Environmentalist Calls For Shift From Oil To Soil Preservation

By Obinna Nwodim

Against the backdrop of the ongoing slide in the global price of crude oil, an internationally acclaimed environmental rights activist, Dr. Vandana Shiva, has outlined the negative effects of oil to the environment, economy and health of mankind, stressing the need for a paradigm shift from oil to the preservation of land to halt the drift.

Shiva made the assertion while delivering the 2015 edition of Rights Livelihood Lecture at the International Students' Centre, University Park, last Thursday.

The Indian-born activist and nuclear physicist who spoke on the theme: Soil, Not Oil—Earth Democracy, called for renewed environmental activism that would guarantee the future of mankind. Shiva who teaches at the University of Western Ontario, Canada, stated that a lot of emphasis has been placed on oil to the detriment of the environment with disastrous consequences in recent times.

She emphasized that oil exploration is associated with various forms of environmental hazards that are detrimental to man and society. It is only beneficial to a few power blocs and individuals who...
Enter Claude Ake School Of Government

By Williams Wodi

A third World country with all its evident political challenges and pitfalls not only catch the eye, but they compel the mind in a particular direction. Politicians often sway our emotions and reinforce our views about our society in the peculiar way they ply their trade on the electorate. In the era of globalization that is increasingly Americanizing political campaigns and the entire electoral process, the emergence of the Claude Ake School of Government represents a big plus in our drive to create our own identity and chart a new course for our country, using our own indicators.

Encouraging popular participation in the political process cannot take firm root if we continue to wobble and stumble along the narrow path dictated by even narrower-minded politicians. Now, we have a golden opportunity to look up to the emergent Claude Ake School of Government for direction on what really happens in the smoke-filled room of politics and how to react to the game on our own terms, without pandering to the whims and caprices of rapacious politicians.

Before now, the prestigious Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in the United States was the often referenced flagship for anyone looking for a global Think Tank on the art of politics and the manipulative propinquitous of politicians. To be armed with the right data, knowledge and the right opportunity citizens have to frontally confront their rulers who mostly insist on their own standards for judging merit, quite often with disastrous consequences for the citizenry.

High initiative action can only come from a formal Think Tank such as the new Claude Ake School of Government which opened for business on Wednesday, July 8, 2015 without much fanfare. Located in the serene recesses of William Jumbo Street in the high profile Government Reserved Area, just behind the Federal Government House in Port Harcourt, the new School is the child of the immediate past Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajieka, who holds a universal patent right on the art of imagining things.

The School was partly legislated into existence to finally reframe the name of one of Africa’s best known thinkers, Professor Ake on marble—a firmly deserving move. Ake’s life rotated around the highly combustible issues of development and governance which defined his entire academic career on three continents. The School would receive its pioneer students for the Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree next month. This welcome development is the result of an institutional partnership between the University of Port Harcourt and the Centre for Advanced Social Science (CASS) founded by the renowned Social Scientist himself, who also took to activism to test his theories on a practical stage.

Ake took to praxis to test his ideas in a society that was marked by increasing cynicism and intransigent worship of corrupted power. There was, therefore, no shortage of conspiracy theories when the plane he was travelling in was plucked out of the air in 1996. The dark gagged general was in power then and was believed to be capable of unimaginable evil designs against his perceived and real enemies. Ake was an irreplaceable critic of the regime that overpowered the citizenry.

Prof Lafe, VC

The emergent partnership agreement, according to pioneer Director of the School, Professor Enye Ekekwe, was signed in March, 2014. Chairman of the CASS Board, Professor Bedford Fubara and Executive Director, Dr. Sneller J. A. Nendul, signed on behalf of the Centre, while the Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nendul and former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajieka put pen on the dotted lines on behalf of the University. The Senate of the University has since given final approval for the commencement of the School along global best operational practices.

Ake’s protégé, Professor Ekekwe, actually mid-walked the School, while the College of Continuing Education (CCE) supervised the physical development of the project. The School is the crystallization of Professor Ajieka’s vision of “growing our own thinkers”—meaning building lasting structures on the solid academic foundation that is befitting of the internationally-recognized pedagogue of the late Professor Ake, who denied himself readily abundant privileges to defend the wretched of the earth from their conquistadors.

