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Mgt Appeals To Unions On BVN Submission

Sequel to two memoranda to the University community on the need for all staff to submit their Bank Verification Numbers (BVN) to the Bursary Unit for proper verification of their status, Management of the University met with the four Unions last Wednesday, with an appeal for them, **Mercy Adeniji & Ethel Timi Johnson report**

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Side Bar V-C Briefs Parents Forum

The University of Port Harcourt Parents' Forum (UPHPF) held its General Meeting last Friday at the Ebitimi-Banigo Auditorium, University Park. Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale briefed the Forum on the state of the University. Details next week.

~Editor



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132nd Inaugural

Uwakwe Lists Panaceas For Managing Sickle Cell Anaemia

By Humphrey Ogu

Issues bordering on ways of managing the rising scourge of Sickle Cell Disease formed the main thrust of the 132nd Inaugural Lecture delivered by Professor Augustine Uwakwe of the Department of Biochemistry in the Faculty of Science. The Lecture which took place at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Thursday, May 26, 2016, drew a large crowd that sat in to listen to advances recorded in the management of the

disorder that affects mostly black people. Uwakwe, identified classical and non-classical (or natural methods) as two major approaches to the management of Sickle Cell haemoglobinopathy in his thought-provoking Lecture entitled: *Managing the Scourge of Sickle Cell Haemoglobinopathy: Which Way Forward?*

The classical approach, according to him, involves such measures as administration of Folic Acid and Penicillin, Malaria Chemoprophylaxis and transfusion therapy, while the non-classical or

natural approach centred on genetic counselling, which seeks to discourage marriages between persons with the AS and SS genes and unregulated use of herbal remedies.

Uwakwe, who is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the West African Society for Sickle Cell Research Awareness and Control (WASRAC), stressed the need to bridge the yawning gap between traditional medical practice and scientific research in addressing the problem of Sickle Cell Anaemia.

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I Support Subsidy Removal With Conditions ~ Igwe

Calls For Energy Bank

By Humphrey Ogu

As the debate over the removal of fuel subsidy by the Federal Government continues to rage, a petrochemical expert in the University, Professor Godwin Igwe, has described the policy as a step in the right direction, but quickly adding that it needed to be fine-tuned to achieve the stated aim.

Speaking with *UniPort Weekly*, Igwe, who was the pioneer Director of the Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals (CGRP), said: "I have always supported subsidy removal, because I believe in the law of demand and supply of any product. The lingering problem in this case is that prices are still fixed because there will always be scarcity, once you fix the price of any product or service."

"In the United States, where I am very familiar with the operational structure of the petroleum industry, for instance, different gas stations sell at different prices. This leaves the consumers with the choice of buying products from gas stations that sell at cheaper rates. That is the beauty of total deregulation," Professor Igwe said, pointing out that with full deregulation, market forces will bring down the prices of commodities on their own.

"The labour movement and other opponents of privatisation should actually be told that we are operating according to global standards; and that what we are doing will be beneficial to everybody in the long run. In fact, if the refineries are privatised, they will create more jobs for the people the Unions are trying to protect. Once that is achieved, nobody will be queuing for the product and there will be no scarcity, because competition will drive prices. It is a question of supply and demand that drive market forces," he stated.

Stressing the need for a sustained campaign to educate the public on the need for full deregulation, Professor Igwe observed that "Most of the time here, the Government just rolls out a new law without sensitising the people and without explaining how it would work and how it would benefit the people. Whenever there is something new, in the United States, for instance, the President, Secretaries, the public relations people and



Igwe

population, they will understand. You don't believe as if we are in a military regime that imposes any policy on the people, believing that they are not aware of what is going on and lack the means to oppose the might of the military. You have to explain things to them in the language they understand. That is how to explain the subsidy and how to remove it without appearing to shove it down the throat of the people in a democracy," he advised, regretting that some people have tried to invest in refineries, but dropped the idea because of inconsistent Government policies or too much political interference in business.

Igwe, who is the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) Chair Occupant in the University, said that domestic refining remained the solution to Nigeria's challenges in the petroleum sector, noting that "If the

people from all levels of Government focus on that particular policy and make every deliberate effort to explain it to the intended beneficiaries. The President tours the whole country, explaining why it is important for everybody to buy into such an idea and make every conscious effort to bring sceptics aboard."

"If you have an educated population, they will understand. You don't believe as if we are in a military regime that imposes any policy on the people, believing that they are not aware of what is going on and lack the means to oppose the might of the military. You have to explain things to them in the language they understand. That is how to explain the subsidy and how to remove it without appearing to shove it down the throat of the people in a democracy," he advised, regretting that some people have tried to invest in refineries, but dropped the idea because of inconsistent Government policies or too much political interference in business.

students have been trained and are still training at the Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals are given the opportunity to put their skills to use, there will be enough petroleum products in the country to take care of our needs and that will also provide job opportunities for them."

"In the final analysis, domestic refining, using modular refinery is the answer to Nigeria's periodic relapse into fuel scarcity and the attendant socio-economic and political dislocations that we have witnessed in this country. We need to refine our crude oil locally to make its by-products easily accessible and cheap. We are the only oil-producing country that keeps importing petroleum products from other countries with attendant loss of huge foreign exchange."

Defining refining as simply evaporation and condensation that is essentially based on application of heat, Igwe explained that, "We know the boiling point of crude and what those operating illegal refineries in parts of Niger Delta are doing is actually how the advanced countries developed their own industries. Their Governments did not go to kill them for embarking on such innovations. They rather brought them together and gave them money and other incentives that motivated them to produce more. That is why in the US today, we have small-scale industries supported by the Government. And if they successfully develop these new technologies, we can then sell them to the industry and other countries, which would in turn bring in huge revenue into the country. I think the Government can set up an Energy Bank, which could finance these small-scale refineries."

Recommending that operators of illegal refineries could be brought to the University to be trained on the appropriate codes and specifications for the production of fuel, Igwe said: "Refining is about codes and specifications. It is well known and a mature technology and there is nothing new there. We can make many people in the Niger Delta multimillionaires with modular refineries, which can be installed near the sources of crude oil. Let the Government make it possible by taking the bold initiative to support the idea."

STUDENT WORLD

Peter Nwabuzor is a postgraduate student of the Department of Physics in the Faculty of Science with option in Theoretical Physics. He spoke to Correspondent, ETHEL TIMI-JOHNSON, on the flow of fluid in an oscillating plate with radioactive influence as an alternative source of power generation for Nigeria:

The entire field of Engineering is actually applied physics and in this era when Nigeria's electricity supply has dwindled to a ridiculous 1,400 megawatts for its estimated population of over 170 million people, any research effort targeted at solving this seemingly intractable problem would be welcome. Addressing the problem through an alternative source of electricity is exactly what Mr. Peter Nwabuzor is currently concerned about in his research focus. Nwabuzor is working on a project known as: *Unsteady Heat Flow of a Viscous Incompressible Magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) Fluid over an*

Plasma Electromagnetic Fluid Can Be Alternative Power Supply Source ~ Nwabuzor

Peter Nwabuzor is a postgraduate student of the Department of Physics in the Faculty of Science with option in Theoretical Physics. He spoke to Correspondent, ETHEL TIMI-JOHNSON, on the flow of fluid in an oscillating plate with radioactive influence as an alternative source of power generation for Nigeria:

Oscillating Plate Provoked by Radiation. Quite a mouthful for the layman, but one that has immense significance for improved electricity supply to Nigerians. "This research dwells largely on flow of fluid or Magnetohydrodynamics in an oscillating plate with the influence of radiation or radioactivity," he told our Correspondent.

Remarkable that there is so much controversy on alternative power generation apart from the conventional energy sources such as hydro, solar and gas, Nwabuzor noted that current research efforts in most developed countries centre on attempts to harness the potentials of plasma, which is the fourth state of matter for power generation. "Energy generation through plasma is available at an extremely high temperature and can be configured only with electromagnetic fluid to avoid heat loss, because other materials could lead to serious heat loss," he explained.

Describing Magnetohydrodynamics as an electrically conducting fluid, Nwabuzor noted that it is also used in the study of geophysical and astrophysical problems. "The essence of this work is to determine how this electrically conducting fluid (MHD) would behave once there is a radioactive influence; it is unsteady and incompressible, meaning that the flow is with constant density," he pointed out, adding that the parameters listed above have been modelled into a mathematical equation known as second order differential equation, which is the main tool employed in his research.

"The equations were solved, using a method of undetermined coefficient under certain boundary conditions based on a software known as

Mathematical. Through plotting of graphs, we are able to determine the behaviour of the fluids at certain boundary conditions. The results obtained would help us to ascertain the behaviour of the fluid flow or flow of the fluid," Nwabuzor further explained, noting that when a case is established, the Government would be encouraged to venture into power generation using plasma with electromagnetic confinements which may not be easily vandalized as is currently the case with existing sources of power generation.

"From this research, we hope to establish a particular model for solving MHD problems. This study would broaden the knowledge of Power Plant Engineers and Physicists on the effects of heat generation over an oscillating plate," he submitted, adding that Chemical Scientists also stood to gain a major insight into the effect of possible heat generation on temperature and velocity distribution of fluid flow.



Nwabuzor

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gt appeals To Unions in BVN Submission

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to encourage their members to participate in the exercise as a precondition for receiving their salaries for the month of May.

Briefing representatives of the Unions on the exercise, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, said: "BVN is just like our normal Bank Account Number which has always been confidential to the owner; the difference being that the BVN is the most recent thing on the platform. The reason we are embarking on BVN submission is to finally exercise the ghosts of deviously motivated people who earn salaries here without working in the University. If we are successful in this important exercise, then it would be a huge plus for all of us as the money to be saved would be put to other uses that would benefit the University.

"What we are saying as a Management is that we are no longer ready to accommodate ghost workers in our system. Such category of 'saves' have wreaked unimaginable havoc on the system and undermined our capacity to know our true staff strength. So, it is important that you tell your members that they complete the exercise in their own best interest. The BVN exercise is being done at the federal and state levels and we cannot be left out of it as a global best practice. The BVN of staff is very secure and I wish to assure you that none of us is interested in exposing staff records. I appeal to Union leaders to inform their members to supply their BVN under confidential cover to enable us fish out all the ghost workers that have milked the system for so long without contributing anything to the growth of the University," the Vice-Chancellor told the Union leaders. Professor Lale further appealed to representatives of the

different Unions to send bulk SMS to their members, encouraging them to endeavour to complete the exercise on or before last Friday to enable Management capture data on the salary platform to avert the usual allegation of not carrying everybody along.

Also speaking, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, explained that "as Chairman of the Personnel Audit Committee set up by the Vice-Chancellor, one aspect of the job we are doing is verification of staff BVN. It is nothing new, because it has been done at the federal and state levels and it is currently ongoing in the Rivers State Civil Service. We also want to be on the same page with the rest of the country and it was based on this

reason we called this meeting was to carry the Unions along in the successful implementation of the exercise," Professor Ibe said.

Also speaking, the Registrar, Mr. Dorcas Otto, charged the Unions to sensitise their members on the need to obtain the official email address of the University to enable them have direct access to information from Management on policy matters.

In his contribution, Vice-Chairman of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Dr. Eze Wosu, appealed for more time to enable his members who were yet to complete the exercise to do so, arguing that they may have

travelled out of town as a result of the closure of the University to students. Also weighing in, leaders of the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) and Non-Academic Staff Union of Universities (NASU), Mr. Bikome Syder and Mrs. Beauty Igwe, promised to carry the message to their members who were yet to supply their BVN. They, however, appealed to Management to endeavor to pass on information to staff on time to enable them respond accordingly, even as they agreed with Management on

the need to root out all suspected ghost workers from the system.

Also present at the meeting were the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, representative of the Bursar, Mr. Helen Owhondawopara and Mr. Arribie Princewill. Also present at the meeting was the UniPort Branch Chairman of the National Association of Academic Technologists (NAAT), Mr. Ambrose Ogbegbe. Others included Mr. Nicholas Asaah, Thomas Oko and Chionna Agharuka.



V-C, Prof Lale (arrowed), Principal Officers of the University and officers of the various unions

development that we requested all staff of the University to supply their BVN to Management. We did it in the form of an open memorandum, but people reacted negatively, because of the need to keep their BVN secret; so we tried to make it a little more formal by uploading it online for staff to fill out their data.

"As at today (last Tuesday), only 4,100, out of the 4,574 staff of the University have successfully uploaded their BVN, while 474 have not done so. Incidentally, 194 out of the 474 who are yet to complete the exercise are academic staff. The

Wel, new HD Unleashes Vision For GEM Dept

By Mercy Adeniji

Newly-appointed Acting Head of the Department of Geography and Environmental Management in the Faculty of Social Sciences, Dr. Vincent Wel, has promised to take the Department to greater heights during his two-year tenure. He recently took over from Dr. Gladys Emenike, who has successfully ended her two-year tenures in office.

Exchanging views with a UniPort Weekly Correspondent on Tuesday, May 10, 2016, Dr. Wel disclosed that he was ready to give his best to take the Department to the next level. "For any new leadership to succeed in its assignment, it must build on the success of its predecessor and learn from its mistakes. I hope to build on Dr. Emenike's success because she did her best and I hope to continue from where she stopped," the new Acting Head told our Correspondent.

"It is my desire to take the Department to greater heights and I intend to mobilise all the support I can muster to drive my vision of positioning the Department to take its place in the study of Geography in Nigeria. In my specialisation, we study the world because most science courses originated from Geography. In my tenure, I want to ensure that the state-of-the-art facility that would aid teaching and learning is put in place, because if there is no conducive environment for teaching to take place, we would not get it right. Our primary business for being here is to impart knowledge to the students and we need the right environment, equipment and instructional resources to deliver quality service to them and engage in high impact research.

"Another area I want to address during my tenure is close interaction with our students, because the learner must first be willing and ready to learn so as to get the desired results. I want our Department to produce students who can be self-employed on graduation; they should be able to develop entrepreneurial skills, which are the driving vision of the University in line with global trends. I want to enhance the entrepreneurial skills of our students to make them relevant in the larger society. I hope to work with my colleagues to improve the course content of Geography and Environmental Management in such a way that we can engage the students on a more practical platform that would be mutually beneficial to the Department and the students themselves," Dr. Wel disclosed.

The new Acting HD, who is also an alumnus of the Department,

stressed the need for Lecturers to change their teaching methodology to bring it in line with current trends. "We hope to make teaching and learning very easy for the students, it is important that we break our lectures down to the level of the students for it to be interesting and understandable. Our ability to demystify things to the level that the students are able to understand should be the priority of every good teacher. When students learn through visualisation of what they are taught, they easily understand and reproduce the same in their own way. It is time for us to minimise theory and step up to a level where we teach the students using presentations, animations and demonstrations to pass on knowledge," he said, explaining that a good Lecturer should lead students to a level where they could do certain things on their own.

Dr. Wel, disclosed that his mission was to ensure that those things that were not in place would be addressed within the limits of available resources, calling on individual and public-spirited organisations to come to the aid of the Department to enable it accomplish the purpose for which it was established.

"As Scholars, we should be able to attract grants to support our research endeavours and teaching; we need to go into mutually beneficial collaborations with industries and international partners to drive our research vision. In one of our Board meetings, I challenged my colleagues to use their extensive contacts to bring about the change that we all desire, because that rules the world today is the ability to introduce new ideas and drive them to fruition for the benefit of society. To be able to attract grants, we should be able to convince our donors and sponsors about the innovations that we are bringing to the table. It is a challenge for all of us to come up with new ways of doing things in a new learning environment," the new Acting Head challenged his colleagues.

Dr. Wel promised that his tenure would emphasise quality teaching through practical demonstration, rather than dwelling on the out-dated idea of cramming students with heavy theories that make them to lose interest in what is being taught. "We hope to develop a content/module in which every topic would have an accompanying laboratory approach to engage the full attention of our students," he said, charging the students to sit up and take their studies very seriously as every grade would be earned.

"It is not going to be business as usual under my watch; punctuality to work, regular attendance in class and continuous



Dr. Wel

assessment would be taken more seriously, because we owe the University a duty to deliver quality service to justify our pay, while students owe themselves hard work to be able to compete with their peers elsewhere. It follows that we must develop team spirit that can lead to the achievement of our collective vision. I promise to run an open door policy that would encourage staff and students to make valuable contributions to the development of the Department. I shall always be ready to listen to wise counsel, especially from my senior colleagues, whose valuable experience I intend to tap to take our Department to higher grounds," he promised.

Regretting that existing facilities on ground were grossly inadequate to deliver on his promises, Dr. Wel appealed to Management to assist the Department in the area of Internet connectivity and power supply to enable Lecturers deliver service at their peak. "I also promise to improve the interaction between staff and students to enable us achieve a more cordial working relationship during my tenure," the new Acting Head of Department told our Correspondent.

Sado pledges Total Commitment To ASUU Principles

By Obinna Nwodin

Newly-elected Chairman of the University of Port Harcourt Branch of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Dr. Austen Sado, has assured his members and the University community of the commitment of his Executive Committee to the principles upon which the Union was founded. He also promised to vigorously seek to actualise the mandate given to his Executive by ASUU Congress.

Dr. Sado, who gave the assurance in an interview with a Correspondent of *UniPort Weekly* in his office located at Delta Park, last Monday, said that the principles upon which the Union was founded had become even more relevant given the current economic hardship that Nigerians were compelled to endure on the political and economic fronts.

"We are grateful and very humbled that Congress decided to commit the Union into our hands for the next two years. Our vision will be the total aggregation of what the Congress of our local branch Union agrees to be its vision. I am of the understanding that I have been elected to provide a transparent, accountable and easily accessible leadership that would guide the Union, not according to my will, but by the will of Congress to which ultimate power to run the Union belongs. We will continue in the tradition of the well-known ASUU principle of ensuring that our members are not victimized under any guise, while their welfare will continue to be a priority," he told our Correspondent. The ASUU Chairman also promised to ensure that the on-going construction work on the Secretariat project site in Delta Park would be completed in the next two years. "We are happy that Congress has given us a clear mandate to drive the project, and I can promise our members that the newly-elected Executive is totally committed to the vision of delivering a new Secretariat project within the stipulated timeframe—all things being equal."

On the Union's relationship with Management, Dr. Sado declared: "I wish to pledge the total commitment of my Executive to industrial harmony in the University as much as we are allowed to negotiate with both the Governing Council and Management on issues that border on the welfare of our members. We had already assured the Vice-Chancellor of our readiness to engage Management in regular dialogue to iron out grey areas during a courtesy call on him shortly after we took office. We are very much prepared to work with the administration to address the common cause of developing the University to the level that we all desire it to be. It is in our individual and collective interest that the University is repositioned to deliver quality education to

students and service to society. We will not, however, allow the genuine welfare needs of our members to suffer on the altar of developing the University. That would not be in consonance with the principle of self-preservation, which is nature's first rule."

Dispelling widespread apprehension that his tenure would stoke fire in the University, Dr. Sado said that such disruptive tendency was not part of his mandate, pointing out that ASUU leadership was a serious responsibility that would not allow any body to engage in undue radicalism. "Whenever we decide to take on the Management of the University on any issue, you can be rest assured that we have properly articulated our



Sado

position such an issue and can defend it anytime to the satisfaction of everybody. I am not just interested in shadow-boxing for the sake of flexing my powers as ASUU Chairman and I want everybody to take note," Dr. Sado said.

The chairman described ASUU as a democratic Union with well-laid out principles to which his leadership would be committed at all times. "I believe that the University Administration is committed to the principle of equity and justice and to that extent, I think we are on the same page with Management under the present dispensation. "Our intention is to ensure that as we continue to make meaningful contributions to the development of the University, the welfare of our

members will be accorded maximum priority, both in terms of remuneration, promotion and provision of a conducive working environment that would motivate them to enhanced productivity."

Speaking on how the Union Executive would continue to uphold the ethics of the teaching profession amongst its members, Dr. Sado said: "ASUU is perhaps the most concerned body with regards to enforcement of ethical conduct in the university system and is very determined to uphold high ethical standards amongst its members in all our Branches. On numerous instances, the Union has come down heavily on our members who fell short of the accepted standards in their public conduct."

"We have a fully functional Ethics Committee and I must say that we are totally committed to enforcing high ethical conduct amongst our members and we will support any credible means to ensure best practices in the way our members conduct themselves. The National body of the Union places great priority on ethics such that any branch that did not have a substantive Ethics Committee is barred from attending meetings of the National Executive Committee of the Union," he disclosed, stressing that ASUU believed that ethical valuation must be anchored on rules and regulations that were open to every member of staff. On the pressures of the office, Dr. Sado said that Congress did not commit the affairs of the Branch to his Executive for nothing, adding that he already knew that the responsibility was a challenging one and was fully prepared to take on such onerous task. The Chairman stated that over the years, he had made valuable contributions and served the Union in numerous capacities, adding that his election marked the very first time the office of Chairman was not contested in the history of the Union in UniPort. "That development has placed additional burden on me to give of my very best in the line of duty and I cannot afford to disappoint those who adjudged me fit and proper to be returned unopposed to serve them. I shall do everything that is humanly possible to justify their confidence in me as their leader," Sado said.

He noted that the reality was that the position was not just about the Chairman, pointing out that the Union was properly guided by rules and regulations that governed its affairs in terms of leadership and the rules of engagement. Dr. Sado said that he would like to be remembered as the Chairman, who led the Union, provided quality and committed leadership to its members without compromising the hallowed principles upon which the Union was founded.

Maintained Discipline As Humanities Dean ~Prof Enemugwem

By Mercy Adeniji

Immediate past Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor John Enemugwem, has revealed that discipline was maintained during his two-year tenure that spanned May 2014 to May 2016.

Professor Enemugwem, told our Correspondent that his tenure was a huge success, noting that he also succeeded through the grace of God and prayers from his admirers. "My promise to instill peace and harmony in the Faculty were the two main reasons that propelled me to the exalted office of Dean. I am extremely happy to note that the Faculty is enjoying relative peace as I prepare to hand over to my successor, Professor Femi Shaka, who I hope would take the Faculty to greater glories," the outgoing Dean said.

"All academic and administrative staff also played a great role in helping me reposition the Faculty to the satisfaction of all stakeholders. I am aware that the world is like a market place where whoever that finishes his transaction must exit. As Dean, I decided to serve a single tenure to give room to one of the over 30 Professors in the Faculty to also have the opportunity to contribute his or her own quota. I decided to follow the footsteps of my predecessors, Professors Enunaku Akama and Boniface Nwagwu, who served only a single tenure each," Professor Enemugwem disclosed, explaining that the move was in the interest of the Faculty.

Speaking on his achievement as the immediate past Dean, Professor Enemugwem disclosed that "during my tenure, the Dean's Office was a new look, because we had to change the outdated furniture. Semester Courses were taught and examined as at when due; so also were

the timely uploading of results.

"Prior to my tenure, colleagues experienced difficulty in the payment of their teaching claims at the College of Continuing Education and in the Pre-Degree programmes. To address the problem, we established a non-NUC programmes Unit in the Dean's Office. The Faculty Coordinator of the programmes made prompt payment of claims throughout my tenure," Professor Enemugwem said.

The outgoing Dean said he was able to address the issue of electricity from the University's Gas Turbine facility and ensured proper sanitation in the Faculty, adding that the donation of a Public Address System from the Community Service Unit also enhanced teaching and research. He said that deserving staff of the Faculty were promoted as at when due under his watch as Dean.

Describing funding as a major challenge he faced while in office, Professor Enemugwem said: "We could not move into our new Faculty building because the Rivers State Government which donated the project is yet to complete it. We have put in place an End-users Committee headed by Professor Ben Naamen to liaise with the University Management with a view to devising appropriate modalities for the completion of our new Faculty building and the Committee is working hard to enable us resolve some of the serious accommodation problems we face in time for the next accreditation exercise by the National Universities Commission."

On the election of his successor, the outgoing Dean expressed hope that Professor Shaka would continue from where he stopped to run the Faculty in line with global best practice. "We would continue to work



Enemugwem

together as a team to support him as he goes about the onerous business of running the Faculty as our new Dean and I wish him good luck as he settles down. I also call on all academic and non-teaching staff, including students to support him the same way the supported me to enable him succeed in his very demanding assignment," Professor Enemugwem said.

Senate Revokes PG Degrees, Approves New Programmes, Results

By Obinwa Nwodin

Senate has restated its resolve to jealously guard the integrity of certificates issued by the University of Port Harcourt to graduates, warning that those who procure such qualifications from unorthodox means and their accomplices would be summarily dealt with in line with the extant rules governing the terms of their admission into the University. This was a major highlight of deliberations at the 421st Meeting of the august body held last Wednesday at the Senate Chambers.

The warning followed Senate's deliberation on a petition to the House of Representatives Committee on Education by one Mr. Uche John Bosco on the purported refusal of the University of Port Harcourt to release his Master of Science degree certificate to him. Making the presentation, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, Professor Regina Ogali, stated that it was discovered that the said Mr. John Bosco failed Course GLY 605.1 twice, based on which he failed out of the programme as stipulated in the *General Guidelines and Statement of Academic Policy* of the University.

She further stated that by some inexplicable twist of facts, the same candidate was listed as having 'passed' in the summary of results submitted to Senate at its 377th Meeting held on Wednesday, July 27, 2011 and 390th meeting held on November 14, 2012. She regretted that Mr. John Bosco's name was erroneously published in the 29th Convocation Ceremony Brochure for the 2011/2012 academic session. Professor Ogali also disclosed that a closer scrutiny of the result further revealed that two other candidates, Oduah Ashimiedua and Ebenebe Uzoamaka, who also failed out of the programme, were inexcusably listed as having 'passed' and their fabricated results presented to Senate for approval. It, therefore, directed that degrees already published in favour of the two candidates be summarily withdrawn, further recommending that all those who may have played a part in compromising the system should be appropriately sanctioned.

Senate also considered the Report on a case of examination malpractice preferred against one Miss Mbonu Chidinma of the Department of Anatomy as presented by the Acting Dean of Student Affairs Department, Dr. Out Ekpeyong. Senate approved that Miss Mbonu be suspended for one Semester as stipulated in the University's *General Guideline Statement of Academic Policies*, while the degree certificate erroneously issued by her accomplice, one Mr. Zudonu Osumedeyi should be summarily withheld, further directing that his statement of result be withdrawn (if it had already been issued) until he appears before the Committee.

Senate also approved the establishment of new programmes as requested by some Faculties through the School of Graduate Studies. The

unanimous approval was conveyed after Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, Professor Ogali, made a presentation on the floor of the House in respect of the new programmes. The programmes are: Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) in Agricultural Economics and Extension, Master of Science in Agriculture Economics with options in Farm Management and Production Economics, as well as Agricultural Finance and Project Analysis; Master of Science in Agricultural Extension with options in Agricultural Extension and Rural Development and Agricultural Communication/Information Communication Technology; all in the Faculty of Agriculture. Senate also approved the Postgraduate Diploma in Theatre and Film Studies in the Faculty of Humanities, as well as the Master of Science in Pathogenic Microbiology and Biotechnology in the Faculty of Science. It also ratified the establishment of the Executive Master's Degree in Business Administration (EMBA), Master's Degree in Business Administration (MBA), as well as Master of Science (M.Sc Short Courses) in Business Administration obtainable in the University of Port Harcourt Business School (UPBS).

as other sundry stakeholders in its determined bid to restore normal academic activities.

Professor Lale read out a letter from a faceless group that called itself 'Concerned Students'; the letter which was not signed by anybody restated the stringent conditions that must be met before the University would be 'allowed' to re-open. The second letter signed by officials of the suspended Students' Union Executive, however, appealed to Senate to consider the reopening of the University in the interest of students, who are bearing the brunt of its continued closure.

The Vice-Chancellor frowned at what he described as the unacceptable practice by a few Senate staff, who were bent on fueling the crisis behind the scene, reminding them that they were hurting the University and not him. He appealed to Senate members to look at the situation dispassionately with a view to making a decision as to the appropriate time to re-open the University, irrespective of the threats from those who were determined to prolong the crisis to advance their own pecuniary interest.

Senate also approved various categories of result from Faculties and the College of Health Sciences. Results were approved for the Faculties of

Humanities, Social Sciences, Education, Science, Management Sciences, Engineering, Agriculture, School of Science Laboratory Technology and the School of Graduate Studies.

Earlier, Professor Lale had announced new appointments and welcomed the new members to Senate. Those who were introduced were: Dr. Bukola Oyeade, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Dr. Olaniyi Olapade, Acting Head,

Department of Fisheries, Professor Wellington Wotogbe-Weneka, Head, Department of Religious Studies, Dr. Henrietta Otokunfor, Acting Head, Department of Library and Information Science, Professor Gloria Obuzor, Head, Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry. Others included Dr. Steven Mensah, Acting Head, Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, Dr. Aline Noutcha, Acting Head, Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Dr. Charity Ogunka-Nnoka, Acting Head, Department of Biochemistry, as well as Dr. Chikwende Ubani, Acting Head, Department of Petroleum Engineering.

Professor Lale also advised all Senate members to ensure that they complied with the ongoing biometric verification exercise by making available their Bank Verification Numbers (BVN) to the Bursary Department, stressing that staff who did not comply with the directive ran the risk of forfeiting their salary for the month of May. The Vice-Chancellor said that Management had looked at the list of those who were yet to comply and discovered that a very high percentage were academic staff, who should lead others in the exercise aimed at rooting out a ubiquitous category of personnel known as ghost workers.



It also approved recommendations from the Senate Appeals Committee on Certificate Verification as presented by its Chairman, Professor Ebenezer Onyeike. Presenting the 6th Report of the Committee, Professor Onyeike disclosed that four, out of the eight appeals his Committee handled were successful, while four failed on account of extenuating circumstances that could not be mitigated.

Senate also adopted a Report presented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi based on a meeting between the Vice-Chancellor and Directors of Centres and Institutes with some important recommendations on how to streamline their activities for better service delivery to clients and commensurate returns to the University.

Briefing Senate on the state of affairs in the University, the Vice-Chancellor, recalled that Senate at its 419th Meeting had approved the reopening of the Portal for two weeks, amongst other decisions. He also stated that Management had met with various categories of students, including representatives of the suspended Student Union, National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) and its Zone 'B' Branch, as well

Uwakwe lists Panaceas For Managing Sickle Cell Anaemia

Cont'd from Page 1

"The Gabriel Ekeke Centre for Sickle Cell Research is currently investigating over 100 plant species for possible antisickling activity. The Centre hopes to come up with more potent antisickling formulations for the management of SCD," he disclosed, calling for support from well-meaning individuals and corporate organisations to enable the Centre achieve its goals.

"Every possible solution should be exploited to achieve maximum benefits. While hoping for an ultimate classical solution, we should not disregard possible solutions from our natural environment. The possibilities provided by our natural herbs are quite enormous and should be exploited to the fullest for the management of SCD and other pathologies. Pharmacists and Nutritionists should always consider HBS subjects in drug and food formulations and testing," the Inaugural Lecturer advised.

Professor Uwakwe noted that "Sickle-Cell Haemoglobinopathy (SCH) is also known as Sickle-Cell Disease (SCD), or Sickle-Cell Anaemia (SCA) or sometimes drepanocytosis. It is a hereditary blood disorder characterised by an abnormality in the haemoglobin molecule erythrocytes. The disease results from a substitution of amino acid with valine at position six of the beta globulin chain of haemoglobin."

Uwakwe, whose major research interest covers Medical Biochemistry, Enzymology and Biochemical Pharmacology, disclosed that "almost 300,000 children are born with a form of Sickle Cell Disease every year, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa, but also in other countries such as the West Indies and in people of African



origin elsewhere in the world," advising that sicklers should always be in well-ventilated places to have access to enough oxygen.

The 132nd Inaugural Lecturer, who is also Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Sickle Cell Research and Awareness Group (SCRAG), explained that "Sickle Cell Disease prevents oxygen from effectively reaching the spleen, liver, kidneys, lungs, heart, or other organs, causing a lot of damage. Without adequate oxygen supply, the integrity of these cells that make up these organs are greatly compromised leading to damage or cell death."

"The red blood cells of patients with Sickle Cell Disease don't live as long as healthy red blood cells. So people with this disorder often have low red blood cell counts (anaemia), which is why this disease is commonly referred to as Sickle Cell Anaemia," he explained, adding that "when sickle-shaped red blood cells get stuck in the blood vessels, patients suffer from episodes of pain called crises. Other symptoms include delayed growth, strokes and jaundice," Professor Uwakwe said.

In his remarks at the end of the Lecture, Vice-

Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, commended Professor Uwakwe for presenting a concise and brilliant lecture, stressing the need for a government policy that would discourage marriages between couples with SS and AS genotypes as a guaranteed means of bringing an end to the Sickle Cell Disease in the country.

"The bottom-line is for young people to understand the implication of marriage between people with SS and AS genotypes and avoid it to save themselves the attendant misery that is sure to come. Instances abound where young people who claim to be madly in love circumvent parental control and rush to the courts to solemnise their wedlock."

"Such intending couples must know that a broken relationship is better than a marriage that will produce children with sickle-cell anaemia," he observed, regretting that most children go against parental advice to marry partners that puts them at the risk of producing sicklers, only to turn around to their parents to share their pain.

IPPTO Ends Intellectual Property Summit

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office (IPPTO) in partnership with Velma Consulting, has ended a two-day International Intellectual Property Summit in the University. The event which attracted participants from all walks of life took place at the Ebbitan Banjo Auditorium, University Park, between Thursday and Friday, May 19-20, 2016.

Welcoming participants to the Summit which had Intellectual Property Rights as the Backbone of Wealth Creation as its theme, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, expressed optimism that it would expose Nigeria's Intellectual Property Rights owners to international best practices for job and wealth creation and establish a legal framework for the control and protection of Intellectual Property Rights.

Represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, Professor Lale commended the IPPTO office in the University for assembling some of the best hands in the business of intellectual property documentation, adding: "It is our expectation that this Summit would promote originality, creativity and profitability in works of art, science and technology and improve understanding of the available types of Intellectual Property and how they add value to businesses."

Professor Lale also assured participants that the University would continue to play its own part in safeguarding intellectual property rights and capitalising knowledge for the benefit of society and researchers. He frowned at the rising cases of intellectual property violations and plagiarism amongst some scholars, promising that the University would come down hard on culprits.

In the lead papers entitled: *Cultural Concerns in Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs), Technology Transfer and Local Content and The Role of Government in Supporting Technology Commercialisation*, Director of Technology Acquisition and Research Coordination at the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP), Lucky Nwosa, regretted that most African countries look on jealously to their cultures, making



an enabling environment for the incubation and protection of intellectual property in the country.

In his presentation entitled, *Intellectual Property Rights: Goldmine in the Knowledge Economy*, former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenika, reiterated the need for a new paradigm in academic progression, stating that Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) constituted the wealth of nations and institutions in the knowledge-based economy. "Academic entrepreneurship is a new dimension to higher education. It dwells on knowledge exploitation to create wealth," he stated, stressing the need for Nigerian universities to engage in meaningful research to solve societal problems.

In his address, Acting Director of IPPTO in the University, Dr. Tobin Briggs, disclosed that the Summit was expected to come up with a Communiqué that would form the basis for progressive government policy on Intellectual Property Rights in Nigeria. "The Summit also seeks to look at issues with a view to proffering ways in which Intellectual Property Rights could become the backbone of wealth creation in Nigeria and Africa," Briggs stressed, urging participants to proffer workable solutions to the lingering issue of Intellectual Property Rights violation in the country – especially amongst academics.

In his presentation, a representative of the Director-General of NOTAP, Isaac Nwaedozie, who spoke on the topics: *Deployment and Commercialization of Research Outputs in Nigeria, NOTAP Limited Experience and The Role of Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office (IPPTOs) in the National System of Innovations (NSIs)*, described Intellectual Property generation, protection and disclosure as very critical factors in technology commercialization. "There is an urgent need for intensive and continuous Intellectual Property awareness and advocacy," Nwaedozie said, assuring participants that the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology would provide

an enabling environment for the incubation and protection of intellectual property in the country.

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GUIDEPOST

APPOINTMENT

Professor Augusta Eneh, Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, appointed Member, Senate Appeals Committee on Certificate Verification (ACCv), the appointment which takes immediate effect is until further notice.

Professor Gideon Abu, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, appointed Member, Senate Appeals Committee on Certificate Verification (ACCv), the appointment which took immediate effect is until further notice.

Dr. Otu Ekpenyong, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, appointed Chairman, Student Affairs Advisory Committee (SAAC), the appointment which takes effect from June 1, 2016, is until further notice.

Lt. Col. Reginald Isiguzo (Rtd), Chief Security Officer, appointed Member, Student Affairs Advisory Committee (SAAC), the appointment which takes effect from June 1, 2016 is until further notice.

Dr. Edward Imo, Department of Film and Theatre Studies, Faculty of Humanities, appointed Member, Student Affairs Advisory Committee (SAAC), the appointment which takes effect from June 1, 2016 is until further notice.

Dr. Gladys Emenike, Department of Geography and Environment, Faculty of Social Sciences, appointed Member, Student Affairs Advisory Committee (SAAC), the appointment which takes effect from June 1, 2016 is until further notice.

Dr. Uzoma Chima, Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management, Faculty of Agriculture, appointed Member, Student Affairs Advisory Committee (SAAC), the appointment which takes effect from June 1, 2016 is until further notice.

Dr. Gift Wofor, Department of Management, Faculty of Management Sciences, appointed Member, Student Affairs Advisory Committee (SAAC), the appointment which takes effect from June 1, 2016 is until further notice.

Dr. Chima Wokocha, Department of Crop and Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, appointed Member, Student Affairs Advisory Committee (SAAC), the appointment which takes effect from June 1, 2016 is until further notice.

Mr. Kingsley Wogwu, Vice-Chancellor's Office, appointed Secretary, Student Affairs Advisory Committee (SAAC), the appointment which takes effect from June 1, 2016 is until further notice.

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Dr. Emmanuel Obuahi, Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted Renewal of Contract Appointment, effective June 10, 2016 to June 9, 2017.

Dr. Donatus Uwah, Department of Crop and Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, granted Renewal of Adjunct Appointment, effective May 1, 2016 to April 30, 2017.

STOP PRESS

Commonwealth Games Association Launches Website

The Commonwealth Games Association of Nigeria is set to launch its new website designed by a final year student of the University of Port Harcourt, Labi Francis Oantumi of the Department of Gas Engineering, Faculty of Engineering and an eQIP intern.

The event scheduled to hold on Tuesday, May 31, 2016, would witness the launching of the website www.nigeria.org, which seeks to promote a valued brand for the Commonwealth Games Association in line with the new Commonwealth Games Federation's Strategic Plan.

It would be recalled that the University of Port Harcourt was appointed last November as the country's Commonwealth Games Centre by the Nigeria Olympic Committee.

ANUPA Congress

The UniPort Branch of the Association of Nigeria University Professional Administrators (ANUPA), will hold its General Congress on Tuesday, 31st May, 2016 at the Ebiminti Banigo Auditorium. Time is 2:00pm prompt. All members are expected to attend and on time as crucial matters affecting members would be discussed.

Contact: Mr Roland Wahali, Chairman ANUPA UniPort

Olympafrica Centre Ends Chess Training For Secondary Schools

By Otokor Samuel

In furtherance of its laudable Catch them Young initiative, the University of Port Harcourt Olympafrica Centre concluded a Chess training session for some selected Secondary Schools in Rivers State at the Senior Staff Club, Delta Park on Friday, May 20, 2016. The well-patronised training session that drew participants from selected Secondary Schools from across Rivers State, was mounted with assistance from the Rivers State Chess Association.

Speaking before the commencement of the session, Director of the Centre, Dr. Chuku Agi, disclosed that the event was aimed at discovering new talents among Secondary School students in the game of Chess, adding that the programme was also packaged to encourage young people to play the game.

of the Centre, promising to engage medalists at previous competitions to play with the budding ones to popularise the game in the State. He revealed that two medalists in the male and female categories from the national championship, Boma Ilibo of the University of Port Harcourt International Secondary School, Nkpou and Gold Bamson of the Federal Government Girls' Secondary School, Abuloma, were invited to engage the students in the training session. Students from the Nigerian Navy Secondary School, Borikiri, Port Harcourt also participated in the training.

Speaking separately to our Sports Correspondent, Bamson and Blessing Dimkpa, both of who played in the female category at the Federal Government Girls' Secondary School Abuloma, disclosed that they started playing the game right from their early days in the school.

"I met my cousins playing Chess when I was about



Director, Olympafrica UniPort Centre, Dr. Agi (right), Coaches and the students

"The event is to assess students who play Chess and encourage others to invest some of their leisure time to play the game. Most students don't know about Chess and that it is one of the best games they can play, because it is more mentally than physically taxing. So, we need to encourage our kids to engage in the type of game that will develop their reasoning faculty than in watching cartoons," Dr. Agi said.

The Director further promised that the Olympafrica UniPort Centre would henceforth organise quarterly Chess matches for young people to meet part of the objectives for the establishment

10 years old, but it did not make sense to me until my JSS I when I started appreciating the game. I have participated in a number of competitions in and outside the State, including championships in Lagos, Benin and other places and won some medals too," Miss Bamson said.

Other technical partners that graced the training session included Rivers State Chief Coach for Chess, Mr. Benibo Amieyefori, his assistant, Mr. Tamunokuro Iyowuna and Chess Co-ordinator, Nigerian Navy Secondary School, Borikiri, Mr. Belena Aberenboye.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

WEATHER OBSERVATORY

WEATHER FORECAST FOR PORT HARcourt AND SURROUNDING AREAS

FOR SUNDAY MAY 29 - SATURDAY, JUNE 04, 2016.

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI / LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am / pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 29, MAY, 2016	28.0 24.0	87	SW	14.8	6:18 6:41	A few thunder storms expected. Mostly cloudy day anticipated
MONDAY, 30, MAY, 2016	29.0 24.0	80	WSW	43.5	6:18 6:41	Strong thunder storms expected accompanied with mostly cloudy and overcast skies
TUESDAY 31, MAY, 2016	31.0 23.0	73	SW	46.6	6:18 6:41	Thunder storms expected with a cloudy outlook for most of the day.
WEDNESDAY 01, JUNE, 2016	32.0 24.0	74	SSE	12.8	6:18 6:41	Thunder storms expected early with a mostly cloudy day forecasted. High chance of rainfall
THURSDAY 02, JUNE, 2016	30.0 24.0	84	SSE	4.8	6:18 6:42	Thunder storms expected early. Mostly cloudy day predicted
FRIDAY 03, JUNE, 2016	32.0 25.0	57	SSW	-	6:19 6:42	Partly sunny day expected.
SATURDAY 04, JUNE, 2016	32.0 25.0	57	SSW	3.2	6:19 6:42	Thunder storms expected late accompanied with a partly sunny day.

DR. V.F. WELI
AG. HOD.
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY & ENV. MGT.

DR. PRINCE C. MMOM
AG. DIRECTOR,
(C/DRMSS).

5th Senate Valedictory Session

Senate of the University held its 5th Valedictory Session in honour of eleven Professors who retired from active service to the University on Wednesday, 26th April, 2016. Our cameraman **Headman Alu**, was on hand to capture highlights of the events as displayed below:



The retiring Professors processing into the Senate Chamber



V-C, Prof Ndowa Late (middle) flanked to his right by DV-C (Admin), Prof Anthony Ibe and Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto (left) rise for UniPort Anthem



V-C, Prof Late, making his Opening Remarks



Dean, Education, Prof Lawrence Igwe, reading one of the citations



Dean, Science, Prof Nnenna Frank-Peterside, reading a citation



Dean, Basic Medical Sciences, Prof Chijioke Nwauche, reading another citation



L-R: Emeriti Professors Samuel Okiwelu, Emmanuel Anosike and Nimi Briggs.



A cross-section of members of Senate at the event



One-time V-C, Delta State University, Prof John Enaowho, speaking



Former DV-C (Acad), Prof Bennard Efuwewe, also making a speech



Prof Benjamin Ehezue responding on behalf of the Retiring Professors



The Retiring Academic Generals in a group photograph



Retiring Professors in a group photograph with V-C, Prof Late and other Principal Officers