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V-C Warns Staff Against Absenteeism From Work

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, has warned staff of the University against absenting themselves from work on the excuse that students are not currently on Campus, stating that the University was only shut against students, and not staff who are expected to be present on their duty posts on normal working days,

reports Otokor Samuel

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Side Bar 131ST INAUGURAL LECTURE

Professor Joyce Akaninwor of the Department of Biochemistry delivers the 131st Inaugural Lecture this Thursday

Details next week.
~Editor

Council Panel On Students' Protest Begins Sitting ...Calls For Memoranda, As Public Hearing Starts May 2

By Otokor Samuel and Williams Wodi

The Governing Council of the University has inaugurated a Seven-member Panel to investigate the violent students' protest that took place on Monday, April 11, 2016 that resulted in loss of life and widespread damage to property. The institution of the Panel was a major highlight of the Interim Resolutions passed by Council at its 156th Extraordinary Meeting which held last Monday and Tuesday at the Governing Council Chambers, inside the Senate Building, University Park.

The Panel, which is headed by an External Member of Council and legal practitioner, Barrister Okechukwu Ajunwa, has nine terms of reference aimed at investigating the immediate and remote causes of the students' unrest that led to the death of Mr. Peter Ofurum, a Fourth Year Student of the Department of Accounting in the Faculty of Management Sciences and widespread destruction of public and private property.

The Panel which has already swung into action is also empowered to look into Students' Union activities that led to the

violent protest; receive memoranda from all interested stakeholders and determine the veracity of claims and counter-claims by the various actors and interact with as many witnesses as possible, and also ensure fair hearing by meeting with, and listening to all relevant stakeholders.

Other terms of reference include: To investigate the registration processes adopted by Management of the University of Port Harcourt; evaluate the extent and cost of physical property destroyed by the protesters; recommend appropriate penalties where necessary

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419th (Extraordinary) Senate

Senate To Reopen Portal For Two Weeks, Takes Steps To Avert Future Protests

By Obinna Nwodin

In a bid to forestall the kind of casualties that characterized the violent demonstration by students on April 11, 2016, which resulted in the death of a Final Year Student in the Faculty of Management Sciences, Mr. Peter Chibuzor Ofurum, Senate has empowered the Vice-Chancellor to shut down the University in the event of situations that may result in violence and later convene an Emergency Meeting of the august body at the earliest possible date to ratify such a decision.

Senate also approved that the contentious Registration Portal be reopened for two weeks to enable students who missed the four earlier deadlines to finally pay the approved charges and register their courses, preparatory to writing the suspended examinations when the University resumes.

This decision was taken at the 419th (Extraordinary) Meeting of the apex academic policy-making body held at the Senate Chambers, last Wednesday. Professor Lale, who presided over the Meeting, had presented Management's position on the issue, which Senate approved with some amendments. He said that Management had met with the Branch Managers of banks on Campus to ensure that the students did not encounter difficulties in paying their charges in future.

Senate also approved that students be made to sign an undertaking of good behaviour on their

surcharge on late charges by defaulting students. After much deliberation on the presentation, Senate decided that with the abolition of the surcharge, students were required to pay

their charges and register courses within six weeks of resumption. It was also agreed that failure to comply with the new conditions would result in defaulting students not being eligible to write the examinations. According to him, Management began to sensitize all stakeholders on the new development with Provost and Deans, Heads of Department, parents and the students themselves, adding that at the expiration of the six-week deadline, there was no substantial compliance to the directive.

He further stated that on the intervention of the University of Port Harcourt Parents' Forum, the authorities extended the deadline by four weeks, which elapsed on Thursday, March 10, 2016. On Friday, March 11, 2016, Management had to declare that day "lecture-free" to enable students comply with Senate directive, regretting that the response was still poor. Management in a bid to accommodate the students further extended it to Wednesday, March 30, 2016; yet, the compliance level did not improve. He said that further appeals by the students through the Acting Dean of the



Chairman of Senate, Prof. Lale (2nd right), flanked by Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto (right), DV-CA, Admin, Prof. Anthony Ike and Acad. Prof. Hakeem Fawehinmi

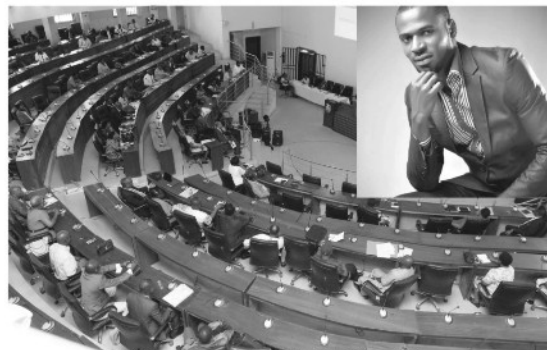
Parents' Forum, interacted with the students, addressed a Meeting of Deans and Heads of Department and informed the Police of the impending protest," the Vice-Chancellor explained, adding that the students went ahead to engage in a violent protest that destroyed public and private property, resulting in the death of one student.

"They did not spare any property on the three Parks; even the buildings we were yet to take over were damaged by the irate mob that had a free day, partly as a result of the inability of the Police to promptly respond to our distress call," he told Senate. Professor Lale said that the Governing Council had met and set up a Panel to investigate the matter with a view to ascertaining the immediate and remote causes of the protest, adding that an Interim Report had already been forwarded to the Minister of Education. The Vice-Chancellor maintained that all that Management did was to implement Senate's directive, adding that the protest could have been avoided if the students had complied with the directive. The Senate had earlier observed a Minute's Silence in honour of the late Ofurum.

Senate also took a presentation from the Students' Disciplinary Committee on Manipulation of Examination Results in the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies as presented by Acting Dean of the Student Affairs Department, Dr. Out Ekepyong. The Report was later withdrawn. Senate also decided that the presentation by the Acting Director of the College of Continuing Education, Dr. Kilipoye Aaron be sent to the College Committee on Academic Matters.

Senate also took two presentations by the Director of the Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainable Development (INRES). After much deliberation on the anti-plagiarism software presentation, it was resolved that students be advised to do the Turn-it-in-check on their own to ascertain the extent of plagiarism in their works before presenting same to the School of Graduate School (SGS).

Senate also considered and approved various categories of result as presented by the Provost and Deans. They are: Faculties of Humanities, Social Sciences, Science, Education, Engineering, Management Sciences, Agriculture, Pharmaceutical Sciences, as well as the College of Health Sciences.



419th Senate in session. Insert: Late Peter Chibuzor Ofurum

resumption to ensure that such an incident did not re-occur in future. It was also decided that students shall be required to write the First Semester examinations in batches from outside the University Campus.

Professor Lale had earlier briefed Senate on what led to the violent protest by the students, recalling that in the Senate Meeting held on Wednesday, April 8, 2015, a former Dean of Student Affairs, Professor Andrew Efemini, had made a presentation on behalf of the students, in which he proposed the abolition of the contentious 50%

Student Affairs Department, prompted Management to further extend the deadline to April 5, after which the Portal was finally shut down to enable Management plan for the examinations scheduled for Monday, April 11, 2016.

Professor Lale said that when the Portal was shut down, those students who refused to comply began to agitate, threatening to demonstrate over the development. "We did everything possible as a responsible administration would be expected to do to address the situation. We reached out to the

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Aftermath Of Students' Protest

V-C Warns Staff Against Absenteeism From Work

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He warned that Management would be compelled to invoke the necessary sanctions against staff who either absent themselves from their duty posts, engage in truancy or rumour-mongering.

Professor Lale, who handed down the warning at a well-attended 2nd Town Hall Meeting held last Wednesday at the Ebitimi Banjo Auditorium, briefed the University community on the violent protest by students which took place on Monday, April 11, 2016, resulting in the widespread destruction and looting of property worth millions of naira in and outside the University. The protest also resulted in the killing of Peter Ofurum, a Final Year Student of the Department

of Accounting in the Faculty of Management Sciences. The Vice-Chancellor assured staff that the University was now safe for them to continue with their normal work pending when the one month period of closure as directed by Senate of the University would elapse on Sunday, May 8, 2016, adding: "The three Parks of the University are safe and secure; therefore, staff must report to work every single day. We will not take it kindly with staff who absent themselves from work on the pretext of insecurity. We will let all staff know about crucial developments on Campus from time-to-time," Professor Lale told members of the Town Hall Meeting. Speaking briefly on the partial withdrawal of Management's subvention on the contributory pension scheme and temporary withdrawal of some allowances

to staff on clinical duty, Professor Lale assured them that Management had been engaging the Joint Action Committee (JAC), the Unions and some other affected staff on how to ameliorate the effects of the withdrawal. In his contribution, 5th Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, commended Professor Lale and his Management team on the way they handled the protest and managed the post-crisis environment, urging staff to rally round the authorities to effectively tackle the current challenges in the University to create a conducive atmosphere for the resumption of normal academic activities.

Other staff who made contributions, stressed the need for adequate security measures to be put in place to enable them carry out their work in a relaxed atmosphere. They also appealed to Management to devise more proactive ways of disseminating prompt and proper information to enable them make informed judgment on the burning issues of the day, as well as work out modalities for students to pay their charges at different locations outside the designated banks on Campus to reduce some of the difficulties they face in the process.

The Town Hall Meeting also acknowledged that Management made wide consultations on the "no registration, no examination" policy which was directed by Senate, urging Management to continue in the habit of consulting with relevant stakeholders on serious matters such as the one that led to the violent protest by the students.



A cross-section of staff at the Town Hall Meeting, including 5th V-C, Emeritus Prof Nimi Briggs (right)

Deploy Personnel To Facility Donated By UniPort, V-C Appeals To Police

By Obinna Nwodin

In an effort to forestall future security breaches in and around the University, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, has reiterated the need for the Rivers State Police Command to promptly deploy its personnel to an already developed facility along the Aluu Road axis which was donated by the University, adding that the move would curb rising insecurity in the area.

Professor Lale renewed the appeal when the Rivers State Police Commissioner, Mr. Musa Kimo, led a delegation of senior Police officers from the Command on a fact-finding visit to the University, last Monday.

The Vice-Chancellor, who narrated the horrendous ordeal that staff and visitors to the University had to pass through as a result of the violent students' protest that resulted in the death of a student, further explained that all that the authorities did was to comply with what was obtainable in other universities all over the world, adding that in implementing Senate directive that students who failed to register their courses should not be allowed to write examinations, "We fully engaged all stakeholders, including parents on the paradigm shift, only for the students to engage in a violent protest that resulted in the loss of life and widespread damage to public and private property on this Campus. The students missed several deadlines to pay up the charges, but they rather resorted to self-help which has not advanced their cause in any way."

Professor Lale restated that the slow response by security agencies necessitated the need for the Police hierarchy to promptly deploy its officers and men to the facility that the University procured and equipped at considerable cost, regretting that the matter has been with the Rivers State Police Command for a long time. "Given all the issues on the table now, you may reconsider your stand on the issue by directing the immediate

deployment of Police personnel to the neighbourhood to forestall a recurrence of such violent episodes in future," the Vice-Chancellor told his guest, adding that the authorities felt disappointed with the rules of engagement that delayed Police intervention in the crisis until it became too late.

Responding, Mr. Kimo, who commiserated with the authorities over the loss of the student, Mr. Peter Chibuzor Ofurum and widespread destruction of property, stated that he was on Campus to feel the pulse of staff and other visitors to the University, as well as identify where the Police can work with the authorities to improve security with a view to nipping future protests in the bud. "We are here to put proper effective measures in place to forestall further security threats to the University and its environs," the Police boss assured the Vice-Chancellor and other Principal Officers present at the meeting.

Mr. Kimo disclosed that existing laws made it impossible for the Police to move into university campuses without written invitation from Vice-Chancellors, adding that it was a major constraint on the operations of the Force. He also said that inadequate manpower made it difficult for the

Command to operationalize the Police Post developed and donated by the University, assuring the authorities that his men would do the needful to safeguard lives and property in the University and its environs at all times.

Also speaking, Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of Criminal Investigations Department, Mr. Yahaya Abubakar, stressed the need for the Association of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities (AVCNU) to partner law enforcement agencies to discuss policy frameworks that would enable security agencies to deal more effectively with security breaches on their campuses, maintaining that the Federal Government must be made aware of the constraints the Police face in handling student demonstrations, especially when they turn violent.

Other members of the entourage were: Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of Operations, Mr. Ali Mohammed; Area Commander, Port Harcourt, Mr. Patrick Ugwe; Head of Homicide, Mr. Uko Uchechukwu; Commander in charge of the Counter-Terrorism Unit, Mr. Raynon Abdullahi, as well as Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Ahmad Muhammad.



V-C, Prof Lale (arrowed) flanked by RS Police Commissioner, Mr. Kimo, Principal and top Officers of the Nigerian Police and some Senior Staff of UniPort

Stakeholders Speak

The violent protest by students on Monday, April 11, 2016 may be recorded as one of the darkest days in the history of the University of Port Harcourt. There is no doubt that it has created negative impact on the otherwise fraternal relationship that hitherto existed between staff and students. UniPort Weekly went round the Campus to capture the mood of a cross-section of the University community on the protest which resulted in the closure of the University for one month by the Senate. Here are some of the responses we got:

PROFESSOR ALPHONSUS ANUSIEM, Ex-DVC

All protests are properly planned

At the ring leaders and cultists are usually in the forefront in the organization and execution of protests. There is a



huge difference between peaceful protests and open stealing, and the two played out in the last violent protest by students of the University. Students must protest in a peaceful manner that should not result in the mindless destruction of University and private property. In my time as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), I had several levels of intelligence-gathering that kept me a step ahead of bad students. I also had another means of cross-checking my sources to ensure that nobody misinformed me. Management has a statutory duty to defuse all flashpoints before they degenerate into full crises. There is always a red line that students are not allowed to cross in the advertisement of their grievances. It is beyond negotiation that those who destroy public or private property must pay for them as may be deemed appropriate by the authorities, and as it stands, Management should deal with each student as an individual, and not on the platform of the Students' Union.

PROFESSOR BARISUA NWINEE, Finance and Banking Dept.

I feel that a lot of caution needed to be exercised by the students in their protest to ensure that innocent people are not hurt in the process. They have every right to protest, but they would not have allowed external elements to take advantage of the situation to destroy facilities on Campus. As we can all see, the level of destruction is



colossal and may not be replaced in many years to come. The authorities mobilized scarce resources from various sources to put these things in place, only to have them destroyed in just a few hours by irate students. I am wondering if the students are not regretting their action now that they have done a post-mortem of what happened. It goes to emphasize that protests must be kept peaceful at all times by students while making their grievances known to the authorities. I hope they have learnt their lessons from what happened.

DR. OFONIME NDIOHO, Curriculum Studies and EduTech

It was an unfortunate incident that should never happen again on this or any other Campus in Nigeria. That is not what we expected, unfortunately, that was what we saw. The students should not have done what they did. There is no issue in life that cannot be discussed on the table. Even those students who did not participate in the violent protest have been affected, while businesses have also suffered incalculable losses. All this should have been resolved quite amicably through continued dialogue on all sides. As things stand now, the students have gone home and we may not know what they are doing and how they are preparing to come back to face their examinations when school eventually resumes. The closure of the University will surely affect the students' level of preparations for the examinations when they come back.



DR. CELESTINA HARRY, Educational Foundations

The violent protest and subsequent closure of the University is affecting the system in the sense that while the authorities are making concerted efforts for the system to return to normalcy, rumour-mongers are taking



advantage of the situation to misinform the public on the issues. Such rumours do not augur well for the system because some gullible staff, students and even members of the general public believe them. There is a need to support the Vice-Chancellor and his Management team to help instill normalcy in the system. I am sure that by the grace of God, the situation will be over very soon. I am also sure that lessons will be learnt from what has happened and the University will come out stronger and better to continue in the discharge of its statutory mandate.

HENRIETTA NNADI, Lecturer, SSLT

I am not happy about what happened in this University. Students just want to dictate for the University on what to do. I think the "no-payment; no-examination" policy is a welcome development that we should all support. As a Result Uploading Officer in my Department, it is better for students to pay before examination to make the uploading of results easier, because the system automatically selects only the data of students that have paid their charges. What I don't understand is why students want to study and write examinations without paying anything. Now the University has been shut down, academic activities have been suspended, which may in turn, prolong the students' duration of study. It is bad that students went ahead with the protest which led to the death of one of them and closure of the institution. The destruction of property is highly condemnable, but the students are the losers in the final analysis.



MARK ROMAN, Director, Revenue Bureau

Over the years I have worked in this University, the level of destruction I witnessed is unprecedented by my assessment. I do not think it was



On Students' Protest

the students alone that were involved in the protest. It appears to me that unemployed youths and some other street urchins contributed to the mayhem, given the level of looting and destruction. How on earth can students set out to destroy facilities put in place for their own benefit? They cannot shoot themselves in the leg. In which part of the world are students allowed to study without paying and registering their courses? How can they justify the level of violence and looting that we saw on this Campus?

DAPPA GODWIN, Head Driver

My dissatisfaction is at the level of vandalism of shops and business places owned by individuals, who do not have any official relationship with the University. A lot of damages were done to businesses within the University with incalculable losses to business operators. I am pleading with the Management of the University to work out appropriate modalities to assist these individuals who lost their sources of livelihood to the protest. The funny thing is that the businesses they destroyed serve the same students' interest and it was childish for them to have done what they did.



IDONGESIT IKPEWE, Doctoral Candidate, AEB

It is common knowledge that no University can operate without funds which makes it mandatory for students to pay their charges, even though we know that the present economic situation in the country is tough. That to me, should have given room to a form of negotiation, and maybe something like 'no payment of charges, no result', rather than 'no payment of charges, no examination' should have served the purpose. We would have probably avoided the violent protest, which should have led to a win-win situation on all sides. As it is now, the little money generated by the University will be wasted in managing the post-crisis period. I condemn the way the protest went and I believe that it was hijacked by non-students. Also, the closure of the University is affecting everybody and everything, including traders and other business operators on Campus. I implore Management to expedite action on how to bring students back to Campus to continue their academic activities.



HILARY OSUJI, UniPort Shuttle Driver

I was away when I was informed about the protest that resulted in the destruction of my personal vehicle alongside others. The loss of my car has greatly unsettled me, as I am not in a position to take care of it on my own. I would like Management to assist me in this regard, because I am stranded right now and with the rains here, I need to have my car repaired. I am aware that other vehicles were damaged, but I pray Management to consider me and call back the students in due course for us to continue our business. We are suffering a lot with the continued closure of the University.



PRINCE OKOCHA, Director, UniPort Shuttle

That day, we were all at Delta Park, because we were not allowed to come into the Campus premises by the students. The students had their way and destroyed many vehicles and other property in Delta Park. Some drivers were on ground to witness the destruction caused by the students, while others were not around. After they burnt the Security Post, they also burnt down shops and other the business centres. They then descended on our drivers.

As Chairman of the Park, I can confirm that our members suffered so many losses which we don't know how to remedy. We are now suffering the loss of our businesses, because the closure of the University means that we are temporarily out of business. My plea to Management is that they should please try to verify our losses and ensure that peace is restored to the Campus. We also hope that the situation would be brought under control.

NSOKEDINAM UDOH, Food Vendor

I can remember very well that all the drinks my madam bought were consumed by the students that day. They asked if we did not want to close our business and before we could answer, they drank everything in our shop. After drinking everything in sight, and then went ahead to destroy our property. They almost went away with our television set, but they changed their minds. Some of our neighbours were not left out, as they took meat from their pots and destroyed



so many other things. In spite of our losses, we are still appealing to the school authority to do everything possible so that students can come back on Campus, because their absence is killing our businesses. We are here because of them.

KELSEY MAKELE, Deputy Registrar

As an individual, I feel that the students have a right to protest like every other Union, but the method of protest distinguishes the persons involved. There is absolutely nothing wrong with the *No Fee, No Exam* policy of the University that led to the protest. There is nowhere in the world where students write examinations without paying approved charges and registering their courses, because that is what makes them *bonafide* students of any institution. The University Management policy is a good one, because that is what is attainable elsewhere. Even the Federal Government did not rule out charges because it aids in the effective running of the system. Students who have not paid their charges would be writing examinations illegally and anybody supporting that idea is wrong on all counts. Nothing is free in this country, not even university education, which everybody claims is free. As a parent, I paid charges for my children, even as a staff of the University of Port Harcourt. I should have been the first to benefit from such free service if it was available. This kind of violent protest is totally senseless. The kind of destruction that took place in the University happened spontaneously, which goes to show that the protest was properly planned and executed by the students.



MUSAMOHAMMED, Bus Driver

I am a commercial bus driver. I went to Ikoku Spare Parts Market to buy fuel pump for my vehicle on that day. When I left around 6:00am, the students had not blocked the road; they were demonstrating inside the University. So, I left my commercial bus at the Park, only to return and discover that the glasses of my vehicle have been destroyed. After burning down the Security Post at the University Park Gate, the students went into the Park and damaged vehicles and other property. Right now, I don't know what to do. The cost of fixing the vehicle will not take anything less than N64, 000 and I cannot afford that amount on my own. I am appealing to the Management of the University to come to my aid. Our business has been destroyed with the sudden closure of the University and we don't know what to do while the situation remains like this.



Council Panel Invites Memoranda

Cont'd from Page 1

and make other recommendations that may be deemed incidental to the assignment and appropriate by the Panel. The Panel is expected to submit its report within two weeks from the date of its first sitting.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Panel, Barrister Ajunwa, has called for submission of memoranda to reach the Secretary of the Panel at the Council Chambers, Senate Building, University Park on or before the close of work on Friday, April 29, 2016. "I write to request from interested members of the University community who may wish to provide useful information that will aid the Panel in its assignment. You are, therefore, requested to

forward ten (10) copies of memoranda, typed in double-line spacing and enclosed in an A4 Envelope; to be marked 'Strictly Confidential' at the top left hand corner, and addressed to: The Secretary, Panel to Investigate Crisis in the University of Port Harcourt, Council Chambers, Senate Building, University Park," read an additional statement from the Panel's Secretariat.

The Panel also invited memoranda from persons who may have evidence of other deaths or injuries resulting from the protest apart from Ofurum, adding that such cases would form part of the assignment that are incidental to the work of the Panel.

Responding to a question from the media at the

Inaugural session, the Chairman assured the University community that the Panel would not witch-hunt anybody, but would properly investigate the unfortunate event of April 11, with a view to averting future occurrence. "This Panel has no political undertone; it is a fact-finding Panel. The Governing Council appointed the current Vice-Chancellor, for instance and we did it on merit. So, whatever we are going to do will be done in an open and transparent manner that would be seen to be so by all interest groups. The Panel will recommend appropriate sanctions against anybody where it deems necessary and I wish to assure the University community and the general public that we are ready to carry out a thorough assignment that is entirely devoid of sentiment or favouritism."

Other members of the Panel are: Professors Ebi Bio Awotua-Efebo, John Otaigbe, Anthonia Okerengwo, John Enahwo (representing Senate), Owunari Georgewill and Mr. Abel Ejiohor (representing Congregation).

It would be recalled that the Governing Council at its 156th Meeting deliberated extensively on a Report presented to it by the Management and deeply regretted the death of the student. Council thereafter directed Management to pay a Condolence Visit to the family of the deceased student and participate in his burial. The highest policy-making body also ratified the decision of Senate to shut down the University for one month, amongst other decisions.



Members of the Panel, Management and Union Leaders who witnessed the inauguration

V-C Inaugurates 31st Convocation C'ttee, Charges Members On Prudent Resource Mgt

By Humphrey Ogu

Preparatory to the 31st Convocation Ceremony commencing on Monday, 6th and climaxing on Saturday, June 11, 2016, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Ale, has inaugurated a Committee to plan, implement and account for all programmes leading to the important University event.

Inaugurating the Committee at the Governing Council Chambers last Thursday, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Administration, Professor Anthony Ibe, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, noted that "Convocation is one of the most important events in the academic calendar of any university. Looking at the membership of the Committee, I feel convinced and confident that you are all equal to the huge task ahead of you."

"The University Management had planned to hold the 31st Convocation Ceremony on February 6, which was the date the University of Port Harcourt was founded; unfortunately, however, we were not able to honour that date this year, due to circumstances beyond our control. So, we chose to hold the Convocation in the first week of June. I acknowledge that we are starting late, which means that a lot of hard work is required from each sub-committee to pull off a memorable Convocation Ceremony that would be in line with our established tradition of organisational excellence," he said.

"As we all may be aware, our finances are dwindling by the day; so in whichever sub-committee you may find yourself, I appeal to you to endeavour to serve with due diligence and strive to save cost at every turn," the Deputy Vice-Chancellor charged the Committee members, urging them to cooperate with the Chairman, Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, to achieve the best with the lean budgetary allocation at his disposal.

In his inaugural speech, Chairman of the Committee and Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic matters, Professor Fawehinmi, told the members



Chairman, Convocation C'ttee, Prof Fawehinmi (middle front) flanked by DV-C (Admin), Prof Ibe, Registrar, Mrs Otto (left), Univ. Librarian, Dr. Umeozor and other members of the C'ttee

that "Convocation is a veritable platform for universities to showcase their products to the world. But for the unfortunate incident that took place in the University, this Committee would have been inaugurated before today. We should put in our best to ensure that the Convocation is hitch-free in line with the rising institutional profile of the University," he said.

"We all should be prepared to go to work immediately by drawing up appropriate programmes and budget estimates that would lead to a very successful Convocation Ceremony. There will be no room for error and we will be collectively held accountable by the Vice-Chancellor for the success of this very important assignment, and I wish to appeal to all of you to show uncommon commitment that would take us to the finish line in style," the Chairman told members, assuring them of full support from the administration within the limits of available resources.

Other members of the Committee include: Mrs. Faostat Sanni, representing the Registrar, Mrs. Helen Owbona-Wopara, representing the Bursar, Mr. Kingsley Wogwu, representing Vice-Chancellor's Office, Mr. Nicholas Abule, representing Director of Works and Services and Dr. Olayinka Oluasanya,

representing Acting Director of the Health Services Department.

Also on the Committee are Deputy Registrar in charge of Information, Williams Wodi, Academic Officer, Dr. Agatha Ataga, Acting Director of Academic Planning Unit, Dr. Peter Kpolovie, Chief Security Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Reginald Isigwo (rtd), Acting Director of Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit, Dr. Ibechukwu Agbagwa. Others are Chief Transport Officer, Mr. Henshaw Wali, Dr. Gladys Emenike and Dr. Sylvester Udeorah, while Mr. Bekee Igunka of the Registry Department is to serve as Secretary to the Committee.

Co-opted members of the Committee include Mr. Roland Wabali, Professors Onyee Nwankpa, Femi Shaka and Barisua Nwinea, Dr. Chikura Orluwae, Dr. Aadedapo Aiyelaja and Dr. Samuel Nwafor. Meanwhile the Committee will hold its second sitting tomorrow at the Governing Council Chambers at 10.00am.

GUIDEPOST

APPOINTMENT

Dr. Princess Ekeh, Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, appointed *Acting Director*, Centre for Teacher Education and In-Service Training. The two-year appointment which took immediate effect terminates on April 4, 2018.

Dr. Glory Amadi, Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, appointed *Acting Director*, Centre for Sandwich and Skills Acquisition Programme. The two-year appointment which took immediate effect terminates on April 4, 2018.

Dr. Abosede Mumuni, Department of Curriculum Studies and Educational Technology, Faculty of Education, appointed *Acting Head of Department*. The two-year appointment which took immediate effect terminates on April 4, 2018.

Dr. Athanasius Amasiata, Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education, Faculty of Education, appointed *Acting Head of Department*. The two-year appointment which took immediate effect terminates on April 4, 2018.

Dr. Vincent Weli, Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of Department*. The two-year appointment which took immediate effect terminates on April 7, 2018.

Dr. Emmanuel Obach, Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Humanities, appointed *Acting Head of Department*, effective May 21, 2016 to May 20, 2018.

Dr. Nathaniel Abraham, Department of Educational Management and Planning, Faculty of Education, re-appointed *Acting Head of Department*. The re-appointment which took immediate effect terminates on April 4, 2018.

Dr. Michael Oyakihire, Department of Human Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, appointed *Coordinator of the Department*, effective April 11, 2016 to April 10, 2017.

Dr. Gospel Kpee, Department of Educational Management and Planning, Faculty of Education, granted *Extension of Tenure as Coordinator of the Post-NCE Sandwich Programme*. The extension which took retroactive effect from March 26, 2016 terminates on September 25, 2016.

RENEWAL OF APPOINTMENT

Dr. Gabriel Okwandu, Department of Marketing, Faculty of Management Sciences, granted a one-year *Renewal of Appointment as Adjunct Reader*, effective March 6, 2016 to March 5, 2017.

Dr. Thekumwemere Nwede, Department of Management, Faculty of Management Sciences, granted a one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective January 15, 2016 to January 14, 2017.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Professor Stephen Okodada, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted a one-year *Sabbatical Leave* to Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited, effective January 4, 2016 to January 3, 2017.

Dr. Sunday Ikensikimama, Department of Petroleum Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, granted a one-year *Sabbatical Leave* to the Department of Petroleum Engineering, University of Mines and Technology, Tarkwa, Ghana, effective April 30, 2016 to April 29, 2017.

Dr. Obiageli Nwodo, Donald E.U. Ekong Central Library, granted a one-year *Sabbatical Leave* to the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Nkpulu-Oroworukwo, Port Harcourt, effective March 1, 2016 to February 28, 2017.

STUDY LEAVE

Dr. Etido Inyang, Department of Fine Arts and Design, Faculty of Humanities, granted a four-month *Study Leave with Pay* to enable him pursue a Post-Doctoral Research programme at the Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria, South Africa, effective November 16, 2015 to March 15, 2016.

Mr. Paul Osaretin, Centre for Research Management and Development, granted a four-year *Study Leave with Pay* to enable him pursue a Doctoral degree programme in Economics at the University of Iyo, Akwa Ibom State, effective from 2015/16 to 2018/19 academic sessions.

Sado Emerges UniPort ASUU Helmsman, As Vice-Chancellor lauds Secretariat Project

By Humphrey Ogu and Otokor Samuel

An Adviser to the Editorial Board of *UniPort Weekly* and *Unique UniPort* publications, Dr. Austen Sado, has been elected as the University of Port Harcourt Branch Chairman of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU). This followed the successful conduct of the election held last Tuesday at the Ebilimi Banigo Auditorium, at which Dr. Sado was returned unopposed on the floor of Congress.

Declaring the outcome of the election which had all officers except the Investment Secretary returned unopposed, Chairman of the Electoral Committee, Professor Barisua Nwinea, announced Dr. Eze Wene as Vice-Chairman, Tochukwu Okeke (Secretary), Steve Omorodu (Assistant Secretary), Faith Ken-Amaliaku (Internal Auditor), Oyiyechei Ocheba (Finance Secretary) and Lesi Kaogon (Treasurer). The Electoral Officer also declared Dr. Adedamola Oyesemi winner of the keenly-contested position of Investment Secretary. Dr. Oyesemi polled 96 votes to beat her colleagues, Dr. Onyeka Mhalisi who scored 93 votes.

Professor Nwinea, who had earlier expressed the commitment of the Electoral Committee to conduct a credible and transparent election, praised members of the Union for ensuring that the election was seamless, free and transparent. He announced a bye-election to fill the vacant position of Welfare Secretary this Thursday.

Zonal Coordinator of ASUU in the South-South, Professor Beke Seze, who was on hand to observe the poll, commended UniPort ASUU for conducting a peaceful transfer of power, disclosing that some Branches of the Union were unable to conduct rancour-free elections.

"I want to commend our members in this University for conducting themselves in a peaceful manner and also to congratulate the new Executive members on their election. I charge you to be diligent in performing your duties to the Union," the Zonal Coordinator said, before finally dissolving the immediate past Executive led by Professor Antonia Okerengwo.

In his acceptance speech, a visibly humbled Dr. Sado, who is a Lecturer in the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, promised that the new Executive Council would continue to promote the welfare of members of the Union, even as he pledged to help the University grow to its full potential.

"I want to express gratitude to every member of the Union for giving us the privilege to serve for the next two years. We have presented ourselves as burden bearers and I can assure you that our shoulders will be strong enough to bear any burden that may be thrust on them."

"Issues surrounding the contributory pension scheme, non-NUC remunerations and the general welfare of our members will be confronted headlong and we anticipate positive results, because we are going to deploy all necessary tools of negotiation when situations demand that we should negotiate and confront when the situation so demands," the new Chairman assured Congress. He called for cooperation that would enable the new Executive to effectively discharge its onerous responsibility to the Union.

In a related development, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, has commended the local ASUU Branch for finally laying the foundation stone of its overdue Secretariat, believing that it would



V.C. Prof Lale laying the foundation stone, while Dr. Sado (right) and others watch in admiration

contribute to the physical and aesthetic development of the University.

Professor Lale, who made the commendation while laying the foundation stone of the Union's Secretariat at the Delta Park Campus, last Monday, drew attention to the contributions of the *Chapel of the Annunciation and Our Saviour's Chapel* (interdenominational) to the beautification of the University, adding that if other Unions built their own Secretariats like ASUU was already doing, the Campus would wear a more aesthetic look.

"I am aware that we have a serious challenge with land for the development of academic and residential areas in this University. When we started the public toilet project here in Delta Park, many criticised it, saying that it was too close to the female cots, but we know that people who use the courts would also use the toilet facilities that we have made available here," he said.

"For every quantum leap or development that has been recorded in human history, there is always a price to pay. I learnt that the pupils of University Demonstration Primary School (UDPS) use part of the space we allocated to you for this project to prepare for the sporting and other recreational activities. I have directed that the School should henceforth use the expansive Stadium at the University Park for such purposes," the Vice-Chancellor said.

Earlier in his speech, immediate past Branch Chairman of ASUU, Professor Okerengwo, described Professor Lale as an ASUU-friendly Vice-Chancellor, expressing delight that the Union was fortunate to have a union-friendly Vice-Chancellor who was kind enough to finally approve the allocation of land for the Secretariat project.

"ASUU UniPort tried to build a befitting Secretariat several years ago, but the project could not be achieved because of the challenge of identifying a suitable location that was not encumbered on this Campus. I want to place it on record that Professor Lale is an ASUU-friendly Vice-Chancellor, who has made it possible for the Union to commence the building of its Secretariat on this land. It is our hope that UniPort would have a befitting ASUU Secretariat within the next two years," he said.

The Vice-Chancellor was joined at the ceremony by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Administration, Professor Anthony Ibe, Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic matters, Professor Isaac Ezeobinna, University Librarian, Dr. Susan Umoroz, Deputy Registrar in charge of Information, Williams Wodi and Special Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Kingsley Wogwa, amongst other senior officials.



New Chairman of ASUU UniPort, Dr. Sado (right) and other EXCO members after their inauguration

MORE GORY SCENES FROM THE "PEACEFUL PROTEST"

Once again, we bring you more gory scenes from the "peaceful protest" by students of the University of Port Harcourt on Monday, April 11, 2016, which resulted in loss of life and widespread destruction of private and public property as captured by our Camera-man, **HEADMANALU**:



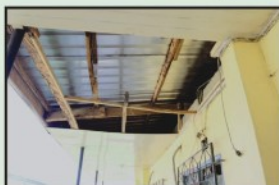
Old Students' Affair Building



Another view of the Old Students' Affair Building



Institute of Agricultural Research and Development (IARD)



Another view of the Institute of Agricultural Research and Development building and a looted office



Dept. of Forestry and Wildlife, Faculty of Agriculture



Automotive Laboratory Building with some laptops looted



Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering



Central Community Service Unit Building



Vandalised Choba Park Gate