Ekekwe holds the School out as a “testimony not only of the immense contribution which Claude Ake made to Social Science scholarship, but also of the determination of Professor Ajieka to see that we build on and value that which is positive and authentic in society.” Ake, who hailed from Okolukwe in Rivers State was Nigeria’s gift to global critical thinking on the imperatives of reducing poverty, improving governance and restoring the dignity of each human being.

As pioneer Director, Professor Ekekwe believes that “the philosophy of the Claude Ake School of Government derives from the combined ideals that inform the University of Port Harcourt and the Centre for Advanced Social Science. The School aims to be a Centre of Excellence in producing research and scholarship that will contribute positively in improving the quality of governance, as well as in raising public consciousness that will press public institutions to be responsive and accountable.”

Eradicated Social Scientist, Prof Ake (late)

as well as in the training and retraining of manpower for the public service.” Very tall ambition, indeed!

The School hopes to seek collaboration with national and international institutions with similar interests and objectives and will strive to attract distinguished active and retired academics and administrators to its faculty. All that of the School will be oriented to take pride in their work and country, and also trained to challenge ideas on a global scale as active agents of positive change. The way Ake did!

In line with Ake’s well-known tradition of advocacy, the School, which is justifiably named after him, will enhance the delivery of public good and services through objectivity and non-partisan assessment of policies.

Already, plans are on to mount short courses and training programmes for public officers and their counterparts in the private sector. The School is starting off with two programmes—the 12-month MPA and a Diplomas in Leadership and Management programmes.

As a mark of the seriousness of the proprietors, the School’s Governing Board was inaugurated in December 2014 with Professor Adoyc Obiama of the University of Nigeria (UNN) as Chairman. Other members are legal luminaries and human rights activist, Mr. Lekan Shittu, Professor Adele Ijirin, Mr. Grant Osogba, Dr. Richard Oforu, Dr. Chris Tanum, Dr. Kumbo Eke and Dr. Junji Ogah. The Advisory Board has Sir Ali Orensime, Barrister Franklin Ajieka, Mr. Bola Agbuzum, Mr. Valentine Igwari, Prince Reko Edwam, Mr. Charles Ajayi-Kharue and Madam V. Young-Harry, as members.

While the heart of democratic praxis lies in the electoral process, the hope of the electorate should be anchored on total political consciousness that the new Claude Ake School of Government promises to usher into the Nigerian society. The electorate cannot understand or fully appreciate the sovereignty powers at their disposal until they become conversant with the ground rules of the game of politics and how they can serve their collective interest. That is why the Claude Ake School of Government is so important, and that is why it deserves our total support to succeed.

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Vol. 24, Edition 209
Former V-C Commissions Projects, Lays UISS Science Building Foundation

By Oticor Samuel

As part of his final disengagement from office, immediate past Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, commissioned the Centre for Rehabilitative Therapy and Kinaesthesia Studies to train Postgraduate students on body fitness and correctional measures. The Centre situated at the Social Science Annex Building in Choba Park was commissioned at a low-key ceremony on Tuesday, July 7, 2015.

Ajenka, who was supported by his successor, Professor Ndowa Lale, at the commissioning ceremony, charged the Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education to create more awareness about the relevance of the Centre to the well-being of staff and students, enjoining the Department to galvanize the services of experts in the Faculty and relevant disciplines to attract wider patronage.

In his speech, immediate past Dean of the Faculty of Education, Professor Ebi Bio Awotuna-Efebo, said the Centre would be made to generate funds for the University, aside from its statutory mandate of training Postgraduate students to acquire requisite knowledge in physiology and rehabilitative therapy.

"Athletes are advised to come for physical fitness at the Centre, while cases of body pains, arthritis, rheumatism, dislocation and other related cases can also be handled by the specialists who would supervise the facility. Staff and even people from outside the University can make use of the Centre too. They can consult physiologists and rehabilitative therapists even without coming to the Centre," he disclosed.

 Acting Head of Department, Dr. Johnson Okpako, who revealed that the use of the Centre for Postgraduate studies has already commenced, stressed the need to employ more professionals to tackle cases that would be brought to the Centre. He noted that the Centre is offering 20 percent discount to students from the University.

Professor Ajenka also laid the foundation stone for a Selavce Laboratory Building for the University International Secondary School at the premises of the College of Continuing Education (CCE), Nkpolu, Port Harcourt. The Laboratory is being sponsored by the Genesis Group. He also inspected the students' hostel constructed by the University and donated by BytePluz Nigeria Ltd at the Open and Distance Learning (OdEl) Centre on Friday, July 10, 2015.

A front view of the Professorial Guest House
Ibodje Lists Achievements At IPTTO

By Otitor Samuel

Pioneer Director of the Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office (IPTTO), Professor Samuel Ibodje, has described the UnitPort office of the IPTTO as one of the most viable amongst other offices commissioned within the same period in Nigerian universities by the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP).

The retired Professor of Political Science, who made this remark in a farewell party organized by former and current staff of the Office for him on Thursday, July 16, 2015, recalled that the Office was established in the University by NOTAP on October 4, 2007, while a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in 2008. The Office, according to him was however, commissioned on August 17, 2010.

"The mission of the Office is to make original and innovative research activities attractive in this University through creation of awareness in the University about the benefits accruable from original research and innovation; facilitation of patent and copyrights acquisition for original and innovative research efforts; encouragement of and support for the commercialization of intellectual property; linkage of research activities with industries; and production and regular review of IP policies in the University to ensure an orderly research environment and a mutually-rewarding relationship between researchers, innovators and the University," Ibodje stated.

The pioneer Director, who further listed the objectives of the Office to include sensitizing researchers in the University on opportunities existing in original and innovative research, facilitating the process of acquisition of patent and copyrights, as well as the licensing of new products for commercialization and interfacing with relevant Units and Departments to actualize the mission, expressed satisfaction with the successful acquisition of three patent certificates for staff of the University.

"Three other applications have reached advanced level for patent acquisition; thirteen applications which have been verified by NOTAP have been returned to the inventors/innovators for suggested corrections. The Office now partners the College of Graduate Studies to checkmate plagiarism among staff and graduate students in the University; and so far, the Office has checked over 250 Theses and Dissertations, using the anti-plagiarism software and over 60 candidates have been cleared and issued with certificates of anti-plagiarism test clearance. The Office has produced an IP policy for the University," Professor Ibodje announced.

However, the Academic staff of the Office, expressed their satisfaction with the quality of the Office's products and services, as well as the support given to them in their efforts to promote and commercialize their research outputs.

RCBB Sensitizes Students On Biotech

By Obinna Nwodim

In a bid to sensitize students on the benefits of biotechnology, the Regional Centre for Biotechnology and Biofuel Research organized a one-day workshop on the basics and importance of biotechnology for students in their fourth and fifth years of study in the Faculties of Agriculture, and Biological and Chemical Sciences on Thursday, July 7, 2016 at the Centre’s Laboratory, by the Emerald Energy Institute, East-West Road, UniPort.

Speaking at the event, Director of the Centre, Professor Gordan Obute, highlighted the broad aspects of biotechnology, pointing out that the discipline was to the 21st century what Information Technology was to the 20th century. "In today's knowledge-based global economy, the world we live in today leaves us behind in the quest for self-sufficiency in solving problems associated with food security, health and products for industrial use, as well as ensuring a cleaner environment," Professor Obute said, describing biotechnology as an "all-comers affair where all facets of enquiry into the life sciences have their place and roles in the scheme of things."

The Director assured participants that the laboratory would be accessible to students who wish to carry out meaningful research in various aspects of biotechnology with minimal cost, disclosing that the laboratory has commenced the production and distribution of water for domestic use by interested customers. Professor Obute also disclosed that plans were on to expand the workshop to accommodate undergraduate students, as well as other researchers on an annual basis to accomplish the Centre's core mandate of harnessing the abundant
Unit Head Proposes Ceramics Entrepreneurship Centre In UniPort

By Humphrey Ogu

In line with the entrepreneurial policy initiated by the immediate past Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, Head of the Ceramic Unit in the Department of Fine Arts and Design, Faculty of Humanities, Dr. Edeh Peters has called for the establishment of a Ceramics Entrepreneurship Centre in the University.

Sharing his vision of the proposed Centre with UniPort Weekly, Dr. Peters observed that "The establishment of a Ceramics Entrepreneurship Centre will boost the vision of UniPort to be a truly Entrepreneurial University," adding that research activities in the area of ceramics technology will equip the researchers and expose them to contemporary practice of ceramics work obtainable in other parts of the world.

Peters, who noted that "Students who have interest in acquiring skills in ceramics technology irrespective of their course of study in the University, will have the opportunity to do so under the proposed plan," said, "the Ceramics Entrepreneurship programme is intended to provide skills and employment opportunities to many graduates," adding that "unemployed youths within and outside the University's host communities could avail themselves of the golden opportunity to be made available at the Centre to become self-employed.

