje as not only a distinguished scholar, but a fine gentleman who touched many lives in the line of duty, praising him for helping to ensure the survival of the Department during the rough times. According to him, when things went sour and most academic staff in the Department left for greener pastures, Professor Ibobje remained steadfast and resolute in ensuring that the Department survived, adding that his unparalleled act of solidarity demonstrated a mark of commitment that enabled the Department become what it is today. In their separate speeches, his colleagues, Professors Omenihi Nwaorgu and Eme Ndu, who eulogized the sterling qualities of Professor Ibobje, described him as an academic giant and complete gentleman, who ensured that the younger ones grew, expressing hope that he was now fulfilled as he played a major role in mentoring the younger colleagues in the Department. They said that Professor Ibobje never failed to mentor and ensure his younger colleagues went for the best in their academic careers, adding that he would be sorely missed in the Department. Speaking on behalf of the students and friends of Professor Ibobje in separate tributes, Dr. Omenihi Eze and Vice-President of the Rivers State Chapter of Ugboko Progressive Union, Chief Omonokw, described Professor Ibobje as a good man with a huge dose of human kindness, adding that he strove hard to bring the best out of those with whom his path crossed. They expressed delight that their mentor was retiring gracefully from the services of the University and in good health too. Head of Department, Professor Ugo Okon, who expressed gratitude to Professor Ibobje for all that he did for the Department, said that he would be greatly missed by staff and students as a pillar of strength, appealing to him to always avail the Department of his valuable pool of experience even as he retires from the University. In his response, Professor Ibobje who recalled with nostalgia how the University commenced in 1975, said that the Department has passed through thick and thin, and that the Department has recorded some achievements, adding that he was pleased to retire at such an auspicious time. The former Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) expressed satisfaction that he was leaving a crum of strong and dedicated academics that would sustain the rising reputation of the Department.

The event featured a presentation of gifts by the Department and an award by the University of Port Harcourt Chapter of the National Union of Delta State Students.

As the newly-elected President, State Governors and Lawmakers settle down to work after the general elections, President of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC), Mr. Samuel Oboh, has charged Nigerian politicians to borrow a leaf from the Architect by making good designs that would guide them in the delivery of good governance. Oboh, who gave the charge while delivering a public lecture entitled: Governance in Nigeria: Lessons from Architecture, organised by the Institute of Niger Delta Studies (INDS) at the International Students’ Centre, University Park, on Wednesday, June 17, 2015, explained that “Architecture goes beyond the art of designing buildings. However, good designs form the backbone of what Architecture should be.”

The Lecturer noted that the cost of bad designs was enormous, explaining that apart from wastage in terms of resources, it could lead to collapse of buildings and loss of lives. He added that bad designs in governance are equally dangerous to society, warning against putting square pegs in round holes as has been the case in Nigeria over time.

RAIC President Advises Nigerians On Governance

By Humphrey Ogu

Disclosing that the job of an Architect was defined by the needs of the client, Oboh said that “the goals and policies of any government should be defined not by the politicians, but by the society. It is the needs of the society that informs the quality of life,” he reminded the political class, stressing that the needs of the people who hire public officers should always be given priority. The Lecturer, who noted that Nigeria was not a resource-challenged country, observed that “with the resources at the disposal of this country, there is no reason why we shouldn’t have excellence and good quality of life in this region. It is true that Nigeria operates geographical entities put together for administrative convenience, but we should know that there is no country in the world that did not go through colonialism, war or famine.” Oboh noted that those who attribute the inability of government to provide good governance to the populace on the size of Nigeria, do not know the population and size of China, Japan or Malaysia, pointing out that “when we give population as an excuse for poor governance, we are doing that because we see population as a consuming factor; if we challenge our mind and see population as a production factor, we will think differently.”

Recommending nudging as a way of spurring people into action, Oboh pointed out that the act of nudging people to take decision is subtle, but if well managed, its result would be massive, stressing the need for government to nudge the citizens to get things done as is the case in other advanced countries of the world.

In his speech, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, noted that it was exciting to see the connection between architecture and governance. Speaking through the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Administration, Professor Anthony Ibe, Professor Ajenka noted that he would have attended the lecture in his personal capacity because of its exciting topic, adding: “Architects provide good designs for people. We have seen that architecture is influenced by the culture and environment in which it is practised. When you travel around the world, you would see different types of architectural designs. We need good design also in our governance. After the designs, there are other factors. This is, where nudging comes in, Nigeria is a country that needs a large dose of nudging to make us change the way we think and do things.”

On his part, Director of the Institute, Professor Abi Dercifa, commended Professor Obi for staying throughout the lecture. He also thanked the Lecturer and other guests comprising staff and students from different departments for gracing the event.
Outgoing V-C Praises UniPort Weekly Editorial Team

By Williams Wodi

outgoing Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, has showered praises on the Editorial Team of UniPort Weekly and Uneque UniPort magazine for sustaining the publications throughout his five-year tenure, describing the feat as very commendable for a public service initiative.

"The newspaper and magazine are very important professional publications that confirm the experience of the team behind them and I am very satisfied with your level of productivity," he said, stressing the need for continuity under his successor, Professor Ndoza Lale.

Professor Ajienka made the commendation at an interactive forum with a three-man delegation in his office, headed by Chairman of the Editorial Board, Professor Emegh Obi, and Executive Director, Dr. Sunday Onoja.

The UniPort Weekly gave a real Chronicle of events that took place in the University in the last five years, while Uneque UniPort magazine consolidated information on quarterly basis that was circulated far and wide at the University. The Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit enabled my administration to reach out to diverse stakeholders that came to better appreciate of developments in the University.

It is not always that stakeholders in our affairs appreciate what we do in the teaching and non-teaching staff. I know that keeping these publications alive, the Unit was stretched to the limit on weekly basis; it was part of my vision when I took office to float an effective information dissemination organ that was that at the various public universities comes into contact with on a regular basis."

Hoping that the publications can become self-sustaining under his successor, the Vice-Chancellor stressed the need for alternative funding sources to secure their feature on the University's academic calendar. "I am only disappointed that we were not able to set up a full-fledged Marketing and Communication component to drive the fundraising and branding components of the University the way I envisaged it from the outset. The Public Service is a very intriguing place to run because it does not allow you to promptly accomplish everything you may wish to do as is the case with the private enterprise," he told the team.

"I know you would need an operational vehicle and other working equipment to enhance your professionalism in the line of duty. I had at one proposal to the Governing Council to transform the Unit into a Directorate System to give the office a proper operational structure, but the proposal was caught up in official bureaucracy which is the bane of the Public Service," he disclosed, assuring the Editorial Board that he would continue to support the Unit even after he may have left office.

Earlier, the Chairman, Professor Ekekwu, told the Vice-Chancellor that the Board members decided to formally bid him farewell as he prepared to leave office, commending him for challenging the staff to produce the weekly newspaper and quarterly magazine. "We thank you for your role in the UniPort Weekly the priority it deserved and we also wish to commend you for the vision that has elevated UniPort to an Entrepreneurial University that people are now willing to be associated with. We are impressed with the giant strides your administration has recorded in the last five years and our prayer is that this remarkable trend would continue under your successor.

"You did not only keep imagination alive, but also demonstrated the reality to everybody so that you generated enormous goodwill and favour for the University on the job for which you would be remembered long after you have left office," the Chairman told the Vice-Chancellor.

Saying that Professor Ajienka established a solid record as Vice-Chancellor, Ekekwu wished him the grace and strength of the Almighty as he prepared to end his tenure on a high note.

Speaking on behalf of the Board at a luncheon given by the Vice-Chancellor, Editorial Adviser, Dr. Austen Sado and Editor, expressed gratitude to the administration for the recognition, stressing that the reward for hard work was more work. He urged Management to provide an enabling environment for enhanced productivity in the Unit.

Also present at the event were the incoming Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndoza Lale, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Iwu, Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim, Editor of UniPort Weekly, Williams Wodi, Deputy Registrar in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Kelsey Mako and Special Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Kingsley Wogwu.

IPS Marks World Environment Day

By Humphrey Ogu

The Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) joined the rest of the global community to mark the 2015 World Environment Day (WED) at the Emmanuel Chiejina Lecture Hall, IPS Park on Wednesday, June 10, 2015.

Explaining the rationale behind marking the day on June 10, 2015, instead of the actual day set aside for the celebration by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), IPS Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) Officer, Sampson Iwuh, said that the event was shifted from its original date, Friday June 5, 2015, initially to enable the PGD and MSc students, who were on a field trip to fully participate in the celebration.

In their separate speeches, Director of the Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemical (CGRP), Professor Godwin Igwe; Director, Centre for Petroleum Research and Technology (CPRT), Professor Ogbonna Joel; Director of the Claude Ake School of Government, Professor Eme Ekekwu; Visiting Scholar, Professor Sunny Nwankwo and Coordinator of the Postgraduate programme, Dr. Sunday Ikpea, commended the organizers of the event on the need to sensitize the public on the importance of the environment to sustain the human race in the face of growing industrial activities.

The event featured a presentation on the theme of WED 2015: The event featured a presentation on the theme of WED 2015: Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care by the MSc Batch 12 HSE Committee Leader, Prince Ikpeka and signing of the Environmental Pledge Board (EPB) by all participants.

According to the organizers of the event, the group photograph showing participants and the signed Environmental Pledge Board would be uploaded on the UNEP website as a demonstration of solidarity and commitment towards global environmental stewardship sustainability.
PUDSA Inaugurates New Exco

By Ethel Tini-Johnson

The Port Harcourt University Dental Students' Association (PUDSA) has inaugurated a new Executive to run its affairs for the 2014/2015 academic session. The Association also launched its maiden magazine known as SMILES, aimed at preaching the benefits of oral health to the University Community and the larger society.

Declaring the inauguration open, Dean, Faculty of Dentistry, Professor Chukwudi Oyeano, stressed the need for the students to sustain the success story so far recorded, including emerging winners of the first National Dental Competition organised by the Nigerian Association of Dental Students (NADS) at the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital in August, 2014. Commissioning the immediate past Executive led by Enyinanya Ukaegbu for its efforts in sustaining the growth of the Association and production of the maiden edition of the magazine, Professor Oyeano charged the new Executive to remain good ambassadors of the Faculty, the College of Health Sciences and University of Port Harcourt at all times. Representative of the Provost of College of Health Sciences, Professor Augustine Enoh, showered praises on PUDSA for its laudable achievements over the years, urging it to sustain the tempo in the years ahead.

“I wish to call on the newly inaugurated Executive to perform even better than its predecessors,” he charged the students, commending them on the timely production of the Association's magazine.

Supporting the Association to attain greater heights, I also wish to commend our hard working Dean for his fatherly guidance and support that lifted us to this enviable pedestal,” she stated.

Rendering account of his stewardship during the last academic year, the immediate past President, Mr. Ukaegbu, recounted the numerous achievements recorded by his Executive, which included the constitution of Academic and Editorial Boards, mounting of an Annual Health Week and commemoration of the World Oral Health Day. He also commended well-patronised community health outreaches tagged Community Dental Education and Health (CODEH). Despite leaving office, we still be on hand to support our successors to enable them succeed in office,” he stated.

Other members of the newly-elected Executive include Vivian Unachukwu, Vice-President; Nkpo Brimah, Secretary; Nnemeka Agwuzi, Assistant Secretary; Babatunde Osinagbro, Treasurer; Ida Ige, Financial Secretary; Chioma Elunye, Director of Welfare; Marshal Wall, Director of Socials; LehKekua Bob, Director of Sports; Calistus Oloba, Public Relations Officer and Ifeoma Udach as Provost.

Novelty Football Match For Ajienka, Lale Holds Thursday

Arrangements have been completed for a novelty football match in honour of the outgoing Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, and his successor, Professor Nkani Lale, at the refurbished main bowl of the Sports Complex at the University Park. The match is part of the build-up to the final disengagement of Professor Ajienka tomorrow and assumption of office by Professor Lale next Monday.

The novelty match which is organized by the Senior Staff Club, will pit the Teaching staff against the Non-Teaching staff counterparts of the University. Already, the SSC has donated a Cup to be competed for by club sides in honour of the outgoing and incoming Vice-Chancellors.

A statement by the Sports Secretary of the Club, Mr. Peter Essien, disclosed that the Staff Club Team headed by Dr. Edache Okonwale (Teaching Staff Team), and Mr.

Ozanmayi Saluba (Non-Teaching Staff Team), have been training in preparation for the crunch match, advising sports enthusiasts in the University to join the training sessions on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday of every week. Mr. Essien invited the University Community and the general public to grace the occasion.

Servicom Corner

The Servicom Charter is targeted at persons who have business relationship with the University, and they include, but not limited to: Parents, Students (Pre-degree, Undergraduate, Post-Graduate), Staff (all categories), Contractors, Others are Governments at the Federal, State, Local levels, including Collaborators, Partners, Agencies, Host Communities, Organizations and the General Public.

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By Ethel Tini-Johnson
30th Convocation Lecture

Mazi Samuel Ohuabunwa delivered the 30th Convocation Lecture on Thursday, June 11, 2015. Our Cameraman, HEADMAN ALU captured highlights of the Lecture:

Mazi Ohuabunwa delivering the Lecture

5th V-C, Emeritus Prof Nimi Briggs speaking after the Lecture

Prof Bridget Nwosu: reading a citation on the Convocation Lecturer

Mazi Ohuabunwa displaying a plaque presented to him by the University

Provost, CGS, Prof Roseline Komai in a handshake with Mazi Ohuabunwa, after decorating him with UniPort Muffler

Senior Officials of the University posing with the Convocation Lecturer

Mazi Ohubaunwa & Mrs. Nnodim

Acting Executive Director, UPHF Dr. Nnobi Obu giving the Vote of Thanks

L-R: Emeritus Prof Briggs, Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nwokah, Prof Bosilie Olabe, B V C Adama, Prof Anthony Iwe & Mazi Ohubunwa displaying copies of the newly-launched Unique Entrepreneur Magazine

L-R: Incoming V-C, Prof Ndona Lade, DVC (Acad) Prof Iforo Joe & Emeritus Prof Briggs

A cross-section of guests

UniPort Concert Chorus performing