



Tomato Crisis Entomologist Advocates Integrated Pest Control System

As Nigerians continue to grapple with the alarming shortage of tomatoes that has resulted in escalating cost of the product, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Crop and Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Dr. Usman Zakka, has advocated an integrated pest control system to combat the crisis, reports *Humphrey Ogu*. *More on p3*

Side Bar NPISA Int'l Confab Starts June 27

The National Political Science Association (NPISA) holds its 30th International Conference at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium between Monday 27 and Tuesday June 28, 2016. Details Next Week
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Briggs Charges Healthcare Professionals On Quality Service Delivery

By Humphrey Ogu

Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs has charged the Management of the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), Doctors and allied health professionals on quality service delivery in line with international best practices.

Delivering the First Obstetrics and Gynaecology Departmental Guest Lecture entitled: *Stepping Forward*

at the UPTH Auditorium last Tuesday, Emeritus Professor Briggs said: "If you do not know where you are going to, you should, at least, know where you are coming from. The past is where you learned the lesson. The future is where you apply the lesson. If you do not know which port you are sailing to, no wind can be favourable."

Briggs, who was fifth Vice-Chancellor of the University and foremost Gynaecologist, advised

the Management to transform the Hospital into an attractive brand that the public can identify with. "Seek to give the Hospital a new public image, massively invest in cleanliness, hygiene and renovation, do something about power supply, establish an institutional advancement programme and seek a new Management Board," he told the audience drawn from medical practitioners from UPTH and other hospitals in Rivers State, emphasising the need for relevant stakeholders to provide the Hospital with cutting-edge

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Nbete A Certified Labourer In God's Vineyard

By Williams Wodi

We are not usually remembered by the space we occupy, by our status or how much we have accumulated on planet earth. People remember us by how we make them feel and how we help them rediscover themselves in a world that is increasingly ruled by utilitarian values. Some of those with whom we come into contact leave such lasting impression on us that their memories truly linger on and become part of our own lives—even long after we part company with them.

In recent times, the laity and congregation of Our Saviour's Chapel Interdenominational (Protestant Chaplaincy), University of Port Harcourt were being rightly fixated on the imminent departure of their suave and enterprising Chaplain, the Venerable Saturday Nbete, who arrived quietly three years ago on a memorable pastoral mission.

Conversations in the Chaplaincy these days are not complete without ominous mention of Venerable Nbete's impending end of mission as Chaplain of OSC. It is a situational twist of fate that parishioners are already beginning to miss the Man of God even before the actual date of his departure. This self-effacing servant of God has willingly helped to raise the anxiety of his flock by dwelling on his impending departure at every given opportunity—usually during his incisive homilies that are perceived to end too early.

People are drawn to Venerable Nbete on account of his infectious humility, intrepid interpretation of the scriptures and effective love for everybody without discrimination. In the last three years, our beloved Chaplain has redefined his pastoral duties in an extraordinary manner that has rehabilitated the dwindling image of the priesthood in Nigeria in the age of materialism and manufactured miracles. In the estimation of most members of the OSC congregation, Nbete abundantly epitomises the attributes of a genuine labourer in the ever-crowded vineyard of the Lord. He is intelligent, loving, kind, patient, personable, prayerful, tolerant and very eager to make sacrifices for the spiritual growth of the church and society. He relates to parishioners as individuals, even as he ministers to them a congregation.

A man of Spartan discipline, deep reflection and simple taste, Venerable Nbete earned himself the affection of his parishioners from day one on the job. The heightened worries about his impending exit are abundant testimonies of the Chaplain's deep and exemplary commitment to evangelism and efficient church administration. The irony is that these anxious parishioners knew ahead of time that their adorable Chaplain would depart on schedule in line with the reviewed Constitution of the Church. Leading an interdenominational congregation comprising Anglicans, Methodists, Presbyterians, rabid Pentecostals, occasional Baptists and other shades-in-between in their complexity, Venerable Nbete has dexterously blended this diversity into a fascinating mosaic of God's people with impressive results that he refuses to advertise like *tradr-medicine* 'healers' or the patent holders of Coca Cola.

The congregation of OSC is openly waxing lachrymose on account of how the amiable Vicar has made them feel during his tour of duty. His uncommon combination of deep spirituality, intellectual endowments and brilliant sermons elicit the kind of adulation reserved for film stars and laureates. This relentless church leader has immensely uplifted and touched the spiritual and material lives of his congregation in an extraordinary way in just three years. Nbete's great accomplishments are measurable footprints for everybody to see at OSC and the rest of the University community. The Chaplain lives by what he preaches and does not force his views down the throat of his followers; yet, he proudly wears his faith on his sleeves for anybody to see the wonders of his God. His prayers are unrelentingly potent and put the devil to rest because they are fervent and come straight from the heart of a dedicated servant of God.