"Ceramics are wares made partly or wholly from clay. The products of ceramics are made from ceramics studies, ceramics cottage outfit or large ceramics industry," he explained, adding that "ceramics products included, bricks, high and low tension insulators, dinner and sanitary wares, electric stove and oven element holders, flower vases, gift items, containers for special use, spark plug, decorative wares and floor, including wall tiles." Peters, who noted that the production of ceramics entails the processing of raw material which are in abundance locally, said that "It is an amazing fact that clay which is an abundant raw material for ceramics, is found everywhere in the Niger Delta region," adding that "proper exploitation of this raw material can compete favourably with the crude oil business and at the same time create employment opportunities.

On funding, Dr. Peters said that "the sources of funding will include multi-institutional organizations in the Niger Delta region amongst others, pointing out that "the programme which is proposed to be set up at the University Campus is intended to house a unique ceramics research unit to service the research needs of students of UniPort and other universities in the region and beyond."

STOP PRESS

NEW DEADLINE FOR APPELLAL FORM SUBMISSION

College Provosts and Deans of Faculty have been advised to direct Heads of Department and relevant officers under them to immediately submit duly completed forms for the 2014/15 annual exercise for promotion and confirmation of appointment for Senior Professional, Administrative and Technical Staff (SPATS) category. A statement dated July 3, 2013 and signed by Personnel Officer, SPATS, Mr. Obi Boforoma, stated that a grace of one month was allowed to Faculties and Units that had in the past submitted names of their staff for the earlier date lapsing on Tuesday, June 30, warning against submission after the new deadline of Friday, July 31, 2015. Kindly note that forms submitted after the above deadline will not be treated. The statement read in part.

ILC Inaugurates UniPort Chapter

By Mercy Ademij

In his address, President of the ILC Chapter of Impact Your World, Gabriel Madu, expressed gratitude to the organizers of the event and for their engagement in a one-week leadership training in Lagos. he event caused a permanent shift in our lives and we are indeed grateful. We promise to make a change in our immediate environment for all, to make a strong impact in our world which is part of our theme song," the new President promised.

The pioneer Executive of ILC are Emile Nwabghe (Vice-President), Ifeanyi Okwakwo (Secretary General), Okwudile Ajayi (Assistant Secretary General), Aruture Obenepeel (Financial Secretary), Chisomukwu Obinna (Treasurer), Precious Aworudo (Assistant Treasurer), Eni Enmanuell (Director of Programmes), Juliet Nwok (Director of Programmes), Financial Secretary, Theresa Okoro (Director of Membership), Tumonun Charles (Assistant Director), Imamia Kwon (Director of Research), and Emantine Shevy, Assistant Director of Research.

Dean, Student Affairs, Prof Elemnini (in cap), newly-inaugurated President, Gabriel (arrowed), EXCO members and organizers

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Cont'd from p6

...reap huge benefits at the expense of the people that are negatively affected by poor environmental stewardship. According to her, the age of oil will soon be over and it was important to build the age of oil, naming the oilfields to take the lead in the emergent paradigm shift that would bring mutual benefits to mankind.

The 1992 Rights Livelihood award winner, who described the economy of oil as evil, noted that “it usually brought with it carelessness, spillage and destruction of the environment, thereby jeopardizing the future of generations yet unborn.” She blamed the political, economic and social problems in most parts of the world on the activities associated with oil exploration, which are attributable to the non-sustainability of fund use and oil as a dividend. She urged policymakers to embrace the new way of thinking which places great premium on preserving and protecting the environment. According to her, when the environment is protected, more livelihoods and incomes would be generated to serve the needs of more people around the world.

Represented by Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Henry Alapaki, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nduka Lake, who highlighted the grave dangers associated with destruction of the environment, noted that contrary to the popular belief that corruption was the bane of the development of Nigeria, the destruction of the environment played a major role in retarding development in the country. He called on students to utilize the opportunity offered them by the partnership to re-engage in meaningful research that would be of benefit to society.

Earlier in his presentation, Executive Director of The Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF), Mr. Noni Nsukka, said that “the Rights Livelihood College acts like a hub, catalyst, incubator, multiplier and an accelerator of links between universities and the works of Rights Livelihood Laureates, as well as an interactive link between academics and activists.” He said that the goals were aimed at making the knowledge of the Laureates available to all, actively linking the most excellent educational institutions with them; connecting the global community of Laureates to help realize energy, scale tested know-how and create the critical mass to help bring common goals forward, as well as provide a hub and an incubator for promoting and multiplying the most successful solutions to urgent global problems through the development of information and educational activities.

Welcoming participants, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Samuel Akoryo, who noted that issues of the environment have taken the front-runner in world affairs in recent times, said that the destruction of the environment was tantamount to the destruction of man's existence.

Also speaking, Coordinator of the College in the University of Port Harcourt, Dr. Edelss Allen, who expressed gratitude to authorities of the University for supporting the programmes of the Rights Livelihood, expressed hope that the partnership would continue to expand the frontiers of knowledge by serving as a veritable platform for engaging in robust intellectual discourse across the continents.

The Lecture, which was preceded by a courtesy visit on the Vice-Chancellor at the Senate Building, was attended by distinguished academicians, stakeholders on the environment and civil society groups. It also featured an interactive session, as well as presentation of awards to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lake, Dr. Shiva and Professor Alapaki.

It would be recalled that the University of Port Harcourt signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Sweden-based College in November, 2013, making it the second higher institution to host the College on the African continent.

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New Pharmacists Relive Experience In UniPort

A total of 33 graduates trained by the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences were inducted into the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria (PCN) at the 4th Oath Taking/Induction Ceremony on Friday, July 3, 2015 at the Edithimi Bimigo Auditorium. In this interview with MERCY ADENIYI, some of the Inductees and a Parent relive their experiences and joy. Please read on...

…”

Ogeneke Owene above, who did not hide her excitement after being inducted as a professional Pharmacists, said: “I am so happy to be among the Inductees; it is indeed a dream come through for me personally and my family. Four years ago, I was admitted into this great institute of learning and it is very gratifying for me to have successfully completed my study in UniPort. All I can do is to give thanks to God. After my internship, I would like to specialize in Clinical Pharmacy.” She expressed gratitude to Management of the University and her parents for giving her all the support and encouragement she needed to succeed in her chosen career line.

Another Inductee, Godlove Umeka disclosed that he too was glad to be finally inducted into the profession. Said he, “My colleagues and I are very relieved that we have finally concluded our studies in this great University. Studying Pharmacy has been very difficult, but I am grateful to God that this phase of my life is finally over for good.” He expressed gratitude to his parents for giving him the opportunity to actualize his dreams, appealing to Management to assist in funding the Faculty in terms of providing more equipment and requests to enable staff and students embark upon practical work in a more effective manner. He called on his younger colleagues to continue to work hard so that they can graduate at the same time.

Also speaking, Grace Oritsu said: “The programme was really tough with so many trying moments in-between, especially while awaiting results, but it was also very rewarding in the end.” She expressed gratitude to the Dean, Professor Oluwat Masada and Lecturers in the Faculty for mentoring them with so much interest and parental zeal, adding that she

owed her success to God.

Another Inductee, Henry Oyenonwo, expressed gratitude to Management of the University and his parents for giving him all the support and encouragement he needed to succeed in his chosen career line.

Oyenonwo disclosed that the journey through Pharmacy was a very strenuous, but extremely interesting one given its professional focus which is quite different from the other regular programme in the University. “We had to combine lectures, hospital rotations with experiments, all at the same time. Looking back, we now know that the stress was worth it because it can see that we were not wasting our time after all. My next plan is to go for internship and thereafter specialize in Clinical Pharmacy.”

A parent of one of the Inductees, Mrs. Blessing Owene above, who could not hide her joy, congratulated the students for scaling through the high hurdle set by the Faculty and professional regulatory body. “My daughter is one of the Inductees and I am happy and grateful to God for all he has done for my family. I wish the University more strength as it continues to impart knowledge to students in their various disciplines in this great institute of learning.”
GUIDEPOST

PROFESSORIAL PROMOTION

Dr. Obinna Onwurah, Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Technology, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, promoted to the rank of Professor of Pharmaceutics, effective December 3, 2013.

Dr. Chisom Anachukwu, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Medicine, College of Health Sciences, promoted to the rank of Professor of Medicine, effective December 3, 2013.

READERSHIP PROMOTION

Dr. Isau Aibay, Department of Human Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted to the rank of Reader, effective December 3, 2013.

Dr. Godwin Igwe, Department of Oral Maxillofacial Surgery, Faculty of Clinical Medicine, College of Health Sciences, promoted to the rank of Reader, effective December 3, 2013.

Dr. Lucky Osakwe, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted to the rank of Reader, effective December 3, 2013.

APPOINTMENT

Professor Matthew Wagnan, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Chemical Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, appointed Chairman, Sports Complex Management Committee. The two-year appointment which took immediate effect terminates on June 23, 2017.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Professor Rene Willie Abbey, Chairman of Research and Development, proceeds on Sabbatical Leave to Igbiodun University of Education, Ogun State, Port Harcourt, effective September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016.

Professor Kene Nwosu, Department of Library and Information Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, proceeds on Sabbatical Leave to Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Ogun State, Port Harcourt, effective May 18, 2015 to May 17, 2016.

Professor Henry Njoku, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Biological Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, proceeds on Sabbatical Leave, effective September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016.

HIGHER DEGREE

Kingsley Okemayo, Department of Geology, Faculty of Physical Science and Information Technology has successfully completed his doctoral degree program.

REGULARISATION OF APPOINTMENT

Mr. Obi Edward, Department of Geology/Mineral Technology, School of Science Laboratory Technology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, granted Temporary Appointment as Assistant Lecturer, effective January 16, 2014.

Mr. Tamuno Amekoro, Department of Physics/Electronics Technology, School of Science Laboratory Technology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, granted Temporary Appointment as Graduate Assistant, effective January 16, 2014.

Mr. Efe Omoza, Department of Industrial Chemistry/Petrochemical Technology, School of Science Laboratory Technology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, granted Temporary Appointment as Graduate Assistant, effective January 15, 2014.

By Olukari Samuel
The University of Port Harcourt Chapel of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) has announced a three-day maiden Conference for media researchers, practitioners and teachers holding between Wednesday, August 26 and Friday, August 28, 2015.

Chairman of the Chapel, Dr. Anele Neto Udoko, who made the disclosure in a statement obtained by this publication, revealed that the Conference which has Making the Unreached Heard: Reporting Development Sttries in Rural Nigeria, would be organized in conjunction with the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities.

The Chairman further disclosed that the maiden edition of the Chapel's Journal of Media Practice and Research is expected to be launched at the Conference, adding that “participants who wish to present papers should submit abstracts of not more than 250 words using 12 points font size on Times New Roman by e-mail attachment: ochoms@ymail.co.uk”.

Professor Nkemnukwuchukwu Udoh, the University of Uyo is expected to deliver the keynote address at the occasion, while Dr. Vincent Ekwere of Radio Nigeria, Treasure FM, Port Harcourt and Dr. Godwin Okon of the Department of Mass Communication, Rivers State University of Science and Technology would present lead papers.

Dr. Udoko listed tentative topics for the conference: An urban/rural reportage of development issues, Mainstreaming rural events in the urban-centred media, Community media as precursors to effective rural reporting, The role of social media in balancing urban/rural reporting of development, The imperatives of phone-in programmes and awareness creation about rural development, and Reaching the unheard with development information for rural advancement as some of the sub-themes.

The statement was made by Dr. Christie Omegi (chrstrne@yahoo.com) and Mr. Chris Ochonogor as Chairperson and Secretary, Local Organising Committee, respectively, and Acting Head, Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Dr. Virginia Osemajura as Convenor, while Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor John Anienwe and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndewa Lale would be Host and Chief Host, respectively.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT
WEATHER OBSERVATORY
FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, JULY 26 – SATURDAY AUGUST 1, 2015.

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<th>WIND DIRECTION</th>
<th>RAIN (mm)</th>
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<th>SUNSET</th>
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<td>18:49</td>
<td>Thunderstorm expected. Cloudy day forecasted.</td>
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Dr. Gladys Emekere Acting Hod

Dr. Prince Mmoh
AG. Director, (CDRMDs)

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- Complaints should be listened to carefully
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Installation of 8th Vice-Chancellor

Immediate past Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka hosted a colourful Installation ceremony to formally usher in his successor, Professor Nduka Laile as the 8th Vice-Chancellor of the University. The event also featured a Special Convocation to mark the award of the Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) Degree on the Managing Director of Access Bank Plc, Herbert Wigwe on July 10, 2015 at the Convocation Arena, University Park. Our Cameraman, HEADMAN ALU captured highlights of the event as shown below: