

UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT

**GOODBYE YESTERDAY
WELCOME TODAY ...
AND TOMORROW**

Valedictory Lecture

By

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PROGRAMME

- 1. GUESTS ARE SEATED**
- 2. INTRODUCTION**
- 3. THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S OPENING REMARKS**
- 4. CITATION**
- 5. THE VALEDICTORY LECTURE**

The lecturer shall remain standing during the citation. He shall step on the rostrum, and deliver his Valedictory Lecture. After the lecture, he shall step towards the Vice-Chancellor, and deliver a copy of the Valedictory Lecture and return to his seat. The Vice-Chancellor shall present the document to the Registrar.

- 6. CLOSING REMARKS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR**
- 7. VOTE OF THANKS**
- 8. DEPARTURE**

INTRODUCTION

There are four stages of man: infancy, childhood, adolescence... and obsolescence.

Art Link letter

I must thank Almighty God for making it possible to give this valedictory lecture today. I must also thank my dear family, my wife Maria and our children Kemehai, Oshone and Oshogwe Mario for being there for me. I assumed work in December 1989 as a young lecturer II with great anticipations and ambition. Today marks the official end of my almost 35 years' career at the University of Port Harcourt. I also want to thank God for all I was able to achieve in these noteworthy years. These years account for about fifty percent of my life so far on earth and they are full of different experiences -the good, the bad and the ugly. These experiences, I will share with this all-important audience for many reasons.

The *good* include how the Almighty God intervened at every crucial moment in my life with a good ending. The *bad* were the experiences that did not end well. The *ugly* experiences neither ended on a good note nor bad note but were noteworthy. Some of these experiences may avail especially those still in the University and those planning to come in, some useful lessons.

A valedictory lecture is all about reminiscences – looking back, going down memory lane. The lecture gives one an opportunity to think back on and review one's achievements and experiences as a university lecturer and to talk about what one thinks of life after 70 based on one's experiences. I have, consequently, decided to talk on the topic **Goodbye Yesterday Welcome Today ... and Tomorrow**. *Yesterday* shall be looking back at events that shaped my life including the almost

35 years of my sojourn at the University of Port Harcourt; *Today* is the “crossing of the Rubicon river”, or if you like crossing “The Thin Red Line” that marks the Biblical *three scores and ten years* that a man is billed to live and *Tomorrow* shall be looking at beyond the three scores and ten, that is the extra-time given to man, not all men! Put in another way, crossing the rubicon is getting one’s boarding pass and relocating to the departure lounge. For me, that flight will be delayed or out rightly cancelled and/or postponed indefinitely for whatever reason. This is my prayer for everyone present at this lecture and to all men/women of good will, amen.

This lecture is subsequently divided into three major parts viz:

1. **Yesterday:** *The Past*
 - Before coming to Uniport (the citation)
 - Coming to University of Port Harcourt
 - Life at the University of Port Harcourt
2. **Today:** *The Present*
 - Crossing the Rubicon
3. **Tomorrow:** *The Future*
 - Advice on moving ahead

1. YESTERDAY/ THE PAST

Looking back

Coming to Port Harcourt

My first time coming to Port Harcourt was when I came for the interview that gave me the job as lecturer in the then Department of Geography in 1989. Two persons are worthy of mention and they include: late Professor Charles U. Oyegun and late Professor John Otaigbe. The former was a friend and classmate at the MSc and PhD Degree programmes at the University of Ibadan, although he completed his PhD programme before me and eventually became my contact and a

facilitator in my application and eventual employment in the Department of Geography in 1989. Late Prof Oyegun was a friend in deed. He made sure I felt at home while the visit lasted. May Almighty God rest his soul, amen. Professor John Otaigbe, also of blessed memory, accommodated me when I came for the interview. Late Prof Otaigbe and I were secondary school mates. Once again, I thank them very much as they rest in perfect peace.

Life at the University of Port Harcourt

I assumed duty on the 15th of December 1989, the day I presented myself to the Department of Geography, University of Port Harcourt. The Faculties of Social Sciences and Humanities both occupied the quadrangle beside the present Radio House. Back then, the only structures in the University Permanent Site beyond Ghana-Ama Road were: the Quadrangle, the hostels (Nelson Mandela, New Undergraduate and Post Graduate Halls), the Permanent Site Hall (PS Hall) and the block of eight (8) adjoining Lecture Rooms and Reading Room (library) and the old ARENA. The PS was powered with 3 very powerful generators located behind the transport terminal. No NEPA reconnection.

Faculty of Social Sciences

The Faculty of Social Sciences occupied the *left* wing of the quadrangle while the Faculty of Humanities occupied the *right*. Any surprise! *Social Sciences...left wing ("Leftist"?) and Humanities...right wing ("Rightists"?)*. *What an uncanny coincidence or was it deliberate!* Due to inadequate office spaces in the quadrangle only the office of the Dean of Faculty, the Heads of Department, professors and senior lecturers were accommodated in the quadrangle. In fact, the professors shared offices with Senior lecturers. The rest of us were scattered in Choba Park. Meanwhile most of the lectures were usually held

at the Permanent Site. You can imagine the stress in moving from Choba Park to the Permanent Site (Abuja) to deliver lectures, attend meetings, etc. Thank God the story is different today as the challenge of office accommodation is almost a thing of the past. Many thanks to all the past Vice Chancellors for working assiduously hard to have all the faculties of the university move to the permanent site. Many thanks to late Emeritus Professor N.D. Briggs and Professors Don Baridam, J.A. Ajenka, Ndowa Lale, Ag Vice Chancellor Professor Steve Okodudu and the current Vice Chancellor Professor Owunari A. Georgewill. I must not fail to mention Professors S.J. Cookey, Kelsey Harrison, Theo Vincent, the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Vice Chancellors respectively and a former acting Vice Chancellor Professor A.T. Salau. To all I say a big thank you. Of special mention are Professor Don Baridam who gave me all the support when I was Dean of faculty and whose Mercedes Benz I used for my wedding in 1991. Prof Ajenka who approved the creation of the Centre for Logistics and Transport Studies (CELTRAS), Professor Steve Okodudu, my best man at that our wedding and still a best friend who against all odds set me on my *second missionary journey*”as Director, Centre for Logistics and Transport Studies. *Akpeli*, many thanks. Our Vice Chancellor, Prof Georgewill, deserves special mention; I call him *numero uno* and others call him *digital*.

