

# UniPort Weekly

Vol. 27, Edition 273 April 18-April 25, 2016

For Information and Enlightenment

ISSN:1522-2228

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

## Mgt, Parents' Forum Brainstorm On Students' Protest

Following the violent protest by students which culminated in the loss of a student and closure of the University for one month by Senate of the University, last Monday, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, convened an emergency meeting of the University of Port Harcourt Parents' Forum to brief its members on the build-up to the protest. He is expected to brief the Governing Council of the University on the protest today, *reports Otkor Samuel*

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## Side Bar SENATE MEETING

419th Extraordinary Meeting of the Senate holds on Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Details next week  
~Editor

## UniPort Restates Commitment To Students' Welfare

By Obinna Nwodin

Following last Monday's violent protest by students of the University which resulted in the death of a final year student of the Department of Accounting in the Faculty of Management Sciences, Mr. Peter Ofurum, the authorities of the Institution have restated their commitment to the security and welfare of all students of the University. Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, gave the assurance in separate meetings with a delegation of the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), as well as the Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of administration, Rivers State Command, Mr. Mobolaji Odesanya, who was in the University to assess the extent of damages done to University property. Professor Lale, who deeply regretted

the death of the student, condemned the violent nature of the protest by the students, who were joined by hoodlums and sundry criminal elements to unleash mayhem on Campus. He said that the administration had the interest of students at heart and was desirous of doing the right thing at all times, adding that Management had explored all mechanisms of dialogue aimed at persuading the students to comply with the directive of Senate on the "no payment of charges, no examination" policy to no avail.

According to him, payment of approved charges is a condition for registration and being declared bona fide students of any University. Senate had decided that payment and registration should be completed within six weeks of resumption which first elapsed on February 12, 2016. Based on passionate appeals from the University of Port Harcourt Parents' Forum (UPHPF) and

other stakeholders, the deadline was further extended by four weeks which expired on March 11, 2016, further disclosing that the day was declared lecture-free to enable students take advantage of the window of opportunity to do the needful that should have averted the crisis.

He regretted that the students did not substantially comply with the directive as was expected by Management of the University. "Even as a Management, we further extended the deadline to 31st March and later 7th April, 2016. By midnight on Friday, we observed that over 90% had complied, and we decided that the portal should be finally shut down in compliance with the directive of Senate on the new policy and also to allow Management time to plan for the examination scheduled for April 11.

Professor Lale, who said that the authorities had an open door policy with a listening ear, stressed that Management, had

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# CEREMAD, Centre Directors Chart New Research Direction

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

**A**s a way of ensuring that Institutes and Centres achieved the goals and objectives for which they were set up, the Centre for Research Management and Development (CEREMAD) organized a consultative forum between the Vice-Chancellor and Directors at the Senate Chambers, University Park on Thursday, April 7, 2016.

Declaring the meeting open, representative of the Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic matters, Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, described Centres and Institutes as specialized academic units established to drive quality research as part of the core mandate of the University.

"This important meeting seeks to evaluate the capacity of Centres and Institutes to promote academic excellence and specialized research aimed at solving societal problems," Professor Fawehinmi told the gathering, expressing hope that the meeting would result in useful intellectual deliberations that would benefit the University and the researchers themselves. Giving an overview of the administrative guidelines on Centres and Institutes, Director of CEREMAD, Professor Alice Nte, noted that they were designed to serve as focal points for collaborative scholarly activities, intellectual innovation, interactions with industry and research



Vice-Chancellor Prof. Fawehinmi (arrowed) and Directors of Centres and Institutes

sponsors, aimed at enhancing the University's competitiveness in sourcing research grants.

She restated the need for Centres and Institutes to strengthen their operations in line with the vision of the Professor Ndowa 1ale-led administration, further listing the need for them to streamline administrative processes, bridge communication gaps, define funding mechanisms, create profiles that would make them visible and update their activities on an annual basis, as some of the strategies needed to create synergy amongst the Centres and Institutes for enhanced performance. "There is also the need for Centres to review their mission, vision and objectives to strengthen their

individual and collective capacities to deliver on their core mandate of high impact research and attracting research grants," she stated, stressing the need to discourage duplication of efforts.

Highpoints of the meeting included presentations on the relationship between the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) and the Centres and Institutes by the Dean of SGS, Professor Regina Ogali, summary of the report of the visits to Centres and Institutes as presented by Assistant Director of CEREMAD, Dr. Olufemi Adesope and sharing of experiences by Directors of the various Centres and Institutes for enhanced productivity.

# Before Students Went On Rampage

By Humphrey Ogu

**M**onday, April 11, 2016 is one day that will not be forgotten in a hurry by the Management, Staff and Students of the University of Port Harcourt. In the early hours of that fateful day, students went on a rampage to protest the "no payment of charges, no examination" policy, which is a decision of the Senate of the University. While the protest lasted, vehicular and human movements along the busy East/West highway were brought to a total stand still. Innocent road users were compelled to walk some kilometres to their destinations, irrespective of their health conditions or nature of appointments.

Quite regrettably, the demonstration culminated in the loss of a Final Year Student of the Department of Accounting and President of the Faculty of Management Sciences Students' Association, Peter Ofurum, who was gunned down at the East/West Road. What many people did not know was that besides losing one of its dear students, the University also lost property worth millions of naira to the

protesting students. No thanks to the rampaging students and professional trouble-makers who joined them to vandalise glass doors and windows, air conditioners, official and private vehicles, among others items.

To the uninformed, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa 1ale, unilaterally introduced a policy that made it mandatory for students to pay their fees before they could be admitted into examination halls. The fact remains that on Friday, April 8, 2016, the Vice-Chancellor met with Provost of College of Health, Deans of Faculty and Heads of Department at the Senate Chambers, where the final decision on the policy was sealed. The violent demonstration erupted less than 72 hours after the stakeholders' meeting.

The Vice-Chancellor, who charged the Deans to do everything they could to ensure that defect results were submitted to enable the University reflect the names of successful graduands on the Convocation Brochure, said: "We are very mindful that the Convocation will come up on June 10 and 11, 2016 and we need to turn in all outstanding defect results to avoid an embarrassing situation where some

names of genuine graduands were omitted from the final graduation list. We want to ensure that to be recognised as *bona fide* members of the University, students should pay all approved charges and register their courses." This is standard practice anywhere in the world that should not generate the type of violent reaction that led to loss of life and closure of the University.

Contrary to rumours making the rounds, the "no-fee, no examinations" policy was not introduced by the current Vice-Chancellor; it was the position of the University Senate which has been in existence before the current academic session. The University Management was unanimous on its implementation and it was agreed at that meeting that after several deadlines have been missed, defaulting students should face the consequences of their action—not being allowed to write examinations.

Following a proposal made by Acting Director of the Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit, Dr. Ikechukwu Abagwa, the Vice-Chancellor reminded the gathering that Senate had agreed that course evaluation forms be administered to students for purposes of evaluating their lecturers to ensure quality service delivery in the University.

Managements' stand on no sales of books or hand-outs to students by Lecturers was also revisited and reaffirmed with a standing resolution to levy appropriate sanctions against defaulting Lecturers.

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The meeting in progress

# Parents' Forum Brainstorms On Students' Protest

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In his opening remarks which commenced with a minute's silence in honour of the slain student, Mr. Peter Ofurum, Professor Lale, who had a lively interactive session with the parents at the Ebitimi Banjo Auditorium last Friday, explained the circumstances that surrounded the death of the students and the measures taken to sensitize the students about Management's resolve to enforce the "no payment of charges, no examination" policy as directed by Senate of the University.

"The University is in a mourning mood due to the avoidable death of Peter Ofurum, a Third Year Student of the Department of Accounting in the Faculty of Management Sciences. I do sincerely sympathize with the parents of the deceased and students of the University of Port Harcourt. When we met on 16<sup>th</sup> September last year to inaugurate the Parents' Forum, it was the story of my son who was kidnapped; today, it is the story of a student killed during the violent protest orchestrated by some not so faceless elements that are determined to pull me down in pursuit of their unstated pecuniary interest," the Vice-Chancellor told the Parents in his opening remarks.

Professor Lale further clarified the misrepresentation of facts by the students and some uniformed persons to the effect that the protest was premised on a "hike in fee" by his administration, stating that his nine-month old administration neither increased charges payable by students nor contemplated doing so, as according to him, the benchmark for payment of existing charges was set by the Federal Government for all federal universities.

The Vice-Chancellor explained that the practice in the University system all over the world is that students

must pay fees or charges and register their courses at the beginning of each new semester to enable the authorities plan for examinations and provision of municipal services, regarding that students in the University of Port Harcourt had cultivated the untenable habit of obtaining degrees without paying approved charges until their final year, when most of them devised every devious scheme to circumvent payment of approved charges.

The Vice-Chancellor, who recalled recent violent incidents among students residing outside the University, disclosed that two of them were murdered in the last two weeks, while the other scenario was the case of students, who were suspected of involvement in the killing of a Police Officer with the intention of taking possession of his service weapon.

The Vice-Chancellor disclosed that the sensitisation exercise for students started in November, 2015, when they were told to pay their charges and register courses for the new session, stressing that the first deadline for the payment was February 12, 2016. He regretted that the deadline passed off with very few students complying with the decision of Senate.

"The next deadline was fixed for March 11, 2016. That deadline also passed with very unimpressive compliance rate. This second extension was significant because it was declared a "Lecture-Free Day" to enable all students who did not meet the two previous deadlines to comply. Yet, many of the students refused to take advantage of the window of opportunity that was understandably opposed by many members of Senate and Management."

"On the intervention of the University of Port Harcourt Parents' Forum (UPHPF), which I initiated on assumption of office, we rescheduled the payment portal on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2016, to give a final opportunity to those students, who were yet to comply to do so. The portal was finally shut down on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 for the examinations that were scheduled for Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> April,

2016," the Vice-Chancellor said, disclosing that over 90 per cent of the students had complied with the policy before the portal was finally shut down.

Professor Lale, who regretted the violent protest last Monday, reported that he had no powers over security issues outside the Campus, lamenting the resort to the East-West Road as venue for the protest that turned fatal. Making further clarifications on the profile of the slain student, the Vice-Chancellor, who confirmed that he was a Final Year Student of the University, said from available record on him, Ofurum had paid his first year charges and made a CGPA of 3.20, 2.77 in the second year and 2.75 in the third year without paying charges for the current session, a reason that may have motivated him to play a frontline role in the protest.

Reacting to the incident, Chairman of the Parents' Forum, Dr. Tony Chukwu, who also regretted the incident which he said was avoidable, urged all stakeholders to note their shortcomings in order to avert similar occurrences in future, maintaining that the Forum fully engaged the students with the stated aim of saving off the protest.

In his contribution, the Uge Nwe Ali Choba, Eze Raymond Okocha, who urged parents to be directly involved in what their children do on Campus, regretted that some students shy away from their primary responsibility of coming to University which is to learn. The royal father noted that there is no University in and outside Nigeria where students schooled free of charge, and without following the rules.

Eze Okocha pledged the commitment of Choba people towards the continued peace and growth of the University, appealing to parents to make provision for their children's education and also monitor them to ensure that they pay their charges to avert similar crises in future.

## Registrar Interacts With Faculty Staff on Enhanced Productivity

By Mercy Adeniji

Barely three months into her appointment as Registrar of the University, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, has kick-started efforts aimed at fulfilling her vision of taking the University to greater heights with visits to Faculty staff.

Speaking during her maiden meeting with the Administrative and Technical Staff of the various Faculties, Departments and Units on Tuesday, April 5 to Wednesday, 6 April, 2016, Mrs. Otto disclosed that she had earlier planned to embark on the visit, but had to put the exercise on hold due to the strike action embarked upon by the national body of the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities, (SANU).

"These important interactions were designed to bring all of you in line with my vision of how the various Faculties should function to achieve the stated aim of moving the University forward," the Registrar told them.

Mrs. Otto disclosed that in line with the vision of the University which is to be ranked amongst the best universities in Africa, renowned for its teaching, research, creativity and innovation, adding: "It is

important for us as staff to know that everyone of us shares in this vision because we have just one product which is the graduates we train. We need to re-evaluate how we do things to bring them in line with global best practice, including how we relate to other stakeholders in the affairs of the University. The rules and regulations are written in the University laws and our Conditions of Service, including our schedule of duties. At our various levels as staff, we have an obligation to ensure that our duty schedules are carried out in a satisfactory manner.

"For instance, staff must not engage in or take up membership of secret cult groups; they must not divulge official secrets or misappropriate approved expenditure meant for the procurement of goods and services. Staff must also not use official hours for private businesses or engage in such practices as trading during official hours or enrolling into full-time studies. They must also not use unauthorized persons to perform official duties or be absent from their duty posts without first obtaining official approval, including proceeding on sick leave without first getting their applications authenticated by the University's Health Centre. We must respect and maintain the established order of hierarchy in administration, while other unacceptable conduct

should be shunned by staff forthwith," the Registrar told the staff.

She further stressed the need for staff to obey the laws and regulations of the University by imbibing the virtues of honesty, fairness, integrity and practising Total Quality Management (TQM), in all activities. They were also advised to show respect for the statutory rights of other staff and students, adhere strictly to official resumption hours, closing time and dress decently, urging them not to do anything that would tarnish the image of the University. She also advised them to willingly accept posting and additional responsibilities, as well as cooperate with other staff to achieve set goals, promising to sustain the visit for on-the-spot assessment of developments in the Faculties.

Earlier in their separate speeches during the interactions, Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Christie Mato, Dean of the Faculty of Sciences, Professor Nnamdi Frank-Peterside, Dean of the School of Science Laboratory Technology, Professor Grace Asiwu-Waada and Dean of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Professor Kio Abo, commended the Registrar for initiating the novel idea meeting her staff on their duty post.

Speaking separately when the Registrar called on them, the Provost and Deans described the Faculty visits as the first time a sitting Registrar was making such a move, expressing gratitude for the initiative, which she was asked to sustain. They also urged the Registrar to take the points they had articulated to the Management to empower them for enhanced service delivery.

Also on the Registrar's entourage were the Director of Academic Affairs, Dr. Agatha Atagu, Senior Professional Administrators and Technologists (SPATS), Mr. Job Bogbara and Personnel Officer, Mr. Promise Simon.



Registrar, Mrs. Otto (arrowed), flanked by Provost, CHS, Prof. Mato (5th left) and other Senior Officers during the visit to the College

**Gory Scenes Of Students' Protest**

**I**n the early hours of Monday, April 11, 2016, students of the University of Port Harcourt took to the streets to protest against Management's enforcement of the "No Fee, No Examination" directive, which is a decision of the Senate of the University. The protest which started very early in the morning, resulted in the unbridled vandalism of property and threat to lives on the three Parks.

The rampaging students, who were later joined by hoodlums and other street urchins, also occupied a large section of the busy East/West Road, where they disrupted vehicular movement for the whole day. The hoodlums who mixed with the protesting students looted public and private property and particularly unleashed unspeakable mayhem on

University property.

Deputy Commissioner of Police from the Rivers State Command, Mobolaji Odesanya, led a team of security agents and top functionaries to assess the extent of destruction done by the rampaging gangs, who apparently hijacked what the students may have planned as a "peaceful protest." *UniPort Weekly* joined the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, the Police hierarchy and other visiting Journalists on an on-the-spot assessment of the widespread destruction that did not spare residential areas. Our eagle-eyed Cameraman, HEADMAN ALU, captured some of the gory scenes of the indescribable mayhem, which we now present to our esteemed readers:

*Continued on back page*



*Old Senate Building, Delta State*



*Faculty of Agriculture Building, Uniport*



*Faculty of Social Science, Uniport*



*Burnt Motorcycle*



*Damaged cars in Delta Park*



*Works and Services Dept. Vehicle*



*A building in Delta State*



*Abord Security Vehicle in Delta Park*



*Uniport Co-operative Vehicle in Delta Park*



*UniPort Co-operative Vehicle in Delta Park*



*CMD, UPTH Official residence, Delta Park*



*CMD, UPTH Official residence, Delta Park*



*ECOBANK ATM in Delta Park*



*Section of Senate Building*



*Exams and Records Office, Senate Building*



*Department of Music*



*More gory scenes of the destruction*



*Animal and Environmental Biology Building*



*Overturned vehicle at CMD's premises, Delta Park*



*Other overturned vehicle*



*Juhel Filling Station pump*



*Vandalised car*



*University Advancement Centre*



*UniPort Water Bottling Company van*



## UniPort Restates Commitment To Students' Security, Welfare

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always treated the students with utmost care and respect. He noted that "as we expect any responsible administration to do, when this issue came up, we negotiated with the students in order to forestall any form of protest. In the course of the consultations, it became quite obvious that the students were bent on boycotting the examinations and going ahead with the protest that finally resulted in widespread destruction of University property on an unprecedented scale."

Earlier in his address, leader of the delegation and National Vice-President of NANS, Mr. Ufuoma Erharharin, said that they were in the University to ascertain the true situation on Campus, regretting the loss of a student in the fracas. He said that when the Student Union sent a distress call to notify NANS of the crisis, disclosing that the Association had advised continued dialogue as the best solution to the matter.

"We regret the loss of life and believe that the Police should have handled the matter with more maturity and diplomacy to avert casualty. We also regret that the students did not heed our plea for them to suspend the impending protest until our arrival to meet with all stakeholders," the NANS Vice-President said, urging the University to take appropriate action to fish out the Police officer who pulled the trigger and



V-C Prof Lale exchanging views with DCP Odesanya and his team

punish him accordingly as a deterrent to other trigger-happy cops.

Also reacting to the incident, National President of the University of Port Harcourt Alumni Association, Engineer Samson Ngebarara, who frowned at the violent nature of the protest, said that the destruction done on facilities on Campus were regrettable as they were meant for the students. "I am very disturbed by the massive destruction of property by our students, who should be protesting peacefully and protecting their own property. I also wish to condemn in very strong terms, the killing of a student of the

University by the Police. There is no excuse for the unnecessary waste of life and I hope that the Police authorities will do the right thing to assuage the anger of the students," the National President said.

In a related development, DCP Odesanya, who said he was in the University to assess the security situation in the post-crisis period, stated that he was satisfied with the situation report by the Vice-Chancellor and other Principal Officers of the University. He added that the Police hierarchy was already investigating the death of Mr. Ofurum.

## V-C Inaugurates CDRMDS Governing Board, Charges Members On Results

By Otiok Samuel

**A** Governing Board has been inaugurated to provide technical, professional and administrative support to the Centre for Disaster Risk Management and Development Studies, which was established barely five years ago as a collaborative project between the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the University of Port Harcourt aimed at checking natural and anthropogenic disasters in the country. Inaugurating the Board on Wednesday, April 6, 2016, at the Governing Council Chambers inside the Senate Building, University Park, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, who congratulated both the internal and external members of the Board for accepting to serve the University, also expressed gratitude to NEMA for sitting the South-South zone of the Centre in the University.

The Vice-Chancellor described the location of the Centre in the Niger Delta areas of the country which are prone to natural disasters such as flood as a strategic move, adding that the Centre was primarily charged with responsibility to train requisite manpower, embark on high impact research and provide baseline information that would tackle possible outbreak of natural disasters that are peculiar to the Niger Delta area which is prone to natural and man-made disasters.

Professor Lale, who expressed satisfaction with the achievements recorded by the Centre so far, stated that: "The Centre was established primarily to build local capacity to manage disaster risks and assist NEMA to develop research and training programmes to cover the broad spectrum of activities in the disaster risk management cycle amongst other core mandates. I am very

grateful that in this short time, the Centre has done a lot of work, especially with the number of graduates it has produced out. The Centre has done well over the years and that is why we need to encourage it to do better in the coming years."

He expressed optimism with the capacity of the pioneer members of the Board to assist the Centre to fully realise its potentials, adding that the best way to go now was to partner industry players and professional bodies for cross-fertilization of ideas and financial support that would empower the Centre to train students who are better equipped on both the practical and theoretical skills they would require in managing disasters when they occur.

In his address, Acting Director of the Centre, Dr. Prince Mmom, who decried the increasing cases of natural and human-induced hazards with the concomitant loss of lives and property, stressed the need for all relevant stakeholders to join the Centre to maintain a disaster-resilient society for the continuous survival of the human race, particularly in the Niger Delta.

"The Centre was established consequent upon a Memorandum of Understanding signed on November 12, 2009, between the NEMA and the University of Port Harcourt. The Senate of the University of Port Harcourt subsequently approved the Centre and programme of study on April 29, 2010. The mandate of the Centre, among others, included the following: to provide a professional Centre for postgraduate studies in Disaster Risk Management and Development Studies; assist NEMA in training and research in the areas of Disaster Risk Management and Development Studies; establish baseline information for Disaster Risk Management and Development Studies and work with NEMA to develop

research and training programmes to cover the broad spectrum of activities in Disaster Risk Management Cycle," the Acting Director said at the inauguration ceremony.

Dr. Mmom further disclosed that the philosophy underlying the establishment of the Centre was to bridge the yawning gap between theory and practice through training in disaster risk management and development studies, disclosing that: "The vision of CDRMDS is to become a Centre of Excellence and an international hub for mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management Ethics into sustainable development efforts in Africa."

He disclosed that the Centre has so far graduated 125 students in the Master of Science degree category, secured approval of Senate of the University to run the Doctorate degree programme in Disaster Risk Management and Development Studies, coordinated the Post-Flood Disaster Needs Assessment Data Acquisition of the United Nations Development Programme for the South-South geopolitical zone in 2012, acquired and installed a fully automated weather monitoring recording station for teaching and research and other monitoring equipment for flood research. The Centre has also funded five research project proposals at the cost of N7.8million, commissioned vulnerability study and mapping of coastal communities to sea level rise in the South-South, amongst other achievements.

In his acceptance speech, pioneer Chairman of the Governing Board, Sir Henry Warda, who pledged the commitment of members to the accelerated growth of the Centre, made separate cash donations on behalf of himself and another member of the Board totalling N6 million, promising to address some of the immediate challenges raised by the Acting Director in his address.

"The Board will look into the critical issue of Information Technology which is the way to go in the modern world. We will also look into issues of addressing the infrastructural challenge and the academic content of the Centre. We will go beyond our limit to support the Centre to make it self-sustaining through consultancy services and other relevant activities," the Board Chairman added.

Goodwill messages were also presented by Mr. Patrick Efulama, who represented the Director General of NEMA, Muhammad Sani, and some members of the Board. The Board members are: Chief Okey Okah, Capt. Matthew Karim, Barrister Monday Oyeorosa, Professor Regina Okah, Okey Onuchuka, Henry Ampliki and John Ikimalo, while Acting Director of the Centre, Dr. Mmom is to serve as Secretary to the Board.



V-C Prof Lale (middle), flanked by Chairman of the Board, Sir Warda, Ag. Director, Dr. Mmom, Prof. Ozi, rep. of NEMA, Mr. Efulama (left) and other members of the Board

## UniPort Mgt Pledges Support For Proposed Building Dept

By Mercy Adeniji

Authorities of the University of Port Harcourt have pledged total support for the proposed Department of Building in the Institution. The pledge of support came on the heels of a follow-up visit by a high-powered delegation from the Nigerian Institute of Building (NIOB) that made an additional case for the establishment of the new Department.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) Professor Anthony Ike, who represented the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale at the occasion, gave the assurance when he received the NIOB delegation at the Committee Room on Friday, April 8, 2016. Professor Ike commended the body for stridently pushing for the establishment of such an important Department in the University, given the increasing rate at which buildings collapsed in the country—especially in the South-South region. "It is our desire to mount this programme as quickly as we can, but I must also let you know that the University is under the control of the Federal Government which funds and regulates our activities on such a matter. We are at liberty to commence new programmes, but our worry is that we can neither admit our graduate students until the proposed Department is duly verified and accredited by the National Universities Commission (NUC), which is our apex academic regulatory body. We ought to have basic facilities and a befitting building to house the new Department, before we can admit students" he said.

"As you can see, we don't have that freedom to totally determine when the new Department can commence academic activities. Let me, however, reassure you on behalf of the Management of the University that we are very eager to mount this programme, but as an Engineer myself, I would like to take special interest in ensuring that the University consults the Head of Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering to further explore every angle about this important proposal by such a serious-minded organisation like NIOB", he told the visiting delegation.

He urged the delegation to go back to the drawing board by forwarding a formal letter detailing the operational structure of the proposed Department to the Faculty of Engineering for consideration and onward transmission to the relevant organs of the Senate of the University that are responsible for initiating new academic programmes.

In his contribution, leader of the team and Rivers State Chapter Chairman of NIOB, Mr. Moses Ughoche said: "We are proud to be associated with the University of Port Harcourt following its recent rating as the best university in the country in research output. As Management may recall, this visit is a follow-up to an earlier one we made to the immediate past Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajekwa, on the need to establish a Department of Building in this University and subsequent submission of all relevant

documents that may be required for resource verification and accreditation by the NUC as required by law.

"We wish to restate our utmost willingness to partner the University for the smooth take-off of the new Department from inception, right up to when it would be fully accredited by the NUC. We plead with you for the prompt establishment of the Department with sufficient quality staff, giving preference to registered builders. We believe that such a move would facilitate the accreditation process," the Chapter Chairman assured the University Management.

Giving a brief history of building as a course of study in Nigeria, Mr. Ughoche said: "Nigerians have been travelling overseas to study Building Technology and have been members of the overseas professional body for a long time. The concerted effort of our founding fathers gave birth to what is known today as the Nigerian Institute of Builders," disclosing that the Federal Government granted statutory recognition to the Nigerian Institute of Building in 1989 by signing into law the Builders' Registration Act, CAP13, LFN 2004, which chartered the body as a profession.

The Chairman disclosed that the objectives of the Institute included promotion of the science and practice of building technology, maintenance, surveying, production, construction and project management, including publication of associated research for the benefit of its members and the general public. The Institute also seeks to establish and maintain a high professional standard of competence and ethical conduct of those engaged in the science, practice, education and research aimed at promoting the activities of the building profession in Nigeria. The body also seeks to promote and stimulate technical and general knowledge of persons engaged in or training to join the building profession and to also make relevant information available on matters concerning the profession.

Other members of the delegation included the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Akinola Bammeke, Secretary, Mr. Adetola Sikiru, Assistant Secretary, Eunomus Linda, Treasurer, Mr. S. Tobin, Welfare Officer, Mr. Brendan Eshio, Ex-Officio, Mr. Basil Alob and Financial Secretary, Mr. Hillary Ukwad. Also present were the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otieno and Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Aliezi.



DVC (Admin) Prof. Ike, farrowed, addressing members of Nigerian Institute of Building, (in the right) while Principal Officers (left) watch

## Mgt Meets NANS On Senate Payment Policy

By Obinna Nwodin

### As Suspended Students Table Demands

In an effort to speedily resolve the issues that resulted in the violent protest by students last Monday, the authorities of the University met the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), as well as other stakeholders at the Governing Council Chambers, last Wednesday, where NANS made the position of students of the University known to Management.

Presenting the students' demands, Vice-President of NANS, Mr. Victor Erharhine, stated that the parties arrived at their joint position after extensive deliberations and consultations on the contentious issues, adding that the students demanded the immediate removal of the Acting Dean of the Student Affairs Department, Dr. Otu Ekpeyong, the Deputy Registrar (Information), Williams Wodi and the Chief Security Officer, Lt. Col. Reginald Isiguro (rtd), as well as immediate abolition of the contentious "No Fees, No Examinations" policy as directed by Senate of the University.

Other demands made by the students were the reversal of the suspension of the newly-elected Students' Union Executive, immediate investigation of the circumstances that led to the death of Mr. Peter Ofurum and bringing the perpetrators to book, including addressing the issue of Peculiar and Non-Peculiar charges that obtained in the various Faculties. They also urged the authorities not to impose charges on the students on resumption of academic activities, appealing to Management to liaise with security agencies to effect immediate release of students in police custody. UniPort Weekly has since learnt that the detained students had already been freed as at the time of going to press. The joint communiqué also demanded the immediate setting up of a Panel of Enquiry that would consist of Students, Management and Security agencies to look into the immediate and remote causes of



the protest and make recommendations to avert future occurrences.

Also speaking, NANS Stakeholder, Mr. Victory Ogolo, called for regular dialogue between Management and the students to resolve the issues that gave rise to the violent protest, maintaining that hoodlums and miscreants always took advantage of such protests, not only to wreak havoc, but also to loot property and endanger lives. He appealed to the authorities to treat the issues that led to the protest as parents would treat issues concerning their children. Earlier, NANS National Public Relations Officer, Mr. Ezekiel Nwankwo, said that the national body was ready to do all that was within its powers to ensure that all contentious issues were amicably resolved to the satisfaction of all parties in the dispute.

Responding to the students' demands, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ike, who represented the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, noted that the administration had always maintained an open door policy with enough

room for dialogue on all contentious issues. He assured NANS and students of the University that the issues raised would be looked into with a view to reaching a common ground that would satisfy all interest groups.

"As parents and teachers, it is not our intention to inflict hardship on our students, some of whom may occupy very important positions tomorrow. The current situation would have been averted if the students had remained peaceful in their protest and confined themselves to the Campus, rather than the violence that spiralled out of control on the East/West Road which is outside our jurisdiction," he said.

Also present at the meeting were zonal officers, former Students' Union Presidents, NANS Stakeholders, including representatives of Niger Delta Students' Union and the National Union of Rivers State Students (NURSS).

### MORE GORY SCENES FROM THE "PEACEFUL PROTEST"

continued from pages 4 & 5

Behold, more gory scenes of the destructive trail of irate students and their hoodlums who took over the entire University on Monday, April 11, 2016. It was a day to remember. You are looking at the scenes of "peaceful protest", UniPort Students style. Pictures by our Camera-man, **Headman Alu**.



V-L, Prof Lado (in white short shorts), DCP Okoye, other members of his entourage about to proceed on assessment of damaged facilities



Newly Constructed Department of Animal and Environmental Biology Building



Damaged canopies at the ICTC building



Toyota Highlander belonging to Director Council Affairs Mr. Rowland Wabali



Uniport Foundation Office



Security Building Damaged and Burnt



ICTC Building with 100 Laptops Looted



Admissions Office in Delta Park



Vandalised cars and buildings



SSANU Development



Vandalised buildings



over-turned car



Another vandalised car