

Scholars Call For Global Standards At African Varsity Day Celebration

The need for the transformation of higher institutions in Africa to conform with global best practices formed the main focus of the 4th African University Day celebration which took place at the International Students' Centre, University of Port Harcourt on Thursday, November 12, 2015, report Chiemeka Adindu, Rukky Orlu-Makele, Cyndy Herbert and Marvellous Abel (Interns).

More on p3

Side Bar

The Centre for Malaria Research and Phytomedicine held its November seminar on the topic: Malaria Diagnosis (Do You Know Enough?) last Thursday. Details next week.

~Editor

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AfDB Designates UniPort Centre Of Excellence In Water Resources Mgt

By Williams Wodi & Mercy Adeniji

Another luck has once again smiled on the University of Port Harcourt as the African Development Bank (AfDB) designated the Institution as a Centre of Excellence for capacity building in safe water management for rural dwellers.

When fully operational, the emergent Centre is expected to train requisite manpower and serve as a hub for allied agencies in the South-South region of the country on water resources management. The AfDB project is being facilitated by the Federal Ministry of Water Resources in the Federal Capital Territory. Breaking the cheering news at an exploratory meeting he held with the Management of the University last Monday, leader of

the team from the Federal Ministry of Water Resources, Professor Adam Anyebe, disclosed that the project took cognizance of the fact that water had become a major global issue that needed to be properly harnessed. He also revealed that other Centres were sited at Usmanu Dan Fodio University, Sokoto, University of Jos, University of Maiduguri, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka,

and Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.

"The African Development Bank seeks to increase safe drinking water in the rural areas and the AfDB felt that the most effective way to achieve this strategic goal is to set up Centres of Excellence that would train experts to manage water resources in the six geopolitical zones of the country. We chose the

More on p6



Industry Experts, Academics Task OTI Students



Story on p2

Group Seeks Partnership On Hostel Accommodation



Story on p3

Entrepreneurship Centre Ends W'Shop For Students



Story on p4

Anugweje Regains Freedom, As UniPort Demands Lebari's Release



Story on p5



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Industry Experts, Academics Task OTI Students On Hard Work



A group photograph of Senior Officers of the University and industry experts after the exercise

By Humphrey Ogu and
Chiemeka Adindu (Intern)

As a way of preparing its 3rd batch of students for their 12-month Master of Science programme, the Offshore Technology Institute (OTI) held an Orientation programme for them at the Seminar Room, ETF Gas Engineering Building, University Park, last Tuesday. Declaring the programme open, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, who congratulated the new intakes for successfully scaling the rigorous selection exercise, commended the partners for supporting the Institute to set up an Offshore, Pipeline and Subsea Engineering programmes in the University.

Speaking through Director of the Centre for Research Management and Development (CEREMAD), Professor Alice Nte, the Vice-Chancellor urged the new intakes to exceed the effort they put into gaining admission into the Institute, saying: "You are not expected to fail any course because you were selected from the very best. We are hoping that you will, through your skills, performances and character, market this Institute to the outside world. We also expect you to be good ambassadors of the University. So, make good use of the opportunities made available to you as you interact with experienced lecturers and experts from the industry."

In his welcome address, Director of the Institute, Professor John Okoli, who noted that the programmes commenced in the 2013/2014 academic year with 22 students, said: "The MSc programme in Subsea Engineering is commencing this 2015/2016 academic year," pointing out that "the programmes feature twelve months of intensive classroom work and industry internship with teaching faculty drawn from UniPort, other universities within and outside Nigeria and seasoned industry experts."

"The curriculum of the programme in Subsea Engineering was developed with the active participation of FMC Technologies Company and the company has also graciously offered to provide the faculty to teach specialised courses in the Subsea modules," he explained, disclosing that FMC Technologies is one of the world leaders on underwater operations.

Okoli, who disclosed that discussions were on with the United Kingdom-based Robert Gordon University for possible collaboration on research and training, revealed that the Institute has received support from several industry players such as Saipem Contracting Nigeria Limited, Irovestor Engineering Nigeria Limited, Aven Offshore Limited, Nigerian Petroleum Development Company, Benin City, FMC Technologies Company and Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF), soliciting more support from organisations with requisite expertise in the specialisation.

Also speaking, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Professor Maureen Etebu, told the students that "Orientations are very important for both institution and the new intakes, because it affords new students an opportunity to know their way around and integrate into the system in an orderly manner. It is a rare opportunity for you to know all that you are required to do to succeed in the programme," she told the new students, expressing gratitude to FMC Technologies for designing the curriculum for Subsea Engineering programme for the Institute.

On his part, General Manager of FMC, Michael Hunt, made a slide presentation on the Master of Science-Subsea Engineering Training programme, Learning Objectives, Course Outline, Structure and Methodology, Requirements and Expectations, stating that at the end of the course, the students will gain understanding of the Subsea Industry, Subsea Components, Subsea Engineering Design, Subsea

Field Development and Subsea Oil Recovery techniques. "FMC is one of the world's largest oilfield equipment and services companies. We believe in innovation, collaborations, health, safety and environment and integrity and we are glad that the University of Port Harcourt is set to benefit from our expertise," he said.

In their separate speeches, Acting Director of the Centre for Petroleum Geosciences (CPG), Dr. Francis Beka and his counterpart at the Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals (CGRP), Dr. Koyejo Oduola, congratulated the students on their admission, advising them to work hard and be open-minded to succeed in their career.

Industry experts, who spoke at the event included the President of Global Maritime West Africa Limited, Engineer Ross Agazuma, Human Resources Manager, Irovestor Engineering, Mr. Alfred Obeten, Head, Capacity Building/Local Content, Delta Afrik, Mr. Afolabi Davidson and Engineer Denni Fibresima of the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC).

Talent Attraction and Development Manager, Subsea Africa Region, FMC Technologies, Anders Sjolokken, Technical Manager and Technical Training Coordinator, FMC Technologies, Jimi Fayemi and Gabriel Ughure were also among industry experts who sensitised the students on the secrets of success in their studies and the industry.

In his contribution, Assistant Director of the Institute, Dr. Chinwuba Ossia, who noted that graduates of the Institute have secured employment in various oil firms, expressed hope that the quality of OTI programmes will be comparable with what obtains at the Robert Gordon University and University of Aberdeen in the very near future.

A major highlight of the Orientation programme was an interactive session with students, academics and industry experts.

STUDENT WORLD

Unlike some students on Campus who attend classes and return back home to their rooms to rest and watch home video, Anu Ojatula is not your average student. She loves to design clothes that rock the fashion world and she is not ready to give up her entrepreneurial skills, even in the face of serious academic challenges as a student of the Department of English Studies.

"Life is too short to wear boring clothes" is her guiding philosophy, which shows in her intricate designs that continue to attract more customers to her door. Ojatula is from Ogun State and is the fourth child of her parents, and she is determined to continue making loud fashion

I Balance My Education With Entrepreneurship ~Ojatula

Anu Ojatula is a Final Year Student of the Department of English Studies in the Faculty of Humanities. In this report anchored by our Intern: RUKKY ORLU-MAKELE, Miss Ojatula shares the secret of combining entrepreneurial skills in cloth making with her studies:

statements that pay her bills as a student.

For instance, during the six-month strike that brought Nigerian university to a standstill in 2013 as a result of the dispute between the Federal Government and the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), the young entrepreneur saw a huge opportunity in the face-off to invest her valuable time in taking sewing classes. That was at a time when her peers made a career out of sitting idly in front of television sets to watch endless *Nollywood* movies. Once she began learning the craft, Miss Ojatula became hooked on the trade that is now suffering from declining patronage in the age of imported ready-made clothes.

In little or no time, she mastered the art and started to sew whenever she went to town. There was no dress rehearsal! To prove her seriousness, Anu promptly acquired her own machines and started making clothes for her aunts, sisters, and friends, right there in her off-campus accommodation. It was business time and nothing was to stand in her way. Customers patronized her in droves and in return, she satisfied them with her professionally made clothes which put smiles on their faces and money in her pocket. While her peers were patronizing prayer contractors for mother luck to shine on them, Ojatula was already in business with some cool cash to show for her effort!

She disclosed the secret behind her motivation for sewing to our Intern this way: "I went to my tailor's shop and a thought flashed through my mind; she is young and educated, actually, she is a graduate of UniPort. Her level of creativity struck me and also, she is making it financially. I knew I could make really good clothes if I took time in-between my lectures to learn the trade because I sketched a lot and I decided to take sewing classes."

As difficult as it can be, Ojatula manages to combine school with sewing. "It is very difficult, but what can I do, *man must chop* as they say. I attend my classes regularly and work when I get back to my room," she told our

Intern, when asked how she copes with her studies and entrepreneurship.

"If I was given the opportunity to go to a School of Fashion and Design, I would jump at such an opportunity, but that would have been two years ago. For now, I am already in my final year, so I would like to complete my education," she explained.

As a show of her parent's support for her ambition, they bought an industrial sewing machine, which has enhanced her designs. They are convinced that their creative and dashing daughter can balance her studies with entrepreneurship. Happily, her results are very good, meaning that her education is not suffering on account of her business skills.

Miss Ojatula has a big dream and is happily striving to accomplish it, even as a student. She admires top designers as *April by Kunbi*, *Tiffany Amber* and *Deola Sagoe*. "My dream is to own a big fashion company and I think people should learn to try different things, especially students. I never limit myself, I also play the guitar," the young entrepreneur said. What an eclectic student-entrepreneur who is waiting in the wings to hit gold without waiting for white collar job!

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Miss Ojatula

Cont'd from p1

Scholars Call For Standards At African Varsity Day

Declaring it open, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, who chaired the event, gave a historical background of the evolution of the Association of African Universities (AAU), revealing that the membership cuts across all the African Union (AU) member countries. "The African University Day is an annual celebration among member countries aimed at raising awareness about the contributions of universities to the continent's growth. The Association which has its headquarters in Accra, Ghana, comprises 340 universities of English, French and Arabic-speaking countries. It was established in 1967 and was formerly inaugurated in November 12, 1994 in Rabat, Morocco, to facilitate cooperation between member-states and the international academic community," the Vice-Chancellor told the audience that comprised of mainly senior academics and students.

In his lecture entitled, "Internationalization of Higher Education in Africa: The University of Port Harcourt Experience", Director of the Science Institute, Professor Onyewuchi Akaranta, outlined the importance of internationalizing Nigerian universities, listing the benefits, goals and objectives of such a move for Nigeria's higher institutions. He highlighted the diversity of academic programmes, enhancement of opportunity for improvement of teaching through reduction of academic inbreeding, revenue generation to defray students' tuition fees, opportunity to situate institutional performance within the context of global best practices, including improved quality research, teaching and learning, as some of the benefits of internationalizing education in the country's higher institutions.

Professor Akaranta enumerated the challenges of internationalizing the University of Port Harcourt to include poor infrastructural facilities and insecurity in the Niger Delta region, low research capacity and declining quality of instruction and student interest in learning. "To gain global reckoning and make an

impact with our research, the University must address its scandalous infrastructural deficit, recruit talented staff and students and show visibility on the Internet. We also need to change our attitude to work and be ready to embrace new ideas and sustained international collaboration that would motivate us to do things in line with global best practices," he said, advising students to aspire to continue their higher degrees in other universities, rather than seeking to obtain all their degrees from UniPort.

"The University of Port Harcourt has benefitted from being a member of the Association of African Universities through her partnership and collaborations with international organizations/institutions, sources of external revenues, and global best practices in strategic planning, modular course delivery at academic centres and institutes, among others," the Director revealed, recommending that these laudable efforts must be sustained to reposition the University for enhanced output.

Also speaking, Director of the Exchange and Linkage Programmes Unit, Professor Iheanacho Akakuru, who commended the University Management for supporting his initiative to host the event at the Centre said: "The Association of African Universities provides leadership benefits such as participation in workshops with other African institutions, access to information and participation in short-term consultancies," revealing that the University of Port Harcourt has so

far received some financial benefits from the Association.

Director of the University of Port Harcourt Foundation, Professor Henry Alapiki, who chaired the discussion session on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, cautioned participants against whole-sale application of foreign models as standards for measuring the progress of African universities. "African universities have come a long way and we must resist the temptation of trivializing what has been achieved so far on this continent. We have to appreciate the cultural context in which African universities operate and take such peculiarities into account before we rush to embrace global standards that are evidently defined for us by others with their own parameters," he warned.

In his contribution, Dean of the Faculty of Education, Professor Lawrence Igwe, who chaired the panel of moderators, stressed "the need to trend current developments in other parts of the world; Nigeria should not be left behind in a fast-moving knowledge-driven learning environment that lays emphasis on global benchmarks," he told the audience.

Others dignitaries who graced the occasion included the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, Acting Registrar, Mrs. Bridget Nzimiro, Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Aliezi, University Librarian, Dr. Obiageli Nwodo, some Deans, Directors and other Senior Officers of the University.

Group Seeks Partnership On Hostel Accommodation

By Otiokor Samuel

Efforts aimed at ameliorating the serious hostel accommodation deficit in the University has received a major boost with a proposal by property developers, Everlink Sourcing Limited to construct state-of-the-art halls of residence to accommodate more students on Campus in line with the desire of the Federal Government to implement the policy of full hostel accommodation for students in the country's universities.

Making the proposal to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale in his office on Wednesday, November 11, 2015, Managing Director of Everlink Sourcing Ltd,

Benjamin Ogbalor, who led a three-member delegation to the exploratory talks, disclosed that the proposed model hostel would be implemented under the auspices of property development giants, Africancon. If the deal is finally sealed by the stakeholders as is eagerly anticipated, the project would be implemented on the basis of build-lease-operate-transfer of ownership to the University on mutually agreeable terms.

"We are not in the business of managing hostels for institutions; what we do is to provide building designs based on the needs of our partners. We also source the funds, build the hostels and hand them over to institutions which are expected to defray the principal

cost within an agreed timeframe that would not exceed a period of nine years," Mr. Ogbalor explained, revealing that the scheme which is known as Student Hostel and Accommodation Development Initiative (SHADI), had been satisfactorily implemented at the Nasarawa State University and other participating tertiary institutions in the country.

In her contribution, a member of the team and Lecturer in the University, Dr. Mina Ogbanga, said the SHADI scheme involved a consortium of partners with interest in supporting universities on massive infrastructural development, expressing the commitment of the service providers to deliver quality services to their growing clientele in the private and public sectors.

Responding, a visibly enthused Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lale, expressed the willingness of his administration to partner the group to deliver the proposed 10,000 capacity hostel to the University, promising to provide an enabling environment that would lead to the speedy implementation of the project.

"If we build proper hostels on Campus with your assistance, it will assist the University to overcome the serious deficit in hostel accommodation which was part of the reason most students prefer to reside off-Campus and you will agree with me that most of the incidents that painted the University in bad light took place outside the Campus. What it means is that if we are able to provide decent and affordable hostel accommodation on Campus, we will experience fewer problems, while our students would study and recreate in a more conducive environment," the Vice-Chancellor said.

Professor Lale further invited the company to make a presentation of its proposal to Management of the University today with every necessary documentation, design and monetary implication to enable the authorities make an informed decision on the proposal.



V-C, Prof Lale (3rd left) flanked by M/D, Everlink Sourcing Ltd, Mr. Ogbalor (right), Dr. Ogbanga (left) and others

Music Dept Holds Defence Concert For Pioneer Students

The Music Department held its first Project Defence Concert at the University's Art Theatre (The CRAB) between November 10 and 11, 2015, report Interns, CYNDY HERBERT, MARVELLOUS ABEL, RUKKY ORLU-MAKELE and CHIEMEKA ADINDU.

Final Year Students of the Department of Music took turns to exhibit their skills at a two-day Project Defence Concert which is a mandatory requirement for their graduation. The performance was aimed at testing the practical skills of the students in their different areas of musical specialization.

The concert which attracted music enthusiasts and moderators from the Department and outside was the first Project Defence of its kind in the Department which commenced full academic activities in 2011.

"Project Defence in the Department of Music is just like what obtains in other fields. In Music, students are expected to choose a particular genre to write on and also choose options for performance, voice, and instrumentation. Music is diverse with such specializations as music sound engineering, music education, music technology, performance, conducting theory, amongst others. The students may choose from any of the options in which they have strong capacity and inclination to perform," remarked Peter Amoyedo, one of the Supervisors in the Department.

In his remarks, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor John Enemugwem, described the Department of Music as the pride of Humanities, being the youngest in the Faculty. Professor Enemugwem also gave a brief history of music in the world, and its importance, advising the students to always represent the Faculty well wherever they may be after graduating from the University.

The External Examiner, who is a Professor of Music at the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Dan Agu, expressed satisfaction with the performance of the pioneer set of students. The former Dean of the Faculty of Arts at UniZik said: "I am proud of this Department based on what I have seen so far and I am delighted about the performance of the pioneer students. These students are going to be the light of this Department, the University and nation at large. They are going to represent the University well anywhere in the world, and they should be proud that they are from UniPort

because their standard is quite high and I am proud of what has been achieved here under the capable guidance of Professor Onyee Nwankpa as Head of Department."

In his remarks, Professor Nwankpa expressed delight at the successful conclusion of the programme by pioneer students, disclosing that it was the first time a thing like that was happening in the Department. "The Department admitted the first set of students in 2011 when it secured accreditation from the National Universities Commission (NUC). I am very delighted to note that the first set of students that defended their projects gave a very impressive performance that attested to the quality of training they received.

The Project Defence Concert featured voice-tenor,

voice-soprano, instrument-saxophone and conducting; and my expectation for the next set is high because they are an embodiment of the skills and standards we have impacted into them. I have no reservations about them at all," said a visibly enthused Professor Nwankpa, who advised their successors to maintain the high standard set by the pioneers of the Department. Expressing hope that the Department has a potential to become one of the best in the country, Professor Nwankpa advised the students to apply due diligence in their pursuit of sonic excellence.

One of the students that participated in the exercise, Miss Ihechi Achom, told our Interns that it was a different ball-game on this occasion when the performance was presented to a scrutinizing audience that comprised professionals. "I am used to performing to large audiences on different stages, but the feeling was quite different in an examination condition. Unlike on other occasions when we performed to delight the audience, the Lecturers on this occasion were primarily interested in grading our performances and not here to entertain themselves, but to grade us."



R-L: Former Dean, Student Affairs, Prof Henry Bell-Gam, Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Prof Enemugwem, HoD, Music, Prof Nwankpa, External Examiner, Prof Agu and others

As part of its determination to prepare students with hands-on skills on graduation, the Centre for Entrepreneurial Studies organized a workshop for students from various Faculties on November 10, 2015 to equip them with requisite skills that would help launch them into the world of small scale enterprise.

Declaring open the workshop held at the College of Health Sciences Auditorium, Dean of the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Professor Iyepu Siminialayi, commended Management of the University for making it possible for the Entrepreneurial Centre to organize the training session for the students. He expressed gratitude to Acting Centre Director, Dr. Edwinah Amah, for her concerted effort in ensuring that students were equipped with requisite skills to become self-sufficient on graduation.

"Life is getting harder and less predictable by the day; so, there is a need for all of us to become entrepreneurs

Entrepreneurship Centre Ends W'Shop For Students

By Mercy Adeniji

of sorts so as to make ends meet in the emergent business environment that requires a lot of creative thinking to survive. No knowledge gained is ever useless as we get along in life; there is, therefore, a need to learn more so that when you go out there, you can survive in an increasingly constrained business environment that demands the very best," Siminialayi charged the students.

Also speaking, Acting Director of the Centre, Dr. Amah, commended Management for the initiative, disclosing that the Entrepreneurial Centre was poised to ensure that staff and students of the University look forward to becoming Entrepreneurs. She promised that the programme would be sustained under her watch, while

grades would be tied to attendance as a way of encouraging students to fully participate in future training programmes.

"We are here to carry on the assignment given to us by the University administration to bring the students up to speed with hands-on skills that would make them self-reliant on graduation. We decided that Final Year Students should no longer be allowed to go into the world without proper grounding in entrepreneurial skills. We have so far visited eight Faculties to ensure that we do our bit in ensuring that students are prepared to face the challenges ahead of them on graduation," she disclosed.

Delivering a paper entitled: "Entrepreneurship, Intrapreneurship: The Way Out," a Motivational Speaker, Mr. Leo Okereke, charged the students not to believe that manna would fall from heaven; rather, they should brace themselves for the challenges ahead. "As a graduate to be, look for something in you that is unique and bring it out. Begin to learn how to generate a business idea and develop it so that the world can see what you are capable of achieving," he advised the students.

In their separate contributions, Mr. Victor Uruaka and Engineer Matthew Izu, who spoke on *How to Start up your own Business* and "Entrepreneurship as Related to Industrial Training," urged the students to learn how to start and grow their own businesses without waiting for white collar jobs. "If you are not working with a purpose, you are doing it wrong. You must learn to move from dreams to reality. Change your thoughts and be that person you want to be. This means that you have to stop dreaming as you prepare for this new phase of your life which will be tested by prevailing realities in the street."

The duos further charged the students to rise up to the challenge and dare to be different in whatever endeavour they may set their eyes on. Also present at the event were Coordinators of the Entrepreneurship Courses and Course Lecturers in the various Faculties.



A cross-section of participants at the Workshop.

Inset: Ag. Director of the Centre, Dr. Amah (standing) and other facilitators

Anugweje Regains Freedom, As UniPort Demands Lebari's Release

By Williams Wodi, Oikar Samuel
and Rukky Orlu-Makele (Intern)

The atmosphere of gloom that enveloped the University community was partially lifted last Thursday, with cheering news of the miraculous release of Director of the Sports Institute, Professor Ken Anugweje by his abductors. He was spirited away by his assailants along the Aluu-Airport Road axis at about 1.30pm last Wednesday.

The University community was still agonizing over the kidnap of Dr. Eebah Lebari of the Department of Management in the Faculty of Management Sciences for over a month, before Professor Anugweje was added to the growing list of teaching staff who have been abducted in recent times.

Anugweje was whisked away in a commando-style operation that invoked palpable fear amongst staff and students of the University, resulting in the biggest manhunt ever mounted by security operatives to locate his whereabouts. The story was, unfortunately, not a happy ending for the Director's newly redeployed official driver, Mr. Ugwuechi Woruka, who was sadly gunned down by the assailants as he attempted to manoeuvre the car out of their reach.

Narrating his horrendous ordeal to one of our Correspondents at his official residence, Professor Anugweje, who was visibly shaken by the incident, said his vehicle was flagged down on a very bad portion of the road by the hoodlums, who shot indiscriminately at it, fatally hitting his driver in the process. "One of the kidnappers, who was armed with an AK47 attempted to stop the car, but my late driver accelerated against my advice, unknown to both of us that another heavily armed man was positioned a few metres ahead of us. It was that one that opened fire, shattering the windscreen and killing my driver instantly," he explained, adding that his attempt to save the life of the driver was abruptly ended by a violent rifle butt to his head by his captors, who dragged him into the bush.

"We walked for over two hours before we finally arrived at a point, from where we continued until we got to a place they cleared in the middle of nowhere. I could only hear their voices, having been blindfolded with my singlet by my abductors, who repeatedly threatened to kill me as they did my driver. From behind my blindfold, I put their number at between eight and ten young men who operated in three groups. They strongly believed that I was important enough to fetch them a princely sum of money," Professor Anugweje further explained.

Fears that the incident was more than the usual abduction saga were heightened when it emerged that Professor Anugweje's kidnappers showed no interest in his travel bag that lay besides him in the car.

As part of their *modus operandi*, the kidnappers may have received steady information flow from their spies about heavy security presence on Campus and around their areas of operation. Having convinced themselves that the abduction of Professor Anugweje was capable of leading security operatives to their stronghold, they made a hasty decision to free him at about five o'clock on Thursday evening.

At about 8.00pm, the abductors removed the blindfold and took him up to a point, before abandoning Professor Anugweje to his fate. When the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, led other members of Management to pay him a solidarity visit last Friday, the Director of the

Sports Institute was full of gratitude for the concerted efforts that went into securing his prompt release, praying that no other staff of the University should fall into the hands of kidnappers.

The delegation also visited the family of the slain driver, Mr. Woruka, at Isiodu in Emohua Kingdom. Spokesman of the Family, Mr. Monday Agburu, said the family had accepted what happened as an act of God, appealing to Management of the University not to abandon Mr. Woruka's family, especially his pregnant wife and aged parents.

Earlier, spokesman of the University, Williams Wodi has briefed the family on the incident, assuring them that concerted efforts were on to apprehend the culprits and speedily bring them to book.

The case of Dr. Lebari, who was whisked away by unknown persons along NTA Road, Mgbuoba, on October 17, 2015, remains a major puzzle and continues to elicit serious concern in the University.

Worried by the continued silence by his kidnappers, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ale, expressed grave concern over the continued abduction of Dr. Lebari, urging his kidnappers to free him without further delay. He made the position of the University known in a strongly worded Press Statement issued on his behalf by the Deputy Registrar in charge of Information.

Williams Wodi and made available to the media. Professor Ale also amplified his concern for the safety of the abducted Lecturer at an emergency meeting with the Executive Council of the University of Port Harcourt Branch of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), describing the incident as an affront on the sanctity of the academia.

He passionately appealed to the kidnappers to free the abducted Lecturer unconditionally, regretting that he had neither the means to pay for his freedom, nor the stamina to continue enduring his harrowing ordeal. Professor Ale also appealed to security agencies to redouble efforts aimed at locating and freeing Dr. Lebari, who he said was neither a politician nor a businessman.

The Vice-Chancellor, who hoped that the kidnappers of Dr. Lebari would heed the Management's passionate appeals for his immediate release, advised staff of the University to be security conscious and remain calm as they go about their statutory duties, assuring them that security agencies were on top of the situation.

At a Media Briefing, ASUU also lent its voice to the Vice-Chancellor's plea for Dr. Lebari's freedom, condemning his continued incarceration in very strong terms. Chairperson of ASUU in UniPort, Professor Anthony Okerengwo, in a statement issued last Tuesday, frowned at what the Union described as incessant harassment of its members by kidnappers.

"The Union has also fought injustice and oppression in Nigeria for many years. As a driving force of progress in the Nigerian national domain, therefore, members of ASUU should not and must not be harassed or kidnapped at will by fellow Nigerians, who may be aggrieved because of the same inequality, injustice and oppression that ASUU has fought for decades," she told the kidnappers. The Union further called on the Federal and Rivers State Governments, security operatives and well-meaning Nigerians to do everything possible to secure the immediate release of Dr. Lebari from his kidnappers.



Prof Lale

TETFund Reappoints Lale To Research Monitoring C'ttee

By Williams Wodi

In recognition of his quality contributions to its Research Fund Screening and Monitoring Committee, the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), has reappointed the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale to a final three years term.

The reappointment which took retroactive effect to January 27, 2015, is expected to terminate on January 26, 2018. "I hope that you would continue to make your valuable contributions to the success of our National Research Fund Intervention," Professor Lale's reappointment letter which was personally signed by the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Professor Suleiman Bogoro, read in part.

It would be recalled that Professor Lale was first appointed to the Committee in June, 2014, with responsibility to assess research proposals in the three thematic areas of the Fund's coverage, namely: Science, Technology and Innovation, Humanities and Social Sciences, including cross-cutting areas of specialization. The Committee is also mandated to recommend suitably qualified candidates to the TETFund Board of Trustees for sponsorship that are adjudged fundable and relevant to national development.

The Committee is also charged with the responsibility of monitoring execution of approved research projects under the NRF Intervention. Professor Lale serves the Committee in the Science, Technology and Innovation sub-committee and has brought his vast pool of experience to bear in the discharge of the important national assignment, thus, necessitating his reappointment to the Committee.



Mr. Woruka, slain
Head Driver of the Sports Institute



Prof Anugweje

Dr. Lebari

AfDB Designates UniPort Centre Of Excellence

Cont'd from p1

University of Port Harcourt in the South-South geopolitical zone because of its widely-acknowledged drive for excellence in research and teaching," Professor Anyebe told the Vice-Chancellor during the meeting.

"We hope that the Centre would be driven by the Department of Geology in the Faculty of Science to enable the stakeholders derive maximum impact from the initiative. We want the facility to be a Centre for quality human resources development and capacity building to drive the project. We will assess the available equipment on ground and upgrade them to world class standards where necessary with a view to creating an enabling environment that would allow experts to give of their very best," the team leader said.

He also disclosed that the delegation would wish to know if the University's water source was self-provided and the quality of such water that is consumed on Campus, pointing out that the project hoped to establish a globally benchmarked standard for the construction of boreholes to make water from such source safe for human consumption.

Reacting to the gesture, a visibly delighted Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, who led other Principal Officers to receive the august guests, expressed gratitude to the Federal Government and the African Development Bank for choosing the University of Port Harcourt for such an important project that would develop expertise and positively impact the lives of rural dwellers.

"I have taken note of your statement that we were chosen on account of our track record of excellence in teaching and research, but I make bold to say that despite the fact that we are a Second Generation institution, the University of Port Harcourt has become a foremost institution that is now ranked alongside First



V-C, Prof Lale (middle, front row) flanked by Team Leader, Prof Anyebe, Univ. Librarian, Dr. Nwodo (right), DV-C (Admin), Prof Ibe, Ag. Registrar, Mrs. Njimi (left), Dr. Attah, Mr. Olagbuji, Mr. Zamani, SAV-C, Mr. Kingsley Wogwu and Deputy Registrar (Info), Williams Wodi (standing)

Generation universities in this country on account of the quality of our programmes.

"I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Federal Ministry of Water Resources and the African Development Bank for bringing this Centre to our University and I promise them that we will do everything possible to achieve the purpose for which this Centre was established by the collaborating partners. I wish to also assure you that our Department of Geology is properly staffed to drive this project and we will create the right environment for all those who would participate in efforts aimed at realizing the project to the benefit of the target audience. I am very pleased that the AfDB project would help us address some of our infrastructural deficits in water resources technology. I wish to assure you that you will find friendship and cooperation from relevant line officers

in the University," the Vice-Chancellor told the visiting delegation.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe and Acting Registrar, Mrs. Bridget Njimi, also attended the meeting, which later undertook a facility visit to the Department of Geology and held talks with Dean of the Faculty of Science, Professor Nnenna-Frank Peterside and Head of the Department of Geology, Professor Godwin Udom. Others on the visiting delegation included Dr. Daniel Attah, Mr. Adesina Olagbuji and Mr. Dariya Zamani. The Departments of Civil Engineering, Geography and Environmental Management, Works and Services and Health Services Departments would also participate in the implementation process of the project.

With additional report by our Interns, Rukky Orlu-Makele, Cyndy Herbert and Marvellous Abel

Revisiting Drivers' Training By FRSC

By Obinna Nwodin

Recently, the FRSC drilled drivers in the employment of the University on a two-day intensive training on safe driving techniques and security precautions. The long overdue programme was aimed at updating the drivers on how to ensure security and safety while carrying out their official duties. The training was timely as the increase in road mishaps has become worrisome, especially in recent times.

Apart from road accidents, drivers face other professional hazards that highlight the difficulties associated with the daily performance of their job description. The cold blooded-murder of a University driver by unknown assailants further underscores the danger these drivers face in the performance of their duties.

It is also important to state that this category of staff constitutes a very important segment of the staff in the University. The services of drivers in the University cannot be overemphasized as their value chain contributes to the efficient running of the system. From those that drive the Vice-Chancellor, to Principal Officers, Directors, Deans, Heads of Department and Unit, and the general administration, the role of drivers is pivotal to the achievement of institutional objectives. Also, the conduct of drivers largely defines the image of an organization and that is why some transport companies display telephone numbers on their vehicles

that the public can call in case of rough driving. Apart from the movement of their bosses, staff and materials from one location to another, this category of staff come in contact with other members of the public on daily basis. Their attitude towards the public tells a lot about the organization they serve. A driver who is polite and cautious exemplifies that he comes from a responsible and respectable organization that the public can do business with and people tend to respect such organizations. This makes their role in the overall running of the system very important.

The high rate of accidents on our roads has made defensive driving techniques important for anyone who intends to stay behind the wheels and for a professional driver, it is a must. That most organizations have relegated regular training to the background shows their low-level understanding of the importance of the role of drivers in their employment and the need to regularly update their skills for maximum output. It is heart-warming that the Protocol and Logistics Unit of the Vice-Chancellor's Office rose to the occasion by organizing a workshop for the drivers. The training was also used to check the health status of the drivers which revealed that many of them needed to go for regular check-ups to ensure that they were fit to stay behind the wheels. This is very important as one who is entrusted with conveying others on busy highways should be medically fit and mentally stable to efficiently accomplish the task.

At the end of the exercise, the drivers could not hide

their satisfaction with the training they received. They saw it as an eye-opener as they were drilled on defensive driving, as well as security measures. Many of them who came into the system were not opportune to be professionally trained and so there is no difference between them and other commercial drivers at the motor park.

Even the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, said he observed a new approach in the driving pattern of his official driver, even while the workshop was still on. What this meant was that participants not only appreciated what they learnt, but they also applied them in the line of duty pronto! The implication is that there would be increased efficiency in the activities of drivers in the University after the training; there would also be fewer casualties that result from the carelessness of some of the drivers, which would indirectly save the University funds and mortality on the roads.

It is important that such trainings should be a regular feature in the University. This is because drivers need to be given the requisite training, particularly by professionals whose job is to expose them to emergent trends in driving. The last time such training was carried out was the one done by the Consultancy and Research Development Unit (CORDEC) for selected drivers about fifteen years ago! It is also important to commend the facilitator of the training and Head of Protocol and Logistics in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Sylvester Udeorah, for the initiative and ability to see the event to a successful end. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lale deserves final commendation for approving the training session that has already started yielding dividends.



A group photograph of V-C, Prof Lale (arrowed), some Principal and Senior Officers, the trainers and trainees at the closing ceremony

GUIDEPOST

TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT

Dr. Peter Ekanwe, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Agriculture offered *Temporary Appointment as Reader*, effective on assumption of duty.

Dr. Adanna Henri-Ukoha, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, offered *Temporary Appointment as Lecturer I*, effective on assumption of duty.

Mr. Efenakpo Ogaga, Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management, Faculty of Agriculture offered *Temporary Appointment as Assistant Lecturer*, effective on assumption of duty.

Mr. Moses Ndamati, Department of Gas Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, offered *Temporary Appointment as Research Assistant*, effective on assumption of duty.

RENEWAL OF APPOINTMENT

Dr. David Ibadabo, Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, granted a one-year *Renewal of Adjunct Appointment as Senior Lecturer*, effective December 3, 2015 to December 2, 2016.

Dr. A.B. Allison, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, granted a one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016.

STUDY LEAVE

Dr. Etido Inyang, Department of Fine Arts and Design, Faculty of Humanities, granted a four-month *Research Leave with Pay*, effective November 16, 2015 to March 15, 2016.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Dr. Nwanne Felix-Emeribe, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Faculty of Humanities, proceeded on *Sabbatical Leave* to the Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education, Owerri, Imo State, effective October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016.

HIGHER DEGREE

Dr. G.O. Omojefe, Department of Finance and Banking, Faculty of Management Sciences, completed his Doctoral degree in Finance and Banking at the Delta State University, Abraka, Delta State on August 5, 2015.

STOP PRESS

SGS 86TH DOCTORAL SEMINAR PRESENTATION

The School of Graduate Studies (SGS) announces the 86th edition of the Doctoral Seminar Presentation holding this Thursday, 26th November, 2015 at the Seminar Room of the College. Time is 10:00am. Departments and Faculties are advised to convey the information to their candidates.

Contact: Graduate Studies Officer, Dr Agatha Ataga.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT
WEATHER OBSERVATORY

FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22 – SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28, 2015.

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 22 NOV, 2015	34.0 24.0	69	NE	45.8	6:21 18:15	Thunderstorm expected late in the day. Partly sunny day anticipated.
MONDAY, 23 NOV, 2015	33.0 23.0	70	NE	3.2	6:22 18:15	Thunderstorm expected late in the day. Mostly cloudy day expected.
TUESDAY, 24 NOV, 2015	35.0 24.0	66	NE	2.8	6:22 18:15	Thunderstorm expected late in the day. Mostly cloudy day expected.
WEDNESDAY, 25 NOV, 2015	36.0 23.0	73	NE	-	6:22 18:15	More sun than clouds forecasted.
THURSDAY, 26 NOV, 2015	36.0 24.0	74	NE	2.6	6:23 18:15	Thunderstorm expected early in the day. More sun than clouds anticipated.
FRIDAY, 27 NOV, 2015	35.0 24.0	73	N	-	6:23 18:16	More sun than clouds forecasted.
SATURDAY, 28 NOV, 2015	36.0 24.0	69	NE	2.6	6:23 18:16	Thunderstorm expected early in the day. More sun than clouds expected.

Dr. Gladys Emenike
Acting HoD

Dr. Prince Mmom
AG. Director, (CDRMS)

UniPort Alumnus Wins NSE Awards

By Ethel Timi-Johnson,
with additional report by Interns,
Chiemeka Adindu and Rukky Orlu-Makele

An Alumnus of the University, Mr. Nwonodi Wosu, has emerged winner of the Nigerian Society of Engineers Award for the *Most Active Graduate of the Year 2015*. During a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, on Friday, November 13, 2015, Wosu who graduated from the Department of Petroleum Engineering, Faculty of Engineering in 2010 presented the award and a trophy following his outstanding performance at the just-concluded National Engineering Cycling Games, where he emerged third place winner in the male graduates/students' category. A visibly-elated Vice-Chancellor who commended the Alumnus for his achievements remarked that globally, Alumni make useful contributions to the development of their *Alma Mater*. "We need the continuous support of our Alumni to develop the University to its full capacity. With the achievements you have recorded within the short frame of your graduation, the sky is your limit and we promise to support you all the way. We pray for bigger opportunities for you to excel even as you win more laurels that would bring pride to the University. We wish that you remain a worthy ambassador of the University, your family and country," Professor Lale noted.

Attributing his success story to the quality training he received as a student of the University, Wosu disclosed that his interaction with the Port Harcourt Branch of NSE started as a student member of the National Universities Engineering Students Association (NUESA) on Campus. "I served as the Director of Socials of the UniPort Chapter of NUESA and a graduate member of the *Young Professional Engineering Club*. The passion grew me as a student member who participated in both local and national conferences and seminars organized by the Society, including the *Catch Them Young* programme initiated by the Society aimed at selling the engineering profession to undergraduates and creating awareness in the larger society about the important role it could play in national development," he said.

Wosu, who reiterated his commitment to his *Alma*

Mater, promised to sustain his contributions to the University and society. "I believe that Alumni can undertake more projects that would bring greater glory to the University that groomed us in character and learning and leave enduring legacies that can be sustained by the younger generations," he later told our Correspondent.

It would be recalled that Wosu earned the National Youth Service Corps Award in 2012, following personal projects he executed as part of his community service during that service year.



Mr. Wosu presenting his award to V-C, Prof Lale

Stop Press

New Certificate Verification Schedule

Following an observed error on the date scheduled for students with Matriculation Number running up to U2011 for Part-Time students of the Departments of Linguistics and Communication Studies and Philosophy, respectively, Wednesday, December 2, 2015, has been set as the new date for verifying the status of affected students. Heads of Department are consequently requested to communicate the new date to affected students and also make their personal files available to the Committee on or before 12.00 noon on the scheduled date.

Seinye Lulu-Briggs
Children's Park

The University Community is by this notice informed that the Seinye Lulu-Briggs Children's Park which was built and donated to the University of Port Harcourt by Chief Seinye Lulu-Briggs and now being managed by the University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA), is open for hiring for public and private functions.

2015 Vice-Chancellor's
Children Christmas Party

The Vice-Chancellor's Children Party holds on Saturday, December 5, 2015 at the Lodge, Delta Park. Interested parents are advised to pick up their children's *Admit Cards* between 1.30pm to 4.00pm daily with their staff identity cards.

A statement by President of the University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA) and Wife of the Vice-Chancellor, Mrs. Joy Lale, and made available to *UniPort Weekly*, disclosed that only children with valid *Admit Cards* will be allowed into the venue of the party. Parents are expected to drop off their children before 11.00am and pick them up after 3.00pm on the day of the party. The statement further added that parents would not be allowed into the venue of the party which is strictly for staff children between the ages of four and ten years. Children of friends and neighbours will not be allowed in or around the party venue.

Nnodim Bows Out, Nzimiro Steps In

The sixth Registrar and Secretary to Council of the University, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim finally took a bow on Monday, October 30, 2015 after serving out her five year tenure satisfactorily. Principal Officers, University of Port Harcourt Chapter of the Nigeria Universities Pensioners Association (NUPA) and staff of the Registry Department celebrated her meritorious service to the University. Our Cameraman, **MITCHELL EBI-EKIYOR** captured highlights of the event:



DV-C (Admin), Prof Anthony Ibe, explaining a point to the immediate past Registrar, Mrs. Nnodim, while V-C, Prof Ndowa Lale (1st right) and others look on



Mrs. Nnodim overwhelmed with joy, while V-C, Prof Lale and Director, Council Affairs, Mr. Roland Wubali watch on



University Librarian, Dr. Obiageli Nwodo (3rd left) reading a text from a card to Mrs. Nnodim



Dr. Nwodo handing over the Congratulatory Card to Mrs. Nnodim, other Officers look on



Dr. Nwodo, DV-C (Admin), Prof Ibe and DV-C (Acad), Prof Igbo Joe unveiling a portrait to Mrs. Nnodim



V-C, Prof Lale (centre) flanked by Mrs. Nnodim, Prof Ibe, Mr. Wubali (left), Dr. Nwodo, Mr. Vitalis Allez and Prof Joe (right)



President NUPA, Mr. John Wonne reading his address



President NUPA, Mr. Wonne presenting a copy of his address to Mrs. Nnodim



Mrs. Nnodim (4th right) with EXCO of UniPort Chapter of the Nigeria Universities Pensioners Association (NUPA)



Immediate past Registrar, Mrs. Nnodim



Mrs. Nnodim handing over a copy of her handover note to the Acting Registrar, Mrs. Nzimiro



R-L: Acting Registrar, Mrs. Nnodim, 6th Registrar, Mrs. Nnodim and Deputy Registrar (Info), Williams Wodi



6th Registrar, Mrs. Nnodim (8th left), Acting Registrar, Mrs. Nzimiro (6th right) and Staff of the Registrar's Office