When I assumed duty, the Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences was Professor A. T. Salau. He was succeeded by Professor J.B. Ojo and thereafter Professors Mark O. Anikpo, Stephen Ekpenyong, Willy Okowa, Reginald Moro and Osi S. Akpoghomeh (the valedictorian) in that sequence up to 2010. I was Dean when the faculty moved in 2009 from the quadrangle to the then new faculty building donated by First Bank Nigeria Limited. Many thanks to Chief Alex Otti who facilitated the project. Subsequent Deans were: late Professor

Charles Oyegun, Professors Okey Onuchukwu, Henry Alapiki, Kinikawon Anele (Current Dean, School of Graduate Studies), Chinedum Mmom, and Johnson Nnah-the current Dean of the Faculty. To all the Deans I extend my gratitude. One personality in the Faculty that I must not fail to recognize is Professor Okowa, who during the run-up to the Deanship election in 2008, announced publicly that “*Akpoghomeh is the next Dean*” and it came to pass. Prof, I salute you.

I must very unequivocally acknowledge that it has been a huge delight, prerogative and remunerating experience for me to have been part of this great Faculty in the last thirty-four years plus. The harmonious setting, enthusiasm, comradery and basic worth of cerebral invigoration have made me what I am today as an expert in transport planning/management and safety/security. The Faculty of Social Sciences has always had individuals who assimilate the tenets of hard work, devotion to erudition and altitudinous cerebral verbalization where ever it is convenient to do so. It is worthy of mention that the contributions of the faculty were not only to academic development but also to good university administration and management. In this regard the faculty was *primus enter paris* or better still *numero uno*. Many thanks to all those who made this recognition possible. Please permit me to appreciate in a special way Professors A. T. Salau, J.B. Ojo, Eteng, Mark Anikpo, late Professor Kimse Okoko, Professors S.W. Ibodje, Willie Okowa, Winston Bellgam, Julius Ihonvbere (currently, majority leader House of Representatives), and late Dr P. Onyinge. I hope and pray that this culture of excellence and effectual addition to University management will continue. I wish to also appreciate Professors Okey Onuchukwu (VC, IA University), Steve Tamuno, Henry Alapiki, Sofri Peterside, Ijeoma Kalu, Peter Medee, Chioma Onyinge; Dr. Doris Chuku; Dr. Obari Osaro, Mr Job Bogbara and Mrs. Lomda and ALL

other members of the faculty for their friendly disposition at one point in time or the other.

Department of Geography & Environmental Management

You know, by the time you reach my age, you've made plenty of mistakes if you have lived properly.

Ronald Reagan at 81.

I was received at the Department on that fateful day on December 15, 1989 by the Acting Head. I was later to be introduced to other members of the Department none of whom is with us now either due to relocation or *crossing the bar*. I was appointed acting Head of Department in 2001, a position I held for about six months because I had a sabbatical employment with Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) of Nigeria. Since coming to the Department of Geography in December 1989, I have taught different courses, the major ones include: transport geography, economic geography, population geography, research and quantitative techniques. I have supervised numerous undergraduate and post graduate students some whom are Professors and Senior lecturers in Uniport, FUT Owerri and NDU. I am today by the Grace of the Almighty God a professor of over eighteen (18+) years having been promoted to the rank of Professor in March 2006.

Life in the Department of Geography was **good**, quite interesting and cordial. However, the Department has had the misfortune of a relatively high frequency of untimely deaths of colleagues –Dr Peter Onyige, Dr Pedro, Dr Utang, Dr. Ogbole, Prof. Oyegun and most recently Prof. Arokoyu. May their souls rest in Perfect Peace, amen; and may we not record such untimely deaths again in the Department and the University at large, amen.

I appreciate ALL members of the Department for their kind thoughts, words and deed. You all have been very great and resourceful. Of special mention however, are late Dr P. Onyinge, Professor and Dr (Mrs) A. T. Salau, Professor W. Bellgam, late Professors C. Oyegun and Sam Arokoyu. Others are Professor T. Umeduji, Professor P. C. Mmom, Professor Vincent Weli, Professor Igwe, Professor C. Wizor, Professor A. Obafemi, Dr Mark Ogoro and Dr Sunny of very special mention are my academic mentees: Professor G. Emenike, Dr Mbee Daniel, Dr Gift Chukwu- Okeah, Dr [Mrs.] E. Okodudu and Dr [Mrs.] Sarah Daminabo. And not forgetting the young shall grow – Dr Meelu Kpang and “the new kids in town - Dr. Chris Otiasa and Dr. Sunny Okocha and of course Mr. Nelson Yeeh and Mrs. Gloria Okoro, the current Departmental Secretary. Thank you all for standing up and be counted at the right time.

Lastly, my counsel to my colleagues, in the Department especially the younger ones, is that we should endeavor to go on sabbatical leave whenever we are due. Sabbatical leave could be very refreshing as well as financially very rewarding.

Students Affairs Department

I was appointed Associate Dean, Students Affairs Department in 1994 for two tenures of four (4) years. My Dean was Professor (then Dr) Nelson Bramaifa, a very good man, who holds no grudge against anyone, my Boss for life. I owe him all the gratitude he deserves. He gave me so much “powers”. May be he knew I didn’t know how to abuse power. In fact, I was in charge of hostel accommodation and National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) matters, two major duties of the Students Affairs Department. We came into office when cultism on campus was at its highest. Without sounding

immodest I want to state without equivocation that led by Professor Brambaifa we tackled the issue of cultism on campus to a standstill. In fact, the master stroke was the involvement of the Man O' War students in the Committee. The peace on campus thereafter up till today is majorly as a result of the efforts of Professor Brambaifa and his team. We worked even at the risk of our lives. I remember the university lost one Man O'War student after we exited office. I will not fail to mention the following Man O' War personalities that I can immediately remember: Dr Sylvester Udeora of the Department of Economics, Dr Valentine Atama of UPTH and Dr. Gabriel Awuja of Faculty of Humanities. On behalf of my oga, Prof Brambaifa, I say a big thank you to all the Man O'War students and the Institution. *Wee! Waa!*

Centre for Logistics and Transport Studies (CELTRAS)

The Centre for Logistics and Transport Studies [CELTRAS] was established in the year 2012 during Professor J. A. Ajienka's tenure as the 7th Vice Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt. The Centre's office due to lack of office space was first located in Professor Osi Akpoghomeh's personal office in the old Faculty of Humanities/Social Sciences quadrangle. In the same year, the Centre moved to share office space with Disaster Risk Management and Development (DRMD) in the Donald Ekong Library Building courtesy of my very good friend, the then Director, Professor Prince C. Mmom (the "Prince of the Niger Delta"). Many thanks, Prof. Mmom. The Centre eventually was allocated its own office space in the New Office Complex Building on Alex Otti Drive. Many thanks to Arch Ubom, the Director, Physical Planning Unit. Today, CELTRAS is a proud beneficiary of a two-storey building – the NIMASA HOUSE – which at my instance, was built and donated by the Nigerian Maritime and Safety Administration (NIMASA).

By the Grace of God, I was the pioneer Director of CELTRAS appointed by Prof Ajienka, between January 2012 and January 2017. I was reappointed on January 21st, 2021, a tenure which expired on April 22nd, 2024 as I proceeded on my pre-retirement leave. My second coming was providential because I was the only professionally qualified Professor on ground, as required by the law establishing the Centre. The only other professional colleague on ground, Prof. Emenike, had just completed two tenures. To avoid the difficulty in appointing Director after me within my first year of assuming office I ensured that as many as seven (7) colleagues were inducted as Members of our professional bodies: *Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT)* and/or *Chartered Institute of Transport Administration (CIOTA)*. Consequently, the challenge of appointing a professionally qualified candidate among Professors in the Department of Geography & Environmental Management no longer existed.

Let me briefly let us into some of my major achievements as Director of CELTRAS. First is the NIMASA HOUSE. At the risk of sounding like a broken record, the NIMASA HOUSE project was at my instance, approved in 2015 during my first tenure and was eventually completed, commissioned and handed over to the University in 2024 during my second missionary journey as Director of the Centre. As far as that project is concerned, I wish to utilize this golden opportunity to thank the following in chronological order:

- Dr Patrick Z. Akpobokelemi, the DG/CEO of NIMASA and who was then the pioneer Chairman, CELTRAS Governing Board for ensuring that my request for a NIMASA HOUSE in UNIPORT was favorably considered and approved by NIMASA. I also need to thank Dr Akpobokelemi for releasing funds for the purchase of the

Director's official car –a Toyota Corolla saloon car 2.0, 2014 Model and of Saudi Arabia specification.

- Dr. Austin Atimo Odili, another very supportive Board Member, who at my instance donated a Toyota Hilux van to the Centre.
- Late Mrs. Ovude, the Managing Director and CEO of Port Harcourt Port Terminal Operator, assisted the Centre financially throughout my first tenure. Thank you, madam. May the good Lord grant her soul eternal rest, amen.
- Prof Joseph A. Ajienska, who approved the establishment of the Centre and in 2015 applied for the immediate release of the funds for building the NIMASA/CELTRAS House although this did not materialize as early as expected due to the appointment of a new Director General for NIMASA.
- Dr Bashir Jamoh, the immediate past DG/CEO of NIMASA, an alumnus of CELTRAS/University of Port Harcourt, and immediate Past Chairman of CELTRAS GOVERNING BOARD who against all odds, ensured that the building was eventually completed, commissioned and handed over to the University.
- Finally, many thanks to our *Numero Uno* Professor Owunari A. Georgewill, the present (9th) Vice Chancellor, in whose tenure the NIMASA/Building was completed, commissioned and handed over. *Ecce homo*.

In recognition of the contributions of the above-named personalities and the then outgoing Director of the Centre the CELTRAS Governing Board at its March 2024 meeting

honored the five (5) personalities by naming some facilities after them. These facilities and the personalities include: (in no particular order)

- *Prof Owunari Georgewill Library.*
- *Prof Joseph A. Ajienka Conference Room.*
- *Dr Patrick Akpobokelemi Board Room,*
- *Dr Basir Jamoh Large Lecture Hall,*
- *Dr Austin A. Odili Seminar Room,* and
- *Prof. Osi S. Akpoghomeh Seminar Room.*

I congratulate us all for honor well deserved.

Teaching/Research/Consultancy

My area of specialization is Transport Geography with emphases on Transport Planning and Management as well as Transport Safety and Security. Transport as a discipline was given prominence and visibility in the Department and the University at large by this lecturer. In addition to teaching transport geography, the other courses that I taught included Economic Geography, Research Methods, Settlement Geography. I have published numerous articles in learned journals; chapters in books; books; monographs; technical reports and creative works e.g. *Akpoghomeh, Osi. S. 1997 ROADSENSE® (A board game on road safety) Patent and Design Certificate No. 5488 of 1997. Trade Mark and Registration No. TP29269 of 1996 and Akpoghomeh, Osi S. 2010 LENA: A Road Safety Card Game* which I developed into an app called *ROAD SIGNS*. You may wish to install this app. This app prepares the learner driver an understanding and mastery of the road signs (the theoretical driving test), a condition that must be satisfactorily fulfilled before proceeding to the practical driving test.

I have produced over 30 PhDs; 50 MSc and 22 PGD graduates mostly in the area of transportation and logistics. Of these, we

have five (5) of the PhDs lecturing in the Department of Geography & EM here in University of Port Harcourt (one of whom is a Professor and another one in the making) ; three (3) at Maritime Academy of Nigeria (MAN), Oron; one each in Federal University of Technology (FUT), Owerri; Niger Delta University (NDU); Maritime University, Okerenkoko, Delta State; Rivers State Polytechnic, Rumuola, Port Harcourt and Nigerian Institute of Transport Technology (NITT) Zaria. Some are in the Ministries, Departments and Agencies while a number of them are in the private sector or self-employed. I am very proud of all my academic progenies because they passed through the crucible.

Inaugural Lecture

I gave my inaugural lecture in 2012. The lecture was titled ***Terror of Transport and the Transportation of Terror*** .To many academics this marks a high point of our career in the University. This title fascinated a number of persons to the extent that some of my colleagues chose to call me by the shortened form of the title: *Terror!* In that lecture I posited that transport is a source of major disaster and terror globally since it accounts for over 1.2 million deaths annually on the average as a result of traffic accidents. And of course, the operations of terrorists in many parts of the world are usually facilitated by the use of any means of transportation that serves the purpose, which in most cases is the motorcycle.

Adjunct

I was *Adjunct Professor* in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Rumolumeni, Port Harcourt 2010 – Jan 2017. I was also an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Transport Management Technology, Federal University of Technology,

Owerri, 2010 – 2012. Professors Ogwude and Callistus Ibe, please take the accolades.

Sabbatical

One is qualified for sabbatical leave after every six years of unbroken service to the university.

My first sabbatical was with Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) Ltd, Port Harcourt, Nigeria; from March 2002 – February 2003. I owe Dr. NT Enyia all the gratitude. Thank you. Next was at Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State, Nigeria; between Oct 2011 and Sept. 2012. Many thanks to my mentor and lecturer, Prof. Chris O. Ikporukpo, the then Vice Chancellor. The most recent was with Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Apapa, Lagos; between October 2nd, 2018 – October 1st, 2019. Many thanks to Dr Bashir Jamoh for making this possible again, against all odds.

Senior Staff Club (SSC)

It is not necessarily true that you will live longer if you don't drink, smoke, or chase women – it just feels like it.

Anon

I was elected President of the, University of Port Harcourt Senior Staff Club in June 2008 for one tenure of two years. Before then I had served as the pioneer Bar Secretary of the Club ten (10) years earlier, a position I held for two tenures. I was pioneer because that portfolio was created after I made a case for the creation of the office for better efficiency in the management of one of the core responsibilities of the Club – the bar. While I was Bar Secretary, Prof (then Dr.) Igbo-Joe was the Club President having succeeded Madam Alabokun who was acting President with the exit of Professor (then Dr) Julius Ihonvbere. Mr. Vice Chancellor sir, Prof Ihonvbere is

the current Majority leader in the House of Representatives, Abuja. I know he is capable and will be willing to attract a project to Uniport, may be modernize the Senior Staff Club where he once held sway as the President.

I will not end this brief without reference to my late friend Professor (then Dr) Charles Oyegun who was the Club Secretary while I was Bar Secretary. We came a long way but now he is gone. May his soul rest in peace, amen. In those good old days, the University Principal officers and very senior Professors and members of the University Community were regular at the Club especially during break and after work. Professor K. Harrisson, Professor Chi Ikoku, Professor Okafor Nwanya, late Dr Onyige, Dr. P.T. N. Okafor, Professor M. N. Oti, late Mr. Deyor, Chief Apenu, Chief Ekwedigwe, Chief Emma Otete, Chief Acheru to mention but a few. I must not fail to mention Mr. Beredugo (Opuso) and my Knight brother Dr. Arimie. I wish to thank all the senior citizens for their words of wisdom as I served them as the Club's Bar Secretary. Today I join Professors Igho-Joe and Blessing Didia as *Archival Presidents* of the Senior Staff Club, University of Port Harcourt.

The most distressing thing about old age is that the hangovers last longer.

Richard Harris

Snooker Board Section of SSC

This is one section that keeps the Senior Staff Club alive; all positions are held for life and membership is forever. *Snooker Board! Forever! Snooker Board!! Forever!! Forever!!! Board!!!* Thank you, Team Captain, Professor Blessing Didia, for keeping the flag flying high till date; the Deputy Team

Captain, Professor Barisua Nwinee, and the Secretary for life Professor Friday Nwafor for doing what they know best to do.

I will not fail to acknowledge the following: Dean of Humanities Professor John Yesibo, Dr. Gift Worlu, ACSO Dr. John Ogbonnaya Professors C. Onuoha and C. Ogbuji, Barinee Gbarane, Elder Roland Wabali, First Lady of Snooker Board Dr. Nkechi Bature-Uzo. To all Board Members I say, Forever! Board! We sure shall meet at *Phillipi*.

Knights of St. John International, Annunciation Commandery 802 Uniport

Special mention is hereby made of the worthy President, Barr. Adonis Ebo, IPP Engr. Chinwo and all members of the commandery and our sisters.

Major Consultancies & Status

Through my time in the University of Port Harcourt I have been involved in several research and consultancy projects with focus on transport and transport related issues. Some of these projects in which I was the consultant or transport consultant include:

1. *Karatgold & HAALP Consult Consortium*, The Niger Delta Regional Development Master Plan (NDRDMP) April 2024 – on going. *Transport Consultant*.
2. *Karatgold & HAALP Consult Consortium*, The Niger Delta Regional Development Master Plan (NDRDMP) June 2010. *Transport Consultant*.
3. *Osilosi & Co. Nig. Ltd: PHED Consultant*. Enumeration of all Consumers of the services of *Port Harcourt Electricity Distribution Company Nigeria Plc (PHED)* in the following areas:
 - Ahoada District, Port Harcourt Zone. January 2007.

- *Onne Shadow District (includes Eleme and Okrika LGAs)*, Port Harcourt Zone. November 2006 – March 2007.
 - *Oyigbo South Service Area of Borokiri District*, Port Harcourt Zone. NEPA Port Harcourt Zone July – November 2005.
 - *Rumuola, Golden Lily and parts of Choba Service Areas* in Port Harcourt Zone. NEPA Port Harcourt Zone. April/May. 2005.
 - *Choba and Owhipa settlements* in Choba Service Area in Port Harcourt Zone. NEPA Port Harcourt Zone April/May. 2004.
4. *UNDP: Human Development Survey on the Niger Delta*. I coordinated Edo State. *Consultant*
 5. *NDDC: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) (Socio-Economic) Study for Udo-Inikrogha Road Project* in Edo State. Port Harcourt. June. 2005.
 6. *DAR AL-HANDASAH (UK)/UPTONVILLE (Nig.): The Bonny Master Plan*. April – June 2001. *Transport Consultant*
 7. *World Bank Programme on Capacity Assessment Study of the Private Sector in Nigeria*. Rivers State. 1999. *Field Assistant*.
 8. *S.P.D.C/Tial Trade: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study (Socio - economics) on Obigbo Node Associated Gas Gathering Project*. 1998. *Consultant*.

9. *Federal Government of Nigeria: A survey of Small-Scale Industries in Nigeria: Imo State.* Federal Government Project. 1992. Coordinated the Aba Axis.

Appointments/Positions Held in the University of Port Harcourt

- *Permanent Member* of Senate, University of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt, 2006 to 2024
- *Dean*, Faculty of Social Sciences, July 2008 – July 2010.
- *Director[Pioneer]*, Centre for Logistics and Transport Studies, University of Port Harcourt, January 2013 – Jan 2017 & Jan 2021 – April 22, 2024, my second coming.
- *Business Editor*, Port Harcourt Journal of Social Sciences (PHJSS), July 2010 – 2013.
- *Editor*, Port Harcourt Journal Social Sciences (PHJSS), 2008 – 2010.
- *President*, Senior Staff Club, University of Port Harcourt Port Harcourt. 2008 – 2010.
- *Board Member*, College of Continuing Education (CCE), University of Port Harcourt Port Harcourt, Nigeria. August. 2003 to 2005.
- *Ag Head*, Department of Geography & Environmental Management, University of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Nov. 2001 – April 2002
- *Member of Senate*, (as Faculty Rep) University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria. 2000 – 2002.
- *Associate Dean*, Student Affairs Department, University of Port Harcourt Port Harcourt, Nigeria. 1994 – 1997.
- *Coordinator*, College of Continuing Education, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt, Nigeria 1993 – 1994.
- *Assistant Hall Warden*, New Undergraduate Hall, University of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt, Nigeria. 1992 – 1993.

Appointments/Positions Outside the University of Port Harcourt

1. External Examiner

I was External Examiner for both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes with the following institutions:

- Centre for Transport Studies, Department of Geography, Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye, Nigeria, December 1998 – 2000 & 2013
- Department of Geography and Planning, University of Uyo, Uyo. - 2010.
- Department of Geography, University of Calabar, Calabar. – 2010.
- Department of Geography, University of Ibadan, Ibadan. 2012.
- Department of Geography, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. 2014 – 2017.
- Department of Transport Management Technology, Federal University of Technology, Owerri. 2015 – Date, at intervals
- Department of Maritime Transport Management Technology, Federal University of Technology, Owerri. 2015 – Date, at intervals.
- Department of Transport Management Technology, Federal University of Technology, Akure. 2015.
- Department of Transport Management Technology, Federal University of Technology, Minna. 2016.
- Maritime Academy of Nigeria, Oron. 2023 (ND & HND programmes).

2. NUC Accreditation

During my career years in Uniport, I was involved in the accreditation of academic programmes in the following Universities:

- Member, Ad-Hoc Accreditation Panel, Undergraduate Degree Programme in Social Sciences [Department of Geography], University of Lagos, Akoka, Lagos. November, 2019.
- Chairman, Ad-Hoc Accreditation Panel, Undergraduate Degree Programme in Urban and Regional Planning, Abubarka Tarfawa Balewa University, Bauchi, Bauchi State. Nov. 2017.
- Chairman, Ad-Hoc Accreditation Panel, Undergraduate Degree Programme in Environmental Sciences, Elizade University, Ilara Morki, Ekiti State. Nov.2016.
- Member, Ad-Hoc Accreditation Panel, Undergraduate Degree Programme in Social Sciences, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. February 2016.
- Member, Ad-Hoc Accreditation Panel, Undergraduate Degree Programme in Environmental Sciences, Osun State University, Osogbo. April 2012.
- Member, Ad-Hoc Accreditation Panel, Undergraduate Degree Programme in Social Sciences, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. 2014
- Member, Ad-Hoc Accreditation Panel, Undergraduate Degree Programme in Social Sciences, Bayero University, Kano. 2014
- Member, Ad-Hoc Accreditation Panel, Undergraduate Degree Programme in Social Sciences, Kaduna State University, Kaduna. 2015.

3. *Other Positions*

- Chairman, *Panel of Interviewers for the appointment of lecturers into the Department of Maritime Transport and Logistics*, Nigeria Maritime University, Okerenkoko, Delta State. February, 2018.
- Chairman, *Rivers State Technical Committee for 2014 Annual Rating of States and the FCT for Entrenching*

- Road Safety and Traffic Administrations*. Federal Road Safety Corps, Abuja. 2015.
- Member, *Committee on the World Health Organisation [WHO] 3rd Global Status Report on Road Safety*. FRSC, April 2014.
 - Chairman, *Rivers State Technical Committee for 2012 Annual Rating of States and the FCT for Entrenching Road Safety and Traffic Administrations*. Federal Road Safety Corps, Abuja. 2013.
 - Member, *Critique Workshop on the Proposed Degree Awarding Programme of Maritime Academy, Oron*. 2013.
 - Member, *National Safety Competition Selection Examination Committee*. Shell Petroleum Development Company [SPDC] Joint Venture (JV) 2013
 - Member, *Stakeholders Committee on Developing Comprehensive Road Safety Strategy for Nigeria*. FRSC, Abuja. April 2012
 - Consultant, *2011/2012 Overseas Scholarship Award Oral Interview*. Rivers State Sustainable Development Agency [RSSDA], January, 2012.
 - Consultant, *2011/2012 Overseas Scholarship Award Oral Interview*. Rivers State Sustainable Development Agency [RSSDA], April 2011.
 - National Secretary, *International Geographical Union (IGU)*, Nigeria. 2001 – 2005
 - Zonal Representative, *Nigerian Geographical Association* 2000 – 2005.
 - Nigeria's Representative, *Who's Who in Geography in the World* Project. Paris, France. December 2004.
 - Editor, *Nigerian Geographical Journal* 2010 – 2011
 - Editor, *Port Harcourt Journal of Social Sciences* 2008 – 2010

- Editor, *Ikogho* – A Multi- Disciplinary Journal 2009 – Date
- Assistant Editor, *Nigerian Geographical Journal*. Ibadan 2005 – 2010
- Managing Editor, *Journal of Transport Development Initiatives*, Lagos, Nigeria. 2000 – Date
- Chairman, *2011 Harvest Organizing Committee*, Chapel of the Annunciation Catholic Chaplaincy, University of Port Harcourt.

Membership of University Committees

- Chairman, *Transport Sub-Committee*. Local Organizing Committee, West African University Games [WAUG], 2018, University of Port Harcourt.
- Chairman, *Committee on the Review of the Operations of Security Companies in The University of Port Harcourt Campuses*, April 2014.
- Member, *Senate Business Committee*, University of Port Harcourt, 2012 - 2014
- Member, *Development Committee*, University of Port Harcourt. 2005 – 2009
- Chairman, *Transport Sub-Committee*. Local Organizing Committee *Nigerian University Games [NUGA] 2004* University of Port Harcourt.
- Member, *Traffic and Parks Sub-Committee of the Revenue Generation Committee*. University of Port Harcourt, August 1999.
- Chairman, *Traffic Management Sub-Committee*, Convocation Committee, Univ. of Port Harcourt 1992 – 2008; 2020 - 2023
- Member, Faculty of Social Science Building Committee 2006

Membership of Panels of Investigation (University Level)

- Member, Senate Panel on Civil Disturbance at the University of Port Harcourt – An Incidence of Gun Shot leading to the death of a student, August 2001.
- Member, Senate Panel Investigating Acting Heads of Department/Staff of the University indicted by the Panel Report on University – wide 1998/1999 Session final year Students Degree Results. June 2001.
- Member, University Disciplinary Panel, 2002.

Membership of Professional Bodies/Councils

- Fellow, Nigerian Institute of Shipping (*FNIS*).
- Fellow, *Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport, (FCILT)* Nigeria.
- Fellow, *Chartered Institute of Transport Administration, (FinsTA)* Nigeria.
- Fellow, African Centre for Supply Chain, *fASC*, Nigeria.
- Member and Member of Council, *Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport, (CILT)* Nigeria, 2010 - 2011 & 2016 – Date.
- Member and Member of Council, *Association of Nigerian Geographers* (formerly Nigerian Geographical Association [ANG]) 2008 to date.
- Member, *International Geographical Union*, Nigeria
- Member, *Environmental Behaviour Association of Nigeria*, Lagos.
- Member, *Nigerian Environmental Study/Action Team*, Ibadan.
- Special Marshal, *Federal Road Safety Commission, Rivers State Command*, Port Harcourt.
- Member, *Knight of ST John International [KSJI]*, Commandery #802, PH Grand Commandery, Nigeria.

- Chairman of Council, *St John Ambulance*, Rivers State Command Headquarters, Port Harcourt.

Honors

- *Award of Honour, 2018*, by National Association of Edo State Students [NAESS], University of Port Harcourt Chapter, in recognition of support towards the growth of the Association.
- *Distinguished Guest Speaker, 2017*, Award of Honour at The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport [CILT] Industry Leadership Lecture and Induction by the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport, Nigeria. December.
- ***Distinguished Mentorship Award, 2017***, Award of Honour at The 10th Year Graduation Anniversary of Class U2001 of the Nigerian Union Of Geography And Environmental Management Students Association [NUGEMSA], University Of Port Harcourt, on 25th November.
- *Excellence Award 2012*. Nigerian Federation of Catholic Students, University of Port Harcourt Chapter.
- ***Distinguished Club Member Award 2012***. University of Port Harcourt Senior Staff Club, University of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt, Nigeria.
- *Certificate of Excellence 2006* by *Nigeria's University Geography & Environmental Management Students' Association (NUGEMSA)*. University of Port Harcourt Chapter, Port Harcourt, Nigeria.
- *Certificate of Excellence 2005* by *Nigerian University Geography & Environmental Management Students' Association (NUGEMSA)*. University of Port Harcourt Chapter, Port Harcourt, Nigeria.
- ***Most Outstanding Lecturer 2000*** NUGSA Millennium Award 2000 by *Nigerian University Geography Students'*

Association (NUGSA). University of Port Harcourt Chapter, Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

- ***Distinguished Lecturer*** (Certificate of Excellence). By Nelson Mandela Hall, *University of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt, Nigeria. 1997*
- ***Certificate of Merit: Peace and Order by Man O' War***, University of Port Harcourt Command, Port Harcourt, Nigeria.
- ***Certificate of Excellence: A Consistent Supporter/Sponsor*** by AIESEC, University of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt, Nigeria. 1997
- ***Certificate of Excellence: Staunch Supporter/Advisor*** by AIESEC, University of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt, Nigeria. 1995.

Gratitude

Harry Millner (MCMXCIX) in his book *Pearls of Wisdom* wrote that *If you can't be grateful for what you have got, be grateful for what you have not got.* He however noted that *being grateful is often a wish to obtain more benefits.* So, we need to be grateful to our creator at all times for to him belongs all the glory

2. WELCOME TODAY/ THE PRESENT

Youths tend to look ahead. Old age tends to look back . Middle age tends to look worried.

James Simpson

Crossing the Rubicon

I welcome today as I “*cross the Rubicon*”. The phrase “crossing the Rubicon” is an idiom that means “passing a point of no return”. Its meaning comes from the allusion to the crossing of the River Rubicon by Julius Caesar in early January 49 BC. Why was this such a big deal? You might ask.

Caesar and his 13th Legion deliberately broke the Roman law of *imperium*, or invading territory to which he had no legal right. This event spurred the rise of Caesar into dictatorship and the end of the Roman Republic, and it remains a euphemism for something which has reached the point of no return.

Highlights:

- Caesar denies the request and marches his army across the Rubicon River.
- This is a sign of war.
- Caesar has committed treason by crossing the Rubicon with his army.
- “*Ilialactaest*” (“The die has been cast.”)

Crossing the retiring age of 70 is like Crossing the Rubicon for a professor. Like Caesar I am this day “crossing the Rubicon” but unlike Caesar without breaking any laws.

What Makes Today Special.

“The first part of life is for learning. The second for service, and the last is for oneself. It is the time for discovering inner richness and for self-development and spiritual growth.

Andrew Perry

The first is being more at ease in expressing one’s opinions. Secondly, in being yourself: Who would you want to impress at this age?

Crossing the age of 70, has some benefits, some of which include:

- increased sense of wisdom,
- enhanced experience and

- perspectives that arise from living through different life experiences,
- more free time to travel etc

The recipe for a happy life after 70 therefore include:

- taking care of one's health,
- finances, and
- becoming useful in your community;
- your diet is very important, so make plants the centre of your meals.

In fact, there are a lot of great things about age 70:

- you do not have to work full time for a living.
- you have got time to do all those interesting things you always wanted to do, or to discover new interesting things.
- you still have the energy to do almost everything you wish to, except that you need to take more naps.
- one would have fewer responsibility than ever and so one can fill his days with writing and research.
- enjoy living alone.
- If you allowed your health to be poor, your finances chaotic, or you have allowed yourself to be habitually self-centered, old age will be much harder.

Four things to avoid once past 70:

- Avoid night driving.
- Avoid heights
- Don't waste energy being angry at the system.
- Accept the changes in the way things are done in all aspects of your life.

3. TOMORROW - THE FUTURE

This lecture will be deficient and professionally amiss if I do not reflect on the future as I bid farewell to the University where I have spent a better part of my life and have fulfilled my life ambitions. Three issues are briefly discoursed here:

- Counsel to our dear students on achieving academic success in the University,
- The need for more transport geographers lecturers in the Department of Geography and Environmental Management and the creation of a Department of Transport Management from Geography and Environmental Management and
- The issue of road safety management in the University of Port Harcourt campuses.

3.1. Counsel to Students on Achieving Academic Success in the University

An educated man should know something about everything and everything about something.

Dame Wedgewood

Vice Chancellor sir, please permit me to briefly counsel our students on the formula for academic success.

Imbibe Self-Discipline

- Keep a positive attitude
- Know yourself
- Set goals

Studying

- Manage your time
- Avoid distraction(s)
- Choose a study place.

Such a place must be free of distraction, like TV, Radio, Telephone and conversation. It must be close to needed

resources, such as reference books and it must be well lit. The library is often the place that meets these criteria and so the best place to study. Be familiar with: The classification system (usually Dewey Decimal or Library Congress); using the card catalog and readers guide periodical literature; using periodicals and reserve sections; the locations of reference books and audiovisual materials and E library.

Lectures: Listening and Taking Note

Listening

- Attend lectures and listen attentively and be alert to any special technique the lecturer adopts in presenting information.
- Weigh the importance of the information. For example, listen for clues such as "*the main point is* or *Remember this ...*"
- Take cursory note of relevant remarks by the lecturer in the course of lecture.
- Think of possible questions based on the material presented. Jot the item down and review later.

Taking Notes

- Take your note in outline form. This method encourages you to listen for main ideas and prevents you from frantically writing down all that is said.
- Do not use any electronic recording device.
- Review your notes as soon as possible after class/lecture and just before the next class/lecture.
- Reviewing materials several times can help you remember it better.

Reading

- *Skimming or browsing*: this is to locate main ideas and important details.

- *Intensive reading*: this is reading for total understanding.
- "Cramming" cannot be called a reading strategy.

Guidelines for effective reading include (see *Preparation for Test/Examinations*):

- While reading, underline or highlight keywords and phrases in textbooks.
- Outline text material using the appropriate format, for example: indentations, numbering, capital letter, and etc.
- Summarize material when it is not easy to outline. For example, reading a story.

Tests/Examinations

Preparation: In preparation for a test/examination, you should:

- Review all notes;
- Check the recall of facts that you must know by reciting them aloud;
- Reduce the texts you read to minimum – e.g. bullet points (see *Guidelines*);

Taking the Test/Examination

In taking the test/examination, it is important to:

- Read all instructions carefully.
- Use your time wisely- you may want to allocate time to each question.
- Answer questions you know first- then return to the other questions.
- Write clearly and do not panic.

Good Health

- Eat well. Eating a balanced diet and avoiding junk food can make studying more productive.

- Get enough sleep. Adequate sleep will influence positively your alertness during class/lectures and study time.
- Exercise regularly.
- Plan time for recreation.

Stress Management

Stress can make concentration difficult and may affect your entire wellbeing. Sources of stress for students include:

- Career Decisions
- Finances
- Grades
- Personal Problems

Where to go for help: A problem shared is a problem half-solved

- Dean of Students Affairs Office
- Counselling Unit
- Career Planning and Placement
- Faculty/Academic Advisor
- Health Centre
- Churches/Mosques/others

In summary academic success for a university student will depend on your *self-discipline*, study *skills* and the ability to *deal effectively* with academic environment.

3.2 Employment of more Transport Geographers in GEM/CELTRAS and the Creation of the Department of Transport Management from GEM.

Vice Chancellor sir, I have thought through what I considered might be useful to CELTRAS, the Department of Geography and Environmental Management the proposed Department of Transport Management and the university at large.

Consequently, I made up my mind to document in few words my thoughts in this valedictory lecture. In the year 2012 the University of Port Harcourt established the Centre for Logistics and Transport Studies [CELTRAS]. The Centre being a professional focus with the mandate of graduating professionals in transport and logistics, with my exit, will be left with fewer *experts* in transport geography in the parent Department of Geography and Environmental Management. These are Prof G. C. Emenike, Dr. (Mrs) S. Daminabo and Dr. G. Chukwu-Okeah. I have been rightly worried because of the impact my exit will have on the available number of transport geographers to teach in CELTRAS and the Department. Consequently, Vice Chancellor sir, I wish to plead that the University recruits at least two academically and professionally qualified persons in the area of Transport/Transport Geography into the Department of Geography and Environmental Management. Finally, I humbly request that a Department of Transport Management be created out of Department of Geography and Environmental Management. Thank you, sir.

3.3 Road Safety Management in the University of Port Harcourt Campuses: Need for Urgent Mitigation and Response

Road safety is the use of the road and other such public spaces in such a way that no harm is caused to humans and or animals and no property is destroyed or even damaged. Road Safety management has three components viz: the governments (Federal, States and LGAs) who provide the technical components [the infrastructure, that is, the network and other facilities], the institutional framework (regulators and operators) and the human components [the users]. Road safety therefore is the responsibility of all the different components: the government, the regulators, the operators and the users.

The governments provide the environment, the rules and regulations for its usage while the operators/users **must** comply with the rules of engagement (terms and conditions apply!).

My *Numero Uno*, the problem necessitating the concerns expressed here is the increasing recklessness of road users especially on the permanent site. I must confess that past and present University administrations have made efforts to manage some of these efforts include: a covered *walkway* built along the Aluu Drive by the immediate past administration of Professor N. E. Lale and very recently, *pedestrian crossing signs* were marked and modern *speed bumps* were mounted on Aluu Drive. The above notwithstanding a lot still needs to be done as road users are increasingly becoming lawless.

The road users and their common traffic offences have been grouped into two (2):

A) Motorists

1. Driving against traffic especially on the:
 - Dan Etete Road
 - Arena Round-About
2. Driving across the Dan Etete Road median in front of the banks
3. Indiscriminate stopping and parking in unauthorised places especially on the roadway and roundabout [*unauthorised on-street parking*]
4. Non-Usage of designated ***bus stops*** for the embarkation and disembarkation of passengers.
5. Canvassing for passengers while in motion or outside designated bus stops
6. Operation of unregistered/unpainted taxis on the campuses.

7. While in motion, a few buses leave their doors ajar with the driver assistant (“bus conductor”) hanging carelessly on the doorway

8. Double parking

B] Pedestrians/Hawkers:

1. Walking on the roadway instead of using the walkway/sidewalk/road shoulder

2. Improper usage of the Pedestrian Crossings (Zebra Crossings): non-usage and crossing of the road at short space intervals

3. Phoning while walking on the roadway

4. Hawkets with cycles and carts contend the road space with motorists.

Way Forward

Vice Chancellor sir, in view of the foregone I hereby recommend as follows:

1. Create more *bus stops* and *laybys*,

2. Design and mount *road signs* at critical points e.g. speed limits and No Parking signs

3. Mark *Pedestrian (zebra) crossings* at major activity centres, especially in front of bus-stops, schools, Health Centre, faculty buildings, etc]. *Note: Since motorist are compelled to slow down at speed bumps just like they are expected to stop at Pedestrian Crossings when pedestrians step on them, I suggest the Pedestrian Crossing signs are marked on the speed bumps so we kill two birds with one stone.*

4. Construct more *walk-ways* and *sidewalks*, complete that on both sides of Alex Oti Drive, and clear road shoulders,

5. Street name plates should be secured against “sign post vandals”. Security Department to the rescue.

6. Regular and intensive public enlightenment on road safety for all road users on campus.

7. Training and retraining of all commercial bus/taxi operators on the University campuses
8. Change the name *UNIPOINT Shuttle* to *UNIPOINT Internal Transport Service*.
9. Set up a road safety task force on campus to compliment the efforts of the *Transport Directorate* in the management of road safety in the University campuses. To this effect I recommend the setting up of a 10-man *VC's Task Force on Road Safety* in UNIPOINT.

Membership shall include:

- i. Dean Students Affairs ---Chairman
- ii. Unit Commander, FRSC Unit 14, Uniport.
- iii. Director, Health Services or his representative---
Member
- iv. Director of Works or his representative
- v. Director CELTRAS or his representative
- vi. Director COHSE or his representative
- vii. Chairman, Uniport Shuttle Service Operators
- viii. SUG President/Director of Transport
- ix. VC's appointee 1
- x. VC's appointee 2

CONCLUSION

Vice Chancellor, Sir, principal officers of the University, distinguished ladies and gentlemen please spare another two (2) minutes to listen to my final words as expressed in this song.

Mr. Vice Chancellor, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, am sure that we all appreciate why I am bidding *Yesterday Goodbye* and *Welcoming Today and Tomorrow*. The title of my valedictory lecture is heavily predicated on the experience of Lot's wife. In Genesis 19:17; 19 "When they were outside,

the men (the Angels) said to him (Lot): “**Flee ...and don’t look back**” but “*Lot’s wife looked back and she became a pillar of salt*”. *Yesterday* is gone, and there shall be no looking back. It however left behind for me and my family lots of blessings as you must have gleaned from this valedictory lecture, *Today*. To God be the Glory. For *Tomorrow*, will be better for it shall be *forward ever and backward never, not even looking back*.

Thank You for Listening!!!!

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- Harry Millner (MCMXCIX) *Pearls of Wisdom*. Clarion Books. www.clarion-books.co.uk

CITATION



PROFESSOR OSIGBEMEH S. AKPOGHOMEH

B.Sc, M.Sc, PhD (Ibadan)

B.Sc, M.Sc & Ph.D (Ibadan) FCILT, FInsTA, FNIS, fasc, MANG.

Professor Osi Solo Akpoghomeh attended Annunciation Catholic College, Irrua in Edo State; Edo College, Benin City and University of Ibadan, Ibadan. He holds a PhD in Transport Geography, from the University of Ibadan specializing in Transport Planning & Management with emphasis on Transport Impacts [Safety and Security]. He was employed in the Department of Geography & Environment Management, University of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt in December 1989. He has been Dean of Faculty, ag Head of Department and two-time Director of the Centre for Logistics and Transport Studies (CELTRAS), University of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt. He has published in both local and international journals as well as publishing several books and monographs. He belongs to many professional groups. and Fellow of Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport ((FCILT); Fellow, Chartered Institute

of Transport Administration (FIoTA); Fellow, Nigerian Institute of Shipping (FNIS); Fellow; Association of Supply Chain (fASC), Member; Association of Nigerian Geographers (MANG) and a Knight of St John International (KSJI). He is married to Maria and they have 3 children – Kemehai, Oshone and Oshogwe.

Professor Owunari Abraham Georgewill
Vice Chancellor