

UniPort Weekly

Vol. 26, Edition 263 February 8- February 15, 2016

ISSN:1522-2225

A Publication of the Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

Ogbureke Emphasizes Forensic Science



Story on p2

UniPort, Navy Sign Training Pact



Story on p4

Senate Reaffirms Stand On Plagiarism



Story on p5

Health Centre Mounts Awareness Campaign On Lassa Fever



Story on p7



NISLT Inducts 728 At 5th SSLT Induction Ceremony

A total of 728 graduands of the School of Science Laboratory Technology (SSLT), have been inducted into the Associate Membership of the Nigerian Institute of Science Laboratory Technology (NISLT), which held at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium last Tuesday, reports *Ethel Timi-Johnson*.

More on p3

Side Bar

University Management held a Town Hall Meeting with staff last Friday. Details next week
~Editor

The Federal Government has praised the authorities of University of Port Harcourt over their immense contributions to sports development in the country through heavy investment in the cutting-edge training facilities.

The commendation was made by the Minister of Youths and Sports, Barrister Solomon Dalung, during an unscheduled facilities visit to the University on Thursday, January 28, 2016.

The Minister, who said that he was in the University to inspect facilities at the High Performance Centre and also complement Team UniPort on its sustained exploits in sports.

By Obinna Nwodin stated: "We are here to convey the deep appreciation of President Muhammadu Buhari and the Federal Government of Nigeria to the University of Port Harcourt for providing us accommodation and facilities, coupled with hospitality for training our athletes for the Rio 2016 Olympics in Brazil. The University of Port Harcourt has done very well in developing excellent sporting facilities and also winning successive NUGA and WAUG Games. My presence here today is partly in recognition of your solid achievements in sports development and victories in sporting competitions."

According to him, sports development has evolved from exhibition of raw skills by athletes into an exact science, stressing that Nigerian sports cannot afford to remain

More on p6

FG Commends UniPort's Giant Strides In Sports Development



Efforts aimed at ushering in higher ethical standards in the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies received a major boost on Tuesday, January 26, 2016, as the Department, in conjunction with the University-wide Professional Ethics Committee, organised a one-day sensitisation workshop for staff and student leaders on approved code of conduct in the line of duty.

The well-attended workshop was aimed at drawing attention of staff and students to the consequences of infringing upon the ground rules of engagement in the discharge of their functions and also ensuring that nobody feigned ignorance as an excuse to engage in unethical conduct in the Department.

Speaking at the historic event, Chairman of the Professional Ethics Committee in the University, Professor Frank Ugiomoh, who showered praises on the leadership of the Department for being the first to mount such a programme to enlighten staff and students at the departmental level, described application of high ethical values as central to institutionalising a moral compass in the University.

Ugiomoh, who made it clear that the job of the Professional Ethics Committee was not to serve as judge over erring staff and students, but to establish *prima facie* cases against affected staff and students and accordingly advise the University administration when such standards were infringed upon, urging staff and students of the Department to refrain from engaging in acts capable of bringing them and the University into disrepute.

The Chairman also expressed gratitude to the Department for setting up a Departmental Ethics Committee aimed at domesticating the broad objectives of the University-wide Ethics Committee, describing it as an in-built mechanism for self-regulation that would minimise outside interference. "It is the responsibility of all workers in an organisation to acquaint themselves with extant rules and conventions governing the terms of their appointment in order not to fall foul of the law. The best way to make institutional progress is to ensure that we all key into the vision and objectives of the workplace. I am very grateful to the Acting Head, the entire staff and students of the Department for accepting to subject themselves to higher ethical standards without waiting to be prodded from the outside. It is my hope that other Departments and Faculties would emulate this shining example," Ugiomoh said.

LCS Dept Ends Ethics Workshop For Staff, Students



Chairman, Professional Ethics C'tee, Prof Ugiomoh (arrowed), flanked by Ag. HoD, LCS, Dr. Isaac, former Dean of Humanities, Prof Ndimele and staff of the Dept after the Workshop

By Otokor Samuel

He stressed the need for staff to freely relate to students in such a way that would encourage them to come back in appreciation of the training and deep institutional memory of their Departments and the University. He also advised the students against infringing upon the rules of the University, listing acts that could attract punitive measures to include examination malpractice, plagiarism, cultism and other social vices that are alien to the academic tradition of a university.

Earlier in his welcome address, Acting Head of Department, Dr. Baridisi Isaac, disclosed that the sensitisation workshop was designed to provide ample opportunity for staff and students to get in-depth knowledge of the dos and don'ts in the discharge of their statutory obligations. "Henceforth, the interaction would be a regular feature of the Department aimed at ensuring that both fresh and returning students are grounded in the rules and regulations governing their status so that nobody feigns ignorance when caught engaging in unethical conduct on my watch," he told the gathering.

In his contribution, former Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor Ozo-mekuri Ndimele, assured the Professional Ethics Committee that everybody

would play his or her part to ensure strict compliance to the highest ethical standards in the Department, emphasizing the need to resurrect the exemplary conduct of the founding fathers of the Department and Faculty of Humanities, such as the legendary late Professor Kay Williamson and Emeritus Professor Ebegber Alagba.

"Whatever we are doing, it is with the objective of contributing to the growth of the University. So, we thank you for reminding us that it is an offence to be absent from work, report late, sell handouts and books, read through books while teaching, mishandle or give out scripts to unauthorized persons to mark, sell grades and extort money from students. It is also an offence for students to absent themselves from class, cheat or copy during examinations, attend classes without paying fees, attempt to 'sort' Lecturers to obtain unmerited grades and engage in other social vices, amongst other acts that are inimical to the corporate image of the Department and University," Professor Ndimele said.

Highlight of the workshop was the distribution of pamphlets by Chairman of the Professional Ethics Committee, Members of the Departmental Ethics Committee are: Dr. Hyacinth Orlu-Orlu (Chairman), Drs. Jones Ayuwo, Austen Sado, Roseline Alerechi, including Mr. Chukwuemeka Iroham and Mrs. Titilayo Osuagwu.

Ogbureke Emphasizes Forensic Science At Dentistry Day Lecture

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial/Head and Neck Pathology from the University of Texas School of Dentistry, Houston, USA, Kalu

continued support for the growth of the Faculty, called on relevant stakeholders and policy makers to partner the University in establishing an Institute of Forensic Science to provide training in

within the short period of its existence.

Describing the celebration as an academic event organized to mark the Founders' Day, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Chukwudi Onyeaso, pointed out that the proposed Institute of Forensic Science would enable the University train personnel to render service in the rare specialisation. "There is increasing need for everyone to be familiar with the Forensic Science in this contemporary world," he submitted, promising to continue pushing until the project is achieved.

The week-long event featured a Dentistry Day march and Media activities, free Oral Health Screening and special prayers for the Faculty at the University Mosque, Our Saviour's Chapel and Chapel of The Annunciation.



Dean of Dentistry, Prof Onyeaso (arrowed), some staff and students of the Faculty at the Awareness Rally

Ogbureke, has listed the diverse roles of various disciplines in Forensic Science.

Delivering the Keynote Lecture at the 3rd Dentistry Day celebration organized by the Faculty of Dentistry at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park, Professor Ogbureke, who spoke on *Interdisciplinary Approach to Forensic Science: Challenges for Developing Economies*, stressed the need for heightened awareness on Forensic Science, which he described as an important subject of growing international interest and relevance.

Speaking at the event, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, who pledged Management's

the rare area of medicine.

"Let me encourage the Faculty to improve on the established culture of academic excellence and administrative efficiency," Professor Lale remarked, commending them for also undertaking free oral health education and services to the University's host communities as part of its corporate social responsibility.

In her address, Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Christie Mato, disclosed that the Faculty of Dentistry was established in 2002, following approval by the Senate of the University, praising the Faculty for its laudable achievements

EDITORIAL BOARD

Prof Ndowa Lale	- Publisher	Secretary	Photography
Prof Eme Ekeke	- Editorial Chair	Gladys Amadi (Mrs)	Headman Ali
Dr. Austen Sado	- Editorial Adviser	Graphics	Mitchell Ekiyor
Williams Wodi	- Editor	Chika King-James (Mrs)	
Obinna Nwodin	- Associate Editor		
Correspondents			
Marcy Adeniji			
Otokor Samuel			
Humphrey Ogu			
Ethel Timi-Johnson			

Call: 08033093371

NISLT Inducts 728 At 5th SSLT Induction

Cont'd from p1

Performing the Induction Ceremony which attracted a large audience from all walks of life, Registrar and Director-General of the NISLT, Dr. Ighodalo Ijagbone, described the formal induction of the graduands into any profession as a means of promoting competence and personal development. "Today's Induction is a success story because you are joining the ranks of core professionals who share common values in building and developing a cohesive bond for professional practice," he told the new Associate members, describing their roles as professionals in the science and technology sector as the foundation for scientific research and development of the country.

"By joining our professional fold, you have become the new ambassadors of the profession and as certified professionals of Science Laboratory practice, you are required to imbibe the ethics of the profession. You are to assert yourselves and project the image of the profession as you undertake your practice in the service of society," the NISLT Registrar admonished the graduands, commending the growing partnership between NISLT and the University towards the upgrade of science and technology in the country.

Speaking at the event, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, described the Induction Ceremony as an opportunity to evaluate the progress that has been recorded in the collective effort to build a top class Science Laboratory programme in the University. "Today's induction ceremony is proof that we have institutional capacity to sustain the programme in this University. The graduands we are turning out today have been properly equipped to join the labour market, having received the best training that the University can afford," Professor Lale noted, charging the SSLT Board to improve on the culture of academic excellence already established by the School.

The Vice-Chancellor, who disclosed that the SSLT programme was established in the University to address the knowledge-gap occasioned by the acute



A cross section of the inductees

shortage of trained personnel in the country's critical Laboratory Science Technology sector, advised the graduands to acquaint themselves with emergent trends in their specialization to remain relevant and make meaningful contributions to national development in the practice of their profession.

In her address, Dean of the School, Professor Grace Awi-Waadu, urged the Inductees to utilize the knowledge and skills they have acquired for the technological development of the country by adhering strictly to the ethics of the profession, advising them to pay meticulous attention to details and cultivating good team spirit in their practice. Delivering the Induction Lecture entitled: *Science Laboratory Technology Education and Emerging Job Opportunities*, Professor Clifford Teme of the Institute of Geosciences and Space Technology, Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Nkpulu, who disclosed that Science and Laboratory Technology graduands can offer technical assistance in institutional, industrial and research

laboratories, recommended that the subject be introduced in universities across the country if Nigeria desired to be listed among the industrialized nations of the world.

Reiterating that Science and Laboratory Technology graduates were usually preferred to others in the labour market, the Induction Lecturer also recommended their compulsory engagement in corporate organizations and industrial laboratories, stressing the need for the regulatory body to rigorously monitor professional practice to ensure standards at all times.

In his address, Best Graduating Student and Valedictorian, Joshua Ogugua commended the Dean, Coordinators and staff of SSLT for creating an enabling environment for his class to excel, promising to be good ambassadors of the School and University wherever they may find themselves. A total of 17 graduands also received the certification of the United States-based National Registry of Environmental Professionals (NREP).

Int'l Trade Institute Commences Doctoral Programme Next Month

By Otiakor Samuel
and Humphrey Ogu

followed a successful interview session for the selection of the first set of candidates for the programme which was conducted on Thursday, January 21, 2016.

Lectures for the new programme would commence next month, just as the Director of the Institute, Professor Augustus Gbosi disclosed his readiness to present an eagerly-awaited paper entitled: *Nigeria's External Trade Policies and Balance of Payments Stability* at the International Palms Resort and Conference Centre in Florida, United States of America between March 9 and 12, 2016.

Professor Gbosi, who made the disclosure in a chat with *UniPort Weekly* in his office last Tuesday, revealed that only 10 out of 18 applicants for the Doctorate programme met the stringent requirements for admission into the Institute's terminal programme.

"In November 2015, we advertised for our Ph.D programme in selected national dailies and a total of 18 candidates applied for the new programme. They were interviewed on Thursday, January 21 by specialists from the Institute and related disciplines, including Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, his Social Sciences counterpart, Associate Dean of the

School of Graduate Studies and former Associate Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture. Among the candidates, 10 of them who did very well to meet our stringent requirements were recommended for admission into the programme. We have concluded plans to commence lectures with the successful candidates in the second week of March," Professor Gbosi told our Correspondents.

The Director, who further disclosed that the name of the Institute has been technically changed from *Bamanga Tukur Institute for International Trade and Development Studies* to *Institute for International Trade and Development* (IIT&D), listed some of the steps taken by the leadership of the Institute to make it more visible, both locally and internationally in line with its vision of becoming the leading institute on trade and related policy matters in Africa.

Gbosi, who expressed optimism that the Institute would meet its stated vision of flying high in Africa, recalled that barely four years after its establishment, the Institute has graduated 27 M.Sc. students in two batches. He said that some graduates of the Institute were doing well both locally and internationally, further disclosing that the third batch of Master's degree students would face their Theses Defense in March after their works must have undergone the mandatory Anti-Plagiarism Test in the School of Graduate Studies.



Prof Gbosi

It is now set for the take-off of the Doctor of Philosophy programme in the rechristened Institute for International Trade and Development Studies (IIT&D). This cheering news

Bishop Chinasa Nwosu Rededicates UniPort

By Mercy Adeniji

It was a session of praise and worship, prayers and exhortation to God Almighty as Christians from all denominations converged at the Convocation Arena on Wednesday, January 27, 2016 to rededicate the University of Port Harcourt to God.

Delivering his welcome address at the Second UniPort Annual Dedication Service with the theme: *Thy Kingdom Come*, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale expressed gratitude to God for guiding the Institution so far, expressing gratitude to the Monday Prayer Group for organizing the event aimed at returning all the glory to God for His abundant mercies on the University. "Six months ago, I took an Oath to serve the University as Vice-Chancellor, six months down the line; it has become important that we do what we are doing here today. I am grateful to you all for the support I have received so far. Today, Bishop Chinasa Nwosu has come to bless us and also rededicate our University to God Almighty. I want to thank the Christian community for praying for the University and it is my hope that this special rededication service would usher in a new beginning in our University, because whatever is committed into the hand of God is safe and blessed forever," Professor Lale told the brethren.

Citing one of the lines of the University Anthem, *Our hope in the future is rooted in God alone*, the Vice-Chancellor declared: "It is on this note that this programme was organized to bring God to the centre of all activities in this University. This programme was organized by the Christian community on Campus and so with commitment to the letter and spirit of our Anthem, it is important that we come to that God in whose safe hands we are facing the future. It is also important that we commit the University to God so that He can bless us as we step into the New Year. If there is



Bishop Nwosu (4th right) flanked by V-C, Prof Lale, DV-C, Admin, Prof Anthony Ibe, Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Allez (right), OSC Chaplain, Ven Nbeta and members of the organising Committee (left) at the highpoint of the Service

any place where people need to humble themselves, it is in the University; but unfortunately, most of us don't think that there is God until we experience crisis in our lives," he disclosed.

In his exhortation, entitled: *The Good Life is still Possible*, General Overseer of the Royal Church, Bishop Chinasa Nwosu, stated that despite all the problems facing Christians today, the good life was still possible for all believers in a world that is troubled by materialism and disdain for the true Christian life. Bishop Nwosu, who took his sermon from 2 Timothy 3:1-17, explained that the New Testament which most people have neglected contained dire predictions for those that decide to live on their own terms, appealing to the faithful to go back to the old path to guide their actions. "The Bible is very accurate no matter what occult powers you may possess; when the power of God arises, other powers would bow to it. There is an opportunity for us to make a choice in the midst of the darkness we find ourselves today, but we should not be deceived by

the devil."

He recalled that following the line in the University Anthem which recognizes the centrality of God, "We should know that the only answer is in Christ Jesus alone; he is the only one that has the power to give us life. The only way we can be preserved and not perish is in Christ; so whosoever believes in him would not perish but have everlasting life. The only one that can give you life is Christ Jesus. If you don't have Christ you don't have life and it is only when that light comes upon you that you will discover that there is genuine change in your life," he told the Congregation.

Other highlights of the service included goodwill message from the Chaplain of Our Saviours Chapel (Interdenominational), Venerable Saturday Nbeta, scriptural reading by Wife of the Vice-Chancellor, Mrs. Joy Lale and prayer sessions by Professors Bosa Okoli, Onyewuchi Akaranta and Grace Awi-Waada, respectively. The Joint Christian Campus Fellowship (JCCF) Choir thrilled the audience at the occasion that was coordinated by Dr. Andrew Obafemi.

Separated from the central business district of Port Harcourt by Eleme Local Government Area, the sleepy port city of Onne sits majestically on an expansive patch of land that rolls into the ocean with the alluring bait of a tornado. The road to Onne is winding and sometimes gives the impression that you are on your way out of this world. On a normal day, which is every day, heavy vehicular traffic assails the unsuspecting first time traveller to Onne. You are jolted on the bad portions of the road along the breath-taking scenery as Onne springs into view.

When it emerged that the University of Port Harcourt would sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the top brass of the Nigerian Navy at the Basic Training School, Onura, Onne, my anxiety level grew on account of my perception of Naval ratings as the most "wicked" men and women in uniform that God ever put on planet earth—never mind their sparkling white uniform that can advertise the best bleach brand in town.

A beautifully designed banner proclaimed the reason for our braving the choking Onne traffic on that grisly Wednesday morning. The expansive premises of the Nigerian Navy Basic Training School sparkled on the distant horizon as we approached. The momentary delay at the gate was to allow the personnel on sentry duty to properly process those in the austere bus before allowing us entry into the Commanding Officers domain.

"Welcome aboard our ship," the Deputy Commandant of the School, Commodore Emmanuel Israel,

UniPort, Navy Sign Training Pact

By Williams Wodi

announced in a triumphant voice that betrayed his excitement at our arrival. We had to check again to be doubly sure that we have not been smuggled aboard a "battle ship" on dry land. That announcement, we later learnt, was the Navy's way of welcoming us, "idle civilians", to their world. I chuckled to myself at such patronising talk.

Then, we had to wait for the arrival of the almighty Flag Officer Commanding Naval Training Command, Lagos. It was like waiting for *Godot*, the deceptive character in Samuel Beckett's hilarious play. The illusive Admiral of the Sea finally arrived to be greeted by the practised regimented tunes of the Navy brass band. Once we were ushered into the modest auditorium at the centre of the School, the Flag Officer, Admiral Adeniyi Osinowo, accompanied by our own Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, stormed the venue of the MoU ceremony in martial steps. The Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, University Librarian, Dr. Susan Umeozor, Director of the Claude Ake School of Government, Professor Ene Ekeke, yours truly and Special Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Kingsley Wogwu, had earlier been marched into the hall in regimented style. The LMC 2016 participants were

already seated and waiting for their arbiters. All of them had to be in their very best behaviour in their own interest, while idle civilians charted away without observing regimental etiquette.

Every part of the ceremony was specified in advance and there was no room for error. In a highly regimented speech, Commandant of the Nigerian Navy Basic Training School, Onne, Commodore Peter Onaji, hailed the MoU as "a historic development that attests to the vision of the top brass of the Navy to reposition the force for enhanced service delivery," disclosing that the Leadership and Management Training programme would help the Navy discharge its constitutional role.

Then came the signing of the MoU on behalf of the Chief of Naval Staff, Vice-Admiral Ibong Ibas by the FOC, Rear Admiral Osinowo, while Professor Ibe did so on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, who was away on official assignment in Abuja. In his speech, Admiral Osinowo spoke of "the importance the Navy establishment attached to the training and manpower development in a challenging and provocative environment. The Navy is buying into the change mantra of the Federal Government," stressing the importance of a well-trained, organised and motivated force that is ready to deliver on its mandate. He promised that the Navy would continue to combat crime in the maritime sector and make the coastline safe for sailors. He quoted the Chief Naval Staff as declaring that "human resources would remain the most important asset and so we want our personnel to acquire sufficient expertise to prepare them for life even after retirement."

Taking a cue from his host, Professor Ibe said that "the University of Port Harcourt is pleased to be part of the landmark agreement aimed at training naval personnel as part of our core mandate to the larger society. We are happy that the Navy is investing in staff development. We are also happy to note that the force recognises that education is the biggest investment the force can bequeath to its officers and ratings. Let me assure you that we will play our part in actualising this laudable project." End of discussion and on to take care of a well-appointed 'stomach infrastructure' (excuse me Governor Ayo Fayose).

Also present were the Commandant of the Nigerian Hydrographic School, Borokiri, Commodore Emmanuel Igalla and Commandant of the Nigerian Navy School of Finance and Logistics College, Owerinta in Abia State, Captain Godwin Obaje.



Flag Officer Commanding, Commodore Osinowo, (3rd left), Prof Ibe and Senior Officers of the Navy and UniPort

Senate Reaffirms Stand On Plagiarism, Overstay Policy

Senate has reaffirmed its resolve to invoke appropriate sanctions against any staff or student found guilty of engaging in the distasteful practice of plagiarism.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, issued the warning at the 414th Senate Meeting which held on Wednesday, January 27, 2016, stating that any student involved in plagiarism would be rusticated, while staff would be punished in accordance with the extant rules governing the terms of their appointment.

"The University can no longer tolerate plagiarism among staff and students. Graduate Students are directed to make the draft of their thesis available for proper scrutiny with the Turn-it-in software. We must intensify the battle against plagiarism to save the reputation of the University from being soiled by a few persons who do not want to engage in original research," the Senate Chairman pointed out.

"It is not sufficient for Project Supervisors to claim that they didn't look at the work they were supposed to have supervised before their students publish such works. People destroy their careers and the reputation of the University when they indulge in plagiarism. After all, the erring students include the names of their Supervisors in such plagiarised works and Supervisor go ahead to include such works in their documentation for promotion, only to turn around to claim that they didn't know that their students lifted materials with proper documentation of sources," he added.

Welcoming members to the first Senate Meeting in 2016, Professor Lale, expressed delight at the new ranking of the University as the First in Nigeria and Sixth in Africa by the United Kingdom-based Times Higher Education and World Economic Forum, stressing the need for academics to make their works available online to make the University more visible on the global research map. "We cannot have cases of plagiarism among Staff, Undergraduate and Postgraduate students and still stand tall as Number One in Nigeria and Sixth University in Africa," he told his colleagues.

Newly appointed Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, University Librarian, Dr. Susan Umeozor, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Professor Ebere Erondu and Acting Dean of the Faculty of Law, Professor Ibiba Worika, were introduced to the Senate. Other new members introduced on the floor of Senate included Acting Head of Department of Mathematics and Computer Science and Acting Head of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

The Senate Chairman also announced the demise of a onetime Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Francis Onafeghara, a former Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Difini Datubo-Brown and Professor Promise Abam of the Faculty of Engineering. The obituary announcements were followed by a minute's silence in honour of the departed former

... Approves Outstanding Results

By Humphrey Ogu

Senate members.

Senate also reiterated its commitment to the implementation of the *Overstay Policy* to the letter. "Students should start their programmes at one point and conclude at some point. They are not expected to be students forever," the Vice-Chancellor stated, announcing that all students deemed to have overstayed on their programmes have been granted a blanket academic amnesty that would finally expire on May 31, 2016, while those in the School of Science Laboratory Technology have up till the end of the current academic session to conclude their programmes or be prepared to leave.

Following recommendations from the Provost, College of Health Sciences and Deans of Faculty, Senate approved outstanding results from the Faculties of Humanities, Social Sciences, Science, Education, Engineering, Management Sciences, Agriculture, including the School of Graduate Studies.

Senate was also informed of a petition signed by Professor Israel Owate of the Department of Physics, demanding that Faculties under the College of Health Sciences be scrapped in keeping with Senate's position on the defunct Collegiate system. After much deliberation, Senate decided to maintain the *status quo ante* on the matter.

The Vice-Chancellor commended teaching and non-teaching staff for doing the right thing which made it possible for students to commence lectures on the first day of resumption from the Christmas and New Year holidays, urging them to sustain the tempo. "We can no longer

continue in the outdated habit of allowing our students to resume lectures at their own pleasure each

new Semester. The right thing to do is for Lecturers and students to commence lectures as stipulated on the University's academic calendar for each new Semester. I wish to commend the Quality Assurance and Quality Control and Feedback Unit for closely monitoring compliance to the new order, and to also appeal to my colleagues in the various Faculties to support the drive towards full implementation of the Time-Table," he emphasised.

Making a presentation entitled: "Resumption of First Semester Work for the Academic 2015/16 Session", Acting Director of the QAQC, Dr. Ikechukwu Agbagwa, lauded staff for responding to Management's directive on immediate resumption of academic and administrative activities after the holidays. "University of Port Harcourt was established with the core mandate of teaching, research and community service. The University has a specified period for lectures and revision week, but some Lecturers prefer to teach three weeks after resumption," he observed, urging those involved in such anti-academic practice to turn a new leaf to avoid sanction.

Other matters discussed on the floor of Senate included illegal transfer of official residences by retiring professors to their wives and other family members who are staff and the need to label classrooms to enable students identify their lecture venues. Emeritus Professor Otoni Ndaka stressed the importance of cleanliness on Campus, while Professor Lucky Akaruse called for a policy against pasting of posters and banners around the Convocation Arena.



Senate in session

Items aimed at facilitating practical demonstrations in the Biology Laboratory and other related subjects have been donated to the University Demonstration Secondary School (UDSS) by Professor Lucky Odokuma of the Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science. Professor Odokuma, who was a former Senate

Odokuma Lifts UDSS With Laboratory Equipment Donation

By Otiakor Samuel

Representative on the Board of Governors of UDSS had asked the Management of the School at the 20th Inter-House Sports Meet to make a comprehensive list of what was required for its Biology Laboratory which he finally redeemed with the donation of over 30 items as part of his contribution to facilitating teaching of the subject, using appropriate demonstration equipment.

Making the presentation, Mrs. Elizabeth Odokuma, who represented her husband at the occasion said: "The donation is in fulfilment of a pledge made by my husband during the 20th Inter-House Sports of this great School, which our children attended. The gesture is aimed at strengthening the teaching of science subjects in the School, especially Biology which is a subject that is very dear to his heart."

Receiving the items, Principal of UDSS, Mr. Ogechi Aniele, described Professor Odokuma's public-spirited

gesture as a good step towards proper teaching of science subjects in the School, calling on other individuals and groups to emulate his kind gesture.

"We are happy that the items came at the appropriate time when we are striving to equip our laboratories to enhance practical demonstrations to students. We are very happy with Professor Odokuma for this important donation that has lifted the state of our laboratory. We wish that other staff of the University would emulate the good example of Professor Odokuma by donating generously to enrich our laboratories and library as the University alone can no longer meet all our needs. On our part, we promise to jealously guard these items so that they can serve the purpose for which they were donated," the Principal said.

The items included quantities of unisex torso, microscope, camping gas, extra disposable gas cylinder, models of the human liver, eye, kidney, skin and ear, prepared slide, dissecting set, slides, cover slip, spatula, forceps, petri dish, formalin, copper II sulphate, million's reagent, sudan III reagent, Fehling's reagent, Fehling's solution A, Fehling's solution B, Benedict's and Biuret reagents, amongst other.

Other items were charts for nervous system, blood circulation, kidney, skin, urinary and excretory systems, human physiology, human muscles, male and female reproductive organs and respiratory system, as well as a LaserJet printer.



UDSS Principal, Mr. Aniele (right) receiving some of the items from Mrs. Odokuma

FG Commends UniPort's Giant Strides

Cont'd from p1

stagnant. He commended UniPort for pioneering a new style of sports development in the country that emphasised training, dieting and psychological development of the athletes, stressing the need for athletes and coaches to cope with the dynamics of modern sports.

Barrister Dalung, expressed hope that with the high impact preparation he saw on ground in the University, Nigeria would have a good outing at the Olympics, describing the University as a key partner in national sports development. The Minister assured the athletes that "the Federal Government would continue to support the University of Port Harcourt to ensure that all that is needed to train our athletes and give them a winning mentality would be made available within the limits of our resources." Welcoming his august guest, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, who thanked the Minister for the surprise visit, said that the investment of successive administrations of the University in developing sporting facilities has positioned the Institution as the best in Nigeria and West Africa in school sports. "We

call for support from the Federal Government to assist the University in the provision of more sporting facilities to ensure improved performance by Nigerian athletes. Our ultimate ambition is to combine sports with academics in such a manner that athletes would begin to understand that the two are easily compatible. It is my hope that the Honourable Minister's visit would translate into more support for our high impact Centre that has so far benefitted coaches and athletes who come here for training on a regular basis," he told the Minister. In their separate speeches, President of the Athletics Federation of Nigeria (AFN), Dr. Solomon Ogbia and one-time Nigeria's sprint

sensation, Falilat Ogunkoya, commended authorities of the University for doing a wonderful job in the provision of impressive facilities for the training of athletes in an enabling environment, describing the High Performance Centre as a scientific way of training athletes which can only be achieved in a university environment.

Also speaking, Director of the University's Sports Institute, Professor Ken Anugweje, expressed gratitude to the Minister for the visit, adding that he was looking up to the Ministry for more assistance that would enable the University do more for visiting athletes and coaches.

The Honourable Minister and his entourage later undertook a facility tour of the various sections of the High Performance Centre, where he addressed the Nigerian contingent to the Rio Olympic Games.



Minister of Sports, Barr. Dalung (5th left) flanked by V-C, Prof Lale, DV-C (Acad), Prof Igbo Joe, President, AFN, Dr. Ogbia (6th, 5th and 4th right) Principal and some Senior officers of the University

The University of Port Harcourt Chapter of the Nigeria Red Cross has ended a sensitisation programme for staff and students on emergency procedures aimed at saving lives and administering First Aid on persons who sustain injury. The latest programme was facilitated by the Chapter Commandant and Final Year Medical Student, Mr. Tochukwu Achonye, who also unveiled plans by the UniPort Chapter of the Red Cross Society to equip staff and students with basic operational skills to enable them administer First Aid in an emergency situation.

Exchanging views with a Correspondent of *UniPort Weekly*, Achonye, disclosed that part of the group's vision for the New Year was to ensure that every student became aware of the basic procedures for administering First Aid in an emergency situation.

"The Red Cross Society has been in the University for a very long time, but we became active again last year. So far, we have organized lectures, health talks and training programmes for staff and students of different Departments in the University. For instance, on Monday and Tuesday, January 25 and 26, 2015, respectively, we paid courtesy visits to the Dean of Student Affairs

UniPort Chapter Of Nigeria Red Cross Ends Sensitisation Programme

By Mercy Adeniji

Department, Dr. Otu Ekpenyong, Chairman of Medical Advisory Committee of the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital, Dr. Charles Tobin-West and *Unique UniPort Radio*. The visits were basically aimed at creating awareness and soliciting public assistance for what we do to save lives in the University community.

"The other reason for such visits is to mark the beginning of our year and let the public know that we have resumed activities for this year and to increase public awareness of our activities. One of our main goals in the UniPort Detachment is to ensure that students get to know about appropriate procedures for administering First Aid on a sick person before arrival at the hospital. Such a critical intervention could make a whole world of difference between life and death in some extreme cases. We want to ensure that students and staff get to know a bit about how to administer

First Aid in an emergency situation. We can be our own doctors by saving people's lives, such that no matter where we may find ourselves, we can help a sick person.

We still have other events lined up for this year such as organizing trainings for staff and students. Our services are free and we are made up of volunteers from different Departments in the University," Achonye said.

"We depend on goodwill donations from our members and public-spirited individuals and groups to sustain our activities. The Red Cross Society is a non profit-making organization; so we rely mainly on donors from the public and our patrons. We are into partnership with the O. B. Lulu Briggs Health Centre, Student Affairs Department, Faculty Heads and the Students' Union to ensure that we reach as many people as possible," he disclosed.

"The most important thing is creating awareness about our activities and seeking partnerships that would enable us widen our operations. We are working with all stakeholders to reach out to all our target audience, because in First Aid, information is power, and those who do not know what to do may do the wrong thing in an emergency situation, thus, endangering human lives. I am able to combine my academic work with the demanding job of heading a voluntary organization because of the passion I have for the job of saving lives," the Commandant told our Correspondent.



Ag. Dean, Student Affairs Dept, Dr. Ekpenyong (centre) flanked by Associate Dean (4th right), Commandant of Uniport Red Cross

GUIDE POST

APPOINTMENT

Professor Kio Abo, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, appointed *Dean of Faculty*, effective February 1, 2016 to February 15, 2018.

Dr. Barile Baridam, Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science, re-appointed *Co-ordinator of General Studies, GES 101 Programme*. The re-appointment which takes retroactive effect from July 24, 2015 is for another two years and will terminate on July 23, 2017.

CONVERSION

Dr. Sylvester Udeorah, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, converted from non-teaching to teaching cadre as *Lecturer II*, effective December 21, 2015.

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Dr. Onyemachi Ogbulu, Department of Finance and Banking, Faculty of Management Sciences, granted a one-year *Renewal of Adjunct Appointment* as *Reader*, effective November 1, 2015 to October 31, 2016.

Mr. Charles Mezie-Okoye, Centre for Ethics and Conflict Studies, granted a one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective June 2, 2016 to June 1, 2017.

Professor I.P. Aleye-Wokoma, Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Faculty of Science, granted a one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective October 20, 2015 to September 29, 2016.

Professor Francis Ukaigwe, Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, granted a one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective February 5, 2016 to February 4, 2017.

Dr. R. A. Ejimofor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, granted a one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective February 3, 2016 to February 2, 2017.

EXTENSION OF STUDY LEAVE

Mr. Benjamin Akpolilili, Department of Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, granted a one-year *Extension of Study Leave with Pay*, effective December 18, 2015 to December 17, 2016.

REGULARIZATION OF APPOINTMENT

Dr. Olanrewaju Lawal, Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted *Regularization of Appointment*, effective April 23, 2014.

Dr. Adaku Nwauzor, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted *Regularization of Appointment*, effective January 28, 2014.

CHANGE OF NAME

MRS. SIRA EDNA NEEBORN. Former Miss Sira Edna Mina of the Department of Curriculum Studies and Educational Technology, Faculty of Education, now wishes to be known, called and addressed as *Mrs. Sira Edna Neeborn*. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

STOP PRESS

DIETE-KOKI MEMORIAL LECTURE

The University community is invited to the *Second Professor Kenneth Diete-Koki Memorial Lecture* billed for Tuesday, February 16, 2016, at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park at 10:00am. *Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Professor Iyeopu Siminialayi*, in a statement disclosed that this year's Lecture entitled: *Leveraging Drug Utilization, Disease Registers and Social Factors for Effective Healthcare Delivery in Nigeria*, would be delivered by a United States-based academic, *Dr. John Vincent*. "While he is here, he will also give lectures to our Postgraduate Students, Resident Doctors and Medical Faculty."

Health Centre Mounts Awareness Campaign Against Lassa Fever

By Obinna Nwodin

As the recent outbreak of the dreaded Lassa Fever Virus continues to generate heightened concern amongst staff and students, the Health Services Department recently took proactive steps to combat the virus by organizing a sensitization lecture aimed at enlightening the University community on preventive measures. A well-attended public lecture formed the major highlight of the enlightenment campaign which took place at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park on Friday, January 29, 2016.

Declaring the Lecture open, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Anthony Ibe, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, said the need to ensure that members of the University community were adequately enlightened on preventive measures against the disease necessitated the event, adding that a healthy staff population would result in a productive workforce. He called on staff, students and visitors to ensure that they apply simple preventive measures that would keep them free from the Lassa Fever scourge, adding that the authorities of the University would do everything within their powers to maintain a clean and healthy environment that would discourage the spread of the deadly virus.

In her address, Acting Director of the Health Services Department, Dr. Chinwe Ezirim, described Lassa Fever as a worrisome epidemic, advising members of the University community to ensure that their environment was kept clean at all times to avoid unhygienic practices that may expose them to the virus. "Our favourite foods are the target of this deadly monster called Lassa Fever. Bags of garri, tin-tops of canned drinks and packed juices, bags of pure water, foods or surfaces where our furry-skinned foes can freely frolic and dance, only to deposit and donate their virus-laden and disease-loaded urine and faeces without



Dr. Maduka, guest Lecturer

reservations are conducive places for Lassa Fever," she told the audience.

In her presentation, Dr. Omosivie Maduka of the Department of Preventive and Social Medicine at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), explained the origin of the deadly scourge, noting that the only way to be free from it was for the populace to adopt urgent proactive measures that would prevent its spread in the community. According to her, ensuring that the environment was free from rats, as well as maintaining good hygiene in homes and public places should be practised to safeguard the populace from the deadly virus.

Nwizua, Ex-UniPort Student Union President, Emerges NANS Zonal Scribe

By Humphrey Ogu

Following a keenly-contested election held at the Federal College of Land Resources and Technology, Owerri between December 17 and 19, 2015, former President of the Student Union of University of Port Harcourt, Felix Nwizua, has emerged as "Zone B" Secretary of the National Association of Nigerian Students

(NANS), comprising 11 States in the South-South/South-Eastern parts of the country.

Briefing *UniPort Weekly* on his victory last Tuesday, Nwizua, who served as President of Student Union in the 2014/15 Academic Session, promised to give effective representation to Nigerian students from the zone and protect their interest at all times, promising to protect the interest of the University in discharging his statutory function to the stakeholders.

"I am very grateful to God Almighty for making it possible for me to emerge as General Secretary of NANS 'Zone B'. Given the nature of the election and the States involved, I travelled across the different States that make up the zone to consult various stakeholders and canvass for votes. It wasn't easy, but at the end, I give God the glory for my success at the polls. I also wish to thank the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Igbo Joe, Professor Ken Anugweje, Chief Security Officer, Lt. Col. Reginald Isiguzo (rtd), Dean of Student Affairs, Dr. Otu Ekpenyong and Dr. Sylvester Udeorah for their support that came in various forms," he said.

"We will be expected to give reports and our opinions at meetings and this is a practice that I am used to as a former Student Union President. I will use this rare opportunity to promote the interest of the students of the University of Port Harcourt and other students in the zone," Nwizua disclosed, adding that he would work with Student Union leaders in the zone to achieve the collective aspirations of Nigerian students.



Nwizua

TRCN Induction

The Teachers' Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN) inducted 758 newly UniPort-trained teachers into the profession on Monday, December 14, 2015. Our Cameraman, MITCHELL EKIYOR-EBI captured highlights of the event:



L-R: DV-C (Admin), Prof Anthony Ibe, presenting UniPort Souvenir to Director of Operations of the Council, Mallam Ibrahim Roni



Prof Ibe presenting UniPort Souvenir to Coordinator of TRCN, Rivers State, Dr. Felix Nwabochi



Prof Ibe presenting UniPort Souvenir to Head, Professional Regulation Division, TRCN Headquarters, Okunola Abimbola



DV-C (Admin) receiving TRCN publications from Mallam Roni



Dean Faculty of Education, Prof Lawrence Igwe speaking during a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor



A cross-section of Principal Officers, Senior Academics from Faculty of Education and TRCN Team



DV-C (Admin) welcoming guests to the event on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Ndowa Late



Mallam Roni administering Oath on the Inductees on behalf of TRCN Registrar and Chief Executive, Prof Addison Wokocha



Prof Ebi Bio Awotua-Efebo delivering the Induction Lecture



A cross-section of the Inductees taking the Teachers' Oath of Allegiance