When Venerable Nbete assumed duty, some parishioners wondered what else he would accomplish in terms of physical infrastructure, following the high impact performance of his predecessor, the Rev Kelechi Francis. As Nbete prepares to depart, it is on record that he has completed a new airport-like

fleet for aggressive evangelism and other church duties, while a new church signage has just been completed to proclaim a place where Jesus reigns. Service is indeed the rent we pay for the little corners of the world we are privileged to occupy.

Parishioners are usually intrigued by Venerable Nbete's uncanny way of connecting to people of every estate and creed: this is despite his busy schedule in the Chapel and the University community. There is no church programme that is considered too minor for the engaging Chaplain as long as it glorifies Jesus Christ in positive light and advances the search for lost souls. Ever outgoing, charismatic and eager to lend a helping hand to parishioners and total strangers alike, Venerable Nbete's acknowledged social skills are complemented by his deep spiritual insight and willingness to reach out to people. The themes of his numerous crusades and prayer meetings are decidedly *beneficent* and appropriate to each occasion and season. When the faith of some parishioners appear to flag on account of the many worldly burdens they bear in a troubled world, Venerable Nbete has a message to lift their souls: *Even when God decides not to grant our prayers, he still remains our God.*

As the Men's Fellowship prepared to celebrate its week for 2016, the Chaplain put out a thoughtful theme to match the occasion: *Walking with the Almighty God*. That is what he strives to do all the time. On the eve of *Valentine's Day* celebration, he emblazoned a banner that proclaimed: *Sex is Good, but...*. The youths of the church who wanted to go on the overdrive filled the missing link and voted to attend the *Saya Nite* their Chaplain's offered them. He instead bathed them in *Agape Love*. In all this, the Chaplain's moderating voice has helped to smoothen the rough edges of young people, who are held prisoner by the dot.com world of wonders and inherent mischief. He would step out during sermons to exchange 'hi five's' with excited young people in the audience. In a hip-hop age, the electric atmosphere usually generated by Venerable Nbete is beyond description.

When the University recently descended into the realm of irrationality and near perdition, Venerable Nbete shunned the allure of the various warring 'camps' and went down on his knees to supplicate for the return of peace to the Campus. From all indications, God has since done something new in answer to his prayers. Now that his Christian stewardship is in the public space, the reader can begin to appreciate why the OSC congregation is on edge at the impending exit of this certified labourer in the vineyard of the Lord.

His success story is propelled from behind the stage by his amiable wife, Mrs. Baridole Nbete (Mummy Chaplain), who diligently led the OSC women with the fear of God. Alas! Our Chaplain has gone round in a blaze of glory; but both the congregation and himself are well aware that all meetings must result in goodwills and parting at some point. He came as a Reverend Canon, but God and his good works elevated him to the exalted status of a Venerable. The Chaplain's giant footsteps will certainly endure in OSC, in unique UniPort and far beyond. Shouldn't the OSC Constitution be 'padded' to either elongate Venerable Saturday Nbete's tenure or designate him as a 'Visiting Ecclesiastical Professor' to the Chapel? Someone should second the motion without further debate, please!!!



Ven. Nbete, Chaplain, OSC

runway to the Chapel and the thoroughfares around, built and electrified an expansive interlocked car park with ornamental plants. He padded the church pews and air-conditioned the auditorium, including the provision of an effective multimedia facility that now enables the media unit record sermons for distribution to parishioners for a token. A brand new thirty-two-seater Toyota bus has been added to the

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Speaking with *UniPort Weekly* in his office last Wednesday, Zakka defined integrated pest management system as a system where two or compatible methods of controls are used to tackle challenges posed by pests, warning, however, that chemicals alone cannot offer a lasting solution to the problem. "We should think of using pheromones, which attract and destroy the male species of the pests. We should also embrace cultural practices such as farm hygiene, while biological control agents should be introduced into the environment ameliorate the condition," he added.

"We can also engage in Farmer Field School, which is an effective collaboration between Entomologists and Extension Officers to tackle the crisis. Unfortunately, most research results in Nigeria often end up on the bookshelf without making any tangible impact on farmers and rural dwellers that are the intended beneficiaries of such research efforts. There are Agricultural Development Programme (ADP) officers all over the place, who should be proactive in an emergency situation such as we are now facing in this country. I expect these ADP personnel to table this challenge before agricultural scientists," Zakka, who is an Agricultural Entomologist, said, recounting how he was able to tackle the army worm challenge in maize, which he described as a similar pest attack.

"To find a lasting solution to the tomato crisis in the country, those of us in the field are faced with two major challenges—biotic and abiotic factors. Most times, both the environmental and biotic factors work in concert to aggravate the problem.

Entomologist Advocates Integrated Pest Mgt

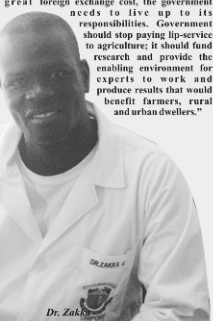
What we are facing in Nigeria now is an invasion of alien insect species known as *Tuta Absoluta*. Because of the aggressive nature of the pest, people refer to it as *Tomato Ebola*. But it is tomato leaf miner, a South American tomato moth that is currently ravaging the plant in parts of Nigeria. Once the egg of the insect hatches, it mines into the leaf, stem or epical bud; that is why it is known as leaf miner," Dr. Zakka explained.

He disclosed that the pest does not attack tomato plants alone, but all members of the *solanaceae* family, such as eggplant, sweet pepper, potato and so on, stressing the need to cultivate crops that are resistant to tomato leaf miner in the country.

"Contrary to the belief in some quarters that the shortage of tomato in Nigeria was as a result of the production of tomato paste by the Dangote Group or purchase of tomato fields by the same Group, I can tell you quite categorically that Dangote cannot even fully utilise 50 per cent of the tomato produced in Northern Nigeria alone," he revealed, blaming the problem on the absence of raw material which is traceable to the invasion of *Tuta Absoluta*.

Dr. Zakka, noted that Entomologists in the University have the expertise to tackle the menace, if given the right

funding by the government, adding that "rather than engaging in the outdated practice of importing expatriates to solve the problem at great foreign exchange cost, the government needs to live up to its responsibilities. Government should stop paying lip-service to agriculture; it should fund research and provide the enabling environment for experts to work and produce results that would benefit farmers, rural and urban dwellers."



Dr. Zakka

APRNet Ends Maiden Interactive Session With Researchers, Stakeholders

By Mercy Adeniji

As part of its vision to become an authoritative and independent forum for promoting research for evidence-based agricultural and rural development policies in Nigeria, the South-South Branch of the Agricultural Policy Research Network (APRNet), held its first interactive session with researchers and stakeholders, at the Virtual Library, Choba Park, on Friday, June 17, 2016. The session was convened to deliberate on how scientist from the zone can collaborate to contribute to the growth of the agricultural sector in the Niger Delta and the rest of the country.

Exchanging views with a *UniPort Weekly* Correspondent on the initiative last Monday, Acting President of APRNet, Dr. Anthony Onoja, disclosed that the forum was organised for staff of the University and other stakeholders in agriculture within Port Harcourt which is under the South-South regional jurisdiction and headed by Dr. Mercy

Ndubueze-Ogaraku. "The event was meant to afford participants an opportunity to interact with stakeholders in the agricultural sector within Port Harcourt metropolis and its environs and for us to understand the concept and vision of APRNet and how they can be incorporated into the activities of APRNet for better and more productive food security drive for the nation," he told our Correspondent.

The Acting President recalled that APRNet was established in 2009 at a meeting of Nigeria's agricultural research policy stakeholders which held at the Federal Capital territory, Abuja, Nigeria. "APRNet is more of a professional network that brings together a pool of seasoned researchers, scientists, communicators in agriculture, policy-makers and practitioners of agriculture, because the primary focus of APRNet is to bridge the gap between research, policy-making and advocacy and to implement the outcome of our research to benefit farmers and rural dwellers. The aim is to breach the lacuna between research institutes, the academia and

policy-makers. They don't have enough information to implement what is coming from the academia and on the other side, we have the farmers, who actually practise agriculture, but are not close to either policy-makers or researchers to profit from what they are doing," he said.

"The initiative seeks to maximize the interface of research, policy-making and agricultural enterprise, thereby, enhancing the relevance, utilization and impact of research for solving the agricultural and rural development challenges in Nigeria," Dr. Onoja said, adding that the ultimate goal was to improve the livelihood of agricultural and rural people, increase food security, reduce poverty and contribute to sustainable agricultural growth and economic prosperity in Nigeria.

Speaking on other activities of the network, Dr. Onoