Nnodi Bows Out, Nzimiro Steps In As Acting Registrar

After what was generally described as an impressive performance at the helm of the Registry Department of the University, Mrs. Matilda Nnodi finally bowed out as 6th Registrar and Secretary to Council of the University, last Monday. She handed over the affairs of the Registry Department to the oldest serving Deputy Registrar and Director, Mrs. Bridget Nzimiro in acting capacity amidst spontaneous outpouring of emotions by her immediate office staff and pensioners who gathered to bid her farewell.

Mrs. Nnodi had assumed duty as 6th Registrar on October 30, 2010, following her satisfactory performance at an interview conducted by the Dr. Dan Shere-led Governing Council to replace her predecessor, Mr. Messiah Onyige, who had served out his tenure. Speaking in a brief handing over ceremony in the Registrar’s Office, Mrs. Nnodi, who expressed hope in the ability of Mrs. Nzirimo to provide quality leadership, pending when the Governing Council would appoint a substantive Registrar, showered praises on Mrs. Nzirimo for cutting short her vacation in America to fill the vacancy in the Office of the Registrar.

“The University advertised for the position of Registrar since September 14, 2015, but the interview has not held and the Governing Council has not produced anyone in acting capacity.

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Meet Cokey-Gam, Staff Par Excellence

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Driven by a motivation to stand out from the crowd, just as the University of Port Harcourt stands out unique among universities, Mr. Kingdom Cokey-Gam, a staff in the Bursar’s Office, says his drive to remain unique has been his watchword in the line of duty. Apart from being punctual and committed to his work schedule, Mr. Cokey-Gam is self-motivated, personable and turns out in the best civil service dress code Monday through Friday without being prompted by his superior officers. Mentored by the likes of former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sylvanus Cokey and Dr. Chris Tamuno, this exemplary worker noted that a staff who is privileged to work in a University that has produced former Miss World in 2001, Miss Agbani Darego, serving and past state governors, ex-president, top government officials and other distinguished alumni, should show total commitment and dedication to duty as a mark of privilege and gratitude.

“We should really consider it a privilege working in Unique UniPort and this uniqueness should reflect in our dress code, work ethic and the way we carry ourselves. I believe that a staff should be punctual at work and be prepared to serve to the best of his or her ability. Lateness and other unacceptable behaviours betray our conscience as we have to justify the salaries we earn at the end of each month.”

Mr. Cokey-Gam, who assumed duty in the University in 1998, disclosed that he is also encouraged to put in his best on the job based on the zeal displayed by former and serving Vice-Chancellors, who usually resumed work as early as 7.00 am daily and worked late into the evening, despite their hectic job schedules.

“An advice from former Registrar, Dr. Chris Tamuno, has been my guiding principle on this job. She taught me that I have a name and image to protect. Now I know that whatever I do ruffles either positively or negatively on my name; so, I try at all times to protect my name and the uniqueness of the University that is highly-placed in Nigeria and Africa. It is not about money. The joy I derive from knowing that I was able to add value to the system gives me enough satisfaction and I am very committed to doing the job to the best of my ability,” Cokey-Gam said.

Gbosi Shines At Nevada Confab, Proffers Solutions To Declining Economy

By Otkor Samuel

Director of Bamanga Tukur Institute For International Trade and Development, Professor Augustus Gbosi, has described as very rewarding his experience at the 2015 International Multidisciplinary Academic Conference organized by the Academic Organization for Advancement of Strategic and International Studies (Academic OASIS) in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, which held between October 25 and 27, 2015.

Also, Professor Gbosi has called for urgent attention to Nigeria’s rapid economic decline, urging policy-makers to summon the political will to bail the economy out of the woods to ensure national prosperity and stability.

Speaking to our Correspondent on arrival from the conference, last Tuesday, Professor Gbosi, disclosed that he presented a paper entitled: "Naira Exchange Rate Movements and Macroeconomic Stability in Nigeria," at the event which attracted participants from 25 countries, expressing delight at the very warm reception accorded his presentation by participants at the event.

“I did not use power-point presentation or aided by paper, but I was able to get the job done in just 10 minutes with resounding applause from participants that indicated a job well done. After my presentation, a Professor from the University of Nevada told me that my presentation was the best he had witnessed in recent times. Based on my performance, I was scheduled to present another paper at Miami Beach, Florida from May 4 to 6, 2016, courtesy of the same organization. It will interest you to know that before I arrived at the conference venue, my paper was already published in the Journal of Strategic and International Studies,” Professor Gbosi told our Correspondent.

On the relevance of his paper to the present economic challenges facing the country, the Director stated: “The paper I submitted recounted the origin of the naira from its inception till date. I also discussed the factors responsible for fluctuations in the value of the Nigerian currency. In a bid to stabilize the naira as part of the Structural Adjustment Programme, former self-styled military President, retired General Ibrahim Babangida, used the International Monetary Fund Reformed Package to devalue the currency with the stated aim of stimulating export and discouraging importation of luxury goods. Other similar measures were adopted to save the naira, yet by 1986, the naira had lost its value. Then, it was N1.00 to the dollar which rapidly moved up to N22 in 1995 under the so-called Guided Deregulation Policy.”

Gbosi, who decried hastily-conceived policies that could not save the currency from continued depreciation against the dollar and other international currencies, stated that between 1980 and 2015, the naira had depreciated by more than 5,000 per cent with adverse consequences for the economy and the living standard of the average Nigerian family. He attributed the current woes of the economy to political crises and instability, money laundering and the slump in global crude oil prices.

“All these factors led to the unstable macroeconomic environment in the country and based on the sharp depreciation, most observers who erroneously add the rate of inflation to unemployment get the so-called Macroeconomic Discomfort Index, which is a situation in which the economy cannot stand on both legs as a result of internal and external pressures,” he said.

Proffering a way out of the woods, Professor Gbosi appealed to the organized private sector and the government to first get the depressed economy back on track to guarantee its sustainable growth. “This will create jobs, increase income, reduce inflation and stabilize the naira exchange rate, and for macroeconomic policy to be objective, it should be well-coordinated and complemented by external sector policy,” he explained, calling on policymakers to focus more attention on strategies that would bring about rapid economic recovery and save Nigerians from further fall in their living standards.
UPTH Terminates Appointments Of Negligent Staff

The Chief Medical Director appealed to the Management of University of Port Harcourt to “further investigate and punish those involved in the stealing and destruction of property at the hospital. They (students) should also be advised to properly channel their grievances through the established authorities of the University, and not resort to self-help,” disclosing that the Management of UPTH would liaise with authorities of the University to work out modalities for the repair and replacement of damaged property.

Professor Ojule used the opportunity to, once again, commiserate with the family of the late student, the entire students and authorities of the University of Port Harcourt, assuring the general public of improved healthcare delivery services in the hospital, even as he urged stakeholders to understand the difficult operational environment of UPTH as a tertiary healthcare institution.

Also at the media briefing were Chairman of the investigating panel, Professor John Ikimolo, Director of Administration, Mrs. Boma Amaonu-Jumbo and Chief Nursing Officer, Mrs Mary Maa.

Stakeholders List Ways To Curb Cultism At CCGS Dialogue

Strategies aimed at curbing cult activities in Rivers State formed the main thrust of the 3rd Conflict Analysis Dialogue of the Centre for Conflict and Gender Studies (CCGS), which took place at the NIM Lounge, Ebiti License Auditorium, on Friday, October 30, 2015.

The participants drawn from security agencies, civil society organizations, community leaders and media across Rivers State, highlighted the negative impact of cultism in the society, calling on government to rise up to the challenge of stemming the growing tide of violence associated with the mysterious monster that has claimed many innocent victims.

They observed that there was need for government to put in place equitable and justifiable policies to address the imbalance in social structures through job creation that would take vulnerable youths off the streets and away from the antics of mischief makers, who use them to achieve their pecuniary interests. The stakeholders also advocated autonomy for security agencies to effectively check the malaise of cultism, calling on government to apply existing laws on cult-related activities, as well as adopt more proactive ways in dealing with cultism and related issues in line with extant rules and best international practices.

In his remarks, former Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) and Pioneer Director of the erstwhile Centre for Ethnic and Conflict Studies (CENTECS), Professor Mark Anikpo, stated that government had the responsibility of creating a conducive environment for peaceful coexistence. According to him, incidents of cultism which started in Nigerian tertiary institutions in the 1960s had permeated the society, resulting in the rise of dangerous groups that continue to unleash mayhem on the society.

He identified social inequality arising from graduate unemployment and social injustice as major factors responsible for the increase in cult-related activities. “Inequity in the social system in Nigeria produced cultism as a by-product of perceived and obvious marginalization which manifests in youth unemployment,” Professor Anikpo explained, calling for policies that would reduce the alienation that young people feel in an unjust society.

Earlier in his address, Acting Director of the Centre, Dr. Fidelis Allen, stated that the Dialogue series which is an initiative of the Centre in collaboration with the Rivers State Conflict Management Alliance (RSCMA), and support from the Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme, aimed at providing a non-political platform for analysis of lingering or emerging conflict issues in Rivers State in order to make recommendations to relevant public institutions on the way out of such perennial conflicts in Rivers State.
Teacher Education Centre Ends W'Shop For UISS Staff

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The Centre for Teacher Education and In-service Training in the Institute of Education has ended a three-day workshop for teaching staff of the University of Port Harcourt International Secondary School (UISS), Nkpul, Port Harcourt. Declaring the workshop which had the theme: Updating Teachers' Knowledge to Meet Recent Challenges in the 21st Century Educational Sector, open, Director of the Institute, Professor Oledimma Nwanna-Nzewunwa, told participants that the exercise was aimed at highlighting the challenges of delivering knowledge in the 21st century, charging teachers to be receptive to new ideas that would help grow their careers.

Stressing the role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in 21st Century Education, Professor Nwanna-Nzewunwa, urged the teachers to incorporate ICT resources into their knowledge delivery methodology for meaningful learning to take place. She advocated for effective and efficient classroom management strategies in which multimedia facility serves as a medium of interaction so that students are afforded an opportunity to fulfill their lifelong learning experience," she admonished participants, explaining that the outdated teaching method was no longer relevant to the modern learning processes.

Reiterating the need to correct outdated curricular that lacked human capacity development strategies, the Director pointed out that the 21st century curriculum should be modified to integrate ICT into the educational process to meet the requirements of the new knowledge-driven society. "To become effective change agents in their classrooms, teachers should have full content, pedagogical and technological knowledge of all subjects and how to deliver them to students with effective feedback mechanism that benefits everybody," she stated, stressing the need for school authorities to create an enabling environment that would motivate teachers and learners to enhance productivity and interact freely.

A communiqué issued at the end of the workshop emphasized the need for teachers to master entrepreneurship education that could develop requisite skills in their students who may wish to go into self-employment with confidence in their ability to succeed.

The communiqué further stressed the importance of regular in-service training sessions for teachers in relevant disciplines to enhance their skills. It also stated that teachers should be motivated to teach subjects in high demand at the Junior Secondary School levels, urging Management to introduce guidance and counselling offices to facilitate professional practices and also train teachers on ICT to bridge the digital divide in a knowledge environment that is increasingly going online.

Onuchukwu Cautions Against Naira Devaluation

By Obinna Nwoundim

Following ongoing arguments for and against the devaluation of Nigeria's currency, Professor of Economics, Okey Onuchukwu, has backed the position of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) not to further devalue the naira, pointing to a poor economic climate that was not right for such an action at the moment. Onuchukwu, who has just been elected National Vice-President of the Nigeria Economic Society (NEC), opposed the rising clamour for devaluation of the naira in an insightful interview with UniPort Weekly in his office, last Tuesday.

He stated that devaluation as canvassed in some quarters was not the solution to Nigeria’s deepening economic woes, pointing out that as a mono-economy, such policy was not healthy for the country’s monetary policy. "Devaluation would result in deliberate reduction in the value of the country's currency, which would in turn, make products cheap on the global market and further reduce the standard of living," Professor Onuchukwu told our Correspondent.

"Once you devalue your currency, it will make the products from the country cheaper, resulting in an increase in demand for them, but in the case of Nigeria, we are talking of just one product, which is crude oil, whose price and production are determined by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and other market forces that are outside our control, he stated, adding that even if devaluation encouraged increased external demand for Nigeria's products, such a demand would not apply to the country's crude oil which is the main foreign exchange earner at the moment.

Onuchukwu, who is also Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, stated that devaluation of the naira would worsen the economy with the weakening of the currency, as well as putting it under undue pressure. "We are aware that most of our industries are income-dependent and with a weak naira, the cost of production will be on the increase, resulting in increased cost of goods and services locally, thus compounding the current high rate of unemployment," he submitted, urging utmost caution in the country's monetary policy to safeguard the interest of the already impoverished citizenry.

"The net effect of currency devaluation will be stagnation—an untenable economic situation in which inflation is accompanied by stagnant growth rate, resulting in massive unemployment and recession that could cause further economic dislocation, poverty and social tension in the land. For now, it is not right to devalue the national currency," he warned, explaining that those calling for devaluation of the naira were insinuating foreign investors and their local collaborators, who were bent on taking advantage of a weak naira which they hope to exploit for profit maximization at the expense of poor Nigerians.

Onuchukwu said that the only panacea to the country's economic woes was to diversify the economy to generate additional revenue from non-oil sources. He explained that Nigeria's current economic woes were the result of prolonged neglect of other sectors of the economy by successive administrations. "What will make our economy strong again is what we can produce as a nation. Government should address the issue of production capacity to increase its internally-generated revenue pool. We also need to create jobs that would stimulate the economy and bring about increased demand for goods and services. It is only when we produce and sell to the world that we can boast of a strong economy with alternative sources of foreign exchange," he stated, adding that to achieve such a feat, government should create an enabling environment for investors and be fully involved in the production process.

The Dean stated that abandoning the production process to the private sector was not good enough, advising government to boost production by developing a deliberate plan that would drive the productive process, as well as ensure that such a plan was followed up with the necessary action and political will.

The former Head of the Department of Economics also advised that there was a need to look at the revenue profile of government in the face of dwindling oil revenue to shore up internally generated revenue, recommending periodic review of government's economic policies with a view to fine-tuning the process for greater efficiency. "We need to review our tax system to generate more money for government to develop the country," Professor Onuchukwu said, describing proper planning as very essential in efforts aimed at refoating the economy.
By Mercy Adeniji

who did their jobs because of your motherly approach to duties and the support of the University. You are a skilled administrator who can fit into your shoes as you take your leave of us as Registrar. As the saying goes, however, the only permanent thing in life is change. There comes a time when we are faced with the inevitability of change and as the popular saying goes, everything that has a beginning must certainly have an end, but we all know that this has been a wonderful ending because you have done your job well and anyone who is objective enough would agree that you acquitted yourself credibly as Registrar.

“As you prepared to take your leave, the Principal Officers decided to do something that would be memorable and worthy of showing off, even to your children. We are very proud of what you are and what you have achieved in office in the last five years. It is true that there is nothing anyone of us can do to repay you for the selfless service you rendered to the University of Port Harcourt. Many seek greatness but only a select few achieve it; may God give you long life to continue to achieve greater glory as you conclude this phase of your career.”

In her response, a visibly humbled Mrs. Nnodim commended Principal Officers for shelving everything else to celebrate her. She said it unfolded today drew tears of joy from my eyes. We are here as colleagues, working in concert for the development of the University, but for me, it is a great sense of fulfillment and satisfaction when your colleagues go out of their way to show appreciation for your services and also shower encomiums on you. It simply shows oneness, team spirit, mutual respect and love for one another. I count myself extremely lucky to have been privileged to work with this wonderful crop of people, whose love radiate even in a stressful work environment such as we find ourselves on daily basis.

“Praise that we as exit one by one, every one of us would receive the same measure of appreciation and love that you have shown to us; and we are deeply touched and touched in my innermost being. As I prepared to take my leave, I tried to be very strong and this is the first time I broke down and the reason I could not hold onto my emotion is very obvious. I am very grateful to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale for his outstanding leadership of the Principal Officers Meeting, and also to my colleagues in the Principal Officers family for their valued friendship. I am very grateful to the entire University community for the cooperation I received in the line of duty, and hope that the same measure of institutional support would be extended to whoever would emerge as my successor,” she said.

Present at the farewell reception were Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe and Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Aliezi. Also present was Secretary to the Principal Officers, Mr. Roland Wabali.

UN Agency Appoints Babatunde Expert In Coastline Studies

By Otikor Samuel

A lecturer in the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Dr. Bolaji Babatunde, has been appointed an expert by the United Nations national agency, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The appointment followed full utilization of the expertise garnered from series of technical training sessions under the auspices of the Agency.

Babatunde in a chat with our Correspondent on Thursday, October 29, 2015, disclosed that the “IAEA established a technical cooperation agreement with the Federal Government through the University of Port Harcourt, based on a proposal submitted to it by Professor Francis Sikoki and myself. The technical cooperation agreement was to enable us monitor natural and artificial radioactivity, trace-metals, organochlorine, petroleum hydrocarbon and nutrients along Nigeria’s coastline.”

Dr. Babatunde further disclosed that “since 2008, the IAEA has provided technical training for more than 30 scientists of which more than 80% are from UniPort with expertise in application of nuclear techniques in pollution monitoring, sediment dating and human health risk assessment. I was a beneficiary of the benevolence of the IAEA based on my expertise in sediment dating, using Pb-210 dating models, radiometric assessment of natural and artificial radioactivity in seaweed, sediments, water and other media. We trained in Germany, Brazil, Egypt, France and United Kingdom, amongst other countries.

On the application of the expertise at the Centre for Pollution Monitoring and Seafood Safety, University of Port Harcourt, Dr. Babatunde said: “We have succeeded in dating the sediments of the Bonny and New Calabar Estuary systems back to 100 years. We have reconstructed the pollution history of trace-metal back to about 72 years ago and also assessed the effective dose of radiation on seafood in the Niger Delta. We have also related our findings to the potential health effects of radiation on the people, including carcinogenic effects. According to Dr. Babatunde, it was in recognition of the utilization of the expertise garnered from the rigorous training sessions that the IAEA appointed him an expert in coastline pollution. “What that means is that the Agency will take me to other countries to train requisite manpower when the need arises,” he disclosed.

He commended Management of the University for encouraging the Centre for Pollution Monitoring and Seafood Safety through provision of an enabling environment that has facilitated effective discharge of its responsibilities. He said the move had contributed to groundbreaking research recorded in the Centre with a huge potential to positively project the image of the University to the outside world. Dr. Babatunde also showered praises on Director of the Centre, Professor Sikoki, for what he described as his quality mentorship, which assisted him to grow and attain such height under his guidance.

Intern Science Foundation Announces Scholarship

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The International Foundation for Science (IFS) has called for applications for its grants for scientists in developing countries, a statement from the Exchange and Linkages Programme Unit of the Vice-Chancellor’s Office disclosed last week.

To qualify, prospective candidates must be citizens of a developing country and scientists with, at least, a Master’s degree equivalent/research career. They should be under 40 years of age at the beginning of their research career and must be attached to a university, national research institution or a research-oriented Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in a developing country.

“Research areas to be funded by IFS include Biological Resources in Terrestrial Systems, Water and Aquatic Resources, Food Security, Dietary Diversity and Health livelihoods,” a statement issued by Director of the Exchange and Linkages Programmes Unit (ELPU), Professor Acho Akakuru, read in part.

According to the statement, applications are accepted all year round. For administrative purposes, however, prospective candidates should note two application deadlines, 30 June and 31 December each year.

The Director advised interested applicants to contact the ELPU in the International Students’ Centre along Ahumua Road, Uniphort University Park for further information on eligibility and application procedures.
So what I am doing now is in line with acceptable extant rules and global best practices which require me to hand over to the most senior administrator in the Registry to ensure hierarchy and continuity," the immediate past Registrar explained, assuring the University community that her impending Sabbatical Leave, would not stop her from making herself available to offer explanations and guidance on grey areas when necessary.

"I trust that Mrs. Nzimiro would not find it difficult to navigate all the contours of the Registry Department. She actually had to cut short her well-earned annual vacation to make the sacrifice of filling the vacuum that would have been created at the end of my tenure. What she did is a bailout and I wish to thank her very much for making herself available for this purpose. I wish to bid everyone farewell and I am grateful to God, the Governing Council, Management, Staff, Students and other stakeholders in the affairs of the University for the opportunity given me to serve and the cooperation I enjoyed from all of them," Mrs. Nnodim said.

Responding, Mrs. Nzimiro, who disclosed that the University always comes first in all her activities, assured the former Registrar of her total commitment to the discharge of her new position as Acting Registrar pending the appointment of a substantive Registrar by the Governing Council.

"I want to congratulate you for your brilliant performance as Registrar in the last five years. I am here to hold fort until a new Registrar is appointed since the University is an ongoing enterprise. I am here for everybody and so I want to assure all staff that I will do my best in all fairness to uphold the dignity of the office and Registry Department," the Acting Registrar pledged, urging staff to bring out the best in them to contribute towards the overall growth of the University.

"There is nothing as important as self-assurance in meeting organizational goals. I want everybody to feel the collective passion of contributing to the growth of the University," she admonished staff. It would be recalled that Mrs. Nzimiro assumed duty as a staff of the University on October 22, 1982. Her services to the University which were shaped by some of the best founding administrators, including the 3rd Registrar, Dr. Emman Acheru, has spanned three decades so far. She started as a Senior Finance Officer in the Bursary Department and was later placed on secondment as the founding General Manager of the UniPort Consult that later metamorphosed into University Port Harcourt Investment Limited (UHIL). In 1988, she was redeployed to the Registry Department from where she served as Faculty Liaison Officer for the Faculty of Humanities.

The Acting Registrar has served meritoriously in the Student Affairs Department on four consecutive occasions. She also served in the Academic Office, Exams and Record Unit and as Deputy Registrar in charge of the Information and Communication Technology Centre (ICTC) before her elevation to the position of Director and deployment to the Student Affairs Department, a position she held before her appointment as Acting Registrar. Before handing over to Mrs. Nzimiro, the former Registrar received the Executive of the University of Port Harcourt Chapter of the Nigeria Universities Pensioner's Association (NUPA), headed by its Chairman, Mr. John Wonne. In a written address he read at the brief ceremony, Wonne described Mrs. Nnodim as a caring Registrar, who committed herself to the welfare of pensioners during her tenure. "We wish to thank you for the special care and concern you treated us with that made it possible for us as a group of retirees to continue to enjoy good welfare services from the University throughout your tenure in office as Registrar," the Chairman said.

Speaking while presenting a portrait of the immediate past Registrar as a souvenir to her, Mr. Wonne, recalled that Mrs. Nnodim considered pensioners in the allocation of welfare packages, following the introduction of Christmas package by the erstwhile Professor Joseph Ajenka-led administration. The Association commended the former Registrar's philanthropic disposition and concerns for the elderly, praying God to direct her future endeavours.

Before her final departure, Mrs. Nnodim went from office to office, thanking staff for their contributions to the success of her tenure, which recorded several landmarks, including presentation of two important documents at the 4th Registry Day Celebration, namely: Registry Handbook and Undated Version of Regulations Governing Staff Condition of Service.
SAMSUNG OFFERS E-BOARD TO REDEEMER’S VARSITY

Electronic giant, Samsung Electronics West Africa, has inaugurated 30 Electronic Boards at the Redeemers University, Ede, Osun State, to improve teaching and learning experience. According to the Director of Samsung Business Enterprise, Mr. Charles Ojei, the initiative is part of the company’s plan to revolutionise the education sector. Mr Ojei, who spoke at the inauguration ceremony, said: “The adoption of tablets, social and digital content by youths is changing the learning environment. The E-Board will help to deliver rich contents and interactivity to the classrooms. They will also provide the Lecturers with great control over their classrooms and increase students’ engagement while ensuring a more efficient transfer of materials to students”. Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Adebowale Adegboyega, commended the firm for the gesture, urging the students to embrace the technology to bridge the yawning digital divide with their counterparts in other parts of the world.

UNIBEN STUDENTS TAKE DRUG ABUSE CAMPAIGN TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Pharmacy Students of the University of Benin, Edo State, under the umbrella of Anti-Drug Misuse and Abuse Program (ADMAP) have taken their awareness campaign on drug abuse to Secondary Schools around the Uselu environs in Benin. With the theme “Save the young, save the afflicted and help the addicted” the students preached the gospel of abstinence from narcotic substances, at a two-day campaign against mental illness. Chairman of ADMAP, Isaac Ehimien, said though students are under obligation to obey their parents, they should never accept any offer by anyone to drink alcohol. “Alcohol can lead to dependence and taking alcohol at this early age could lead to a very catastrophic future. Run errands for your parents, but never accept alcohol from anyone for fear of losing friends,” he advised the students, adding that they should not allow any friend tempts them into trying anything for the first time as substances such as marijuana, Indian hemp and other forms of drugs could lead to mental illnesses.

OKPRA VARSITY LAUNCHES INTRA-CAMPUS SHUTTLE

The Management of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture (MOUA) Umudike, Abia State, has formally launched an intra-campus taxi service for transporting staff and students of the Institution. Commissioning the 20 branded Suzuki cars for the Taxi Shuttle which were added to the 20 cabs and buses previously operating on the Campus, Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Hilary Edeoga, announced an immediate ban of commercial motorcycle operations within the Campus. He said the taxis were introduced for the convenience of the students, while the buses were to save the staff and students from extortions by commercial transport operators from the University gate to Umubahia and back. Commending the big relief and immense service the new intra-campus taxi shuttle has brought to them, Vice-President of the Students Union, Miss Maria Ukonu, expressed gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor for always addressing the students’ well being.
The 4th Registry Day celebration of the University of Port Harcourt took place on Tuesday, October 22, 2015 at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park. The event which marked the last official public outing of the 6th Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim, was used to unveil the Registry Manual. Our Cameraman, MITCHELL EBI-EKIYOR captured highlights of the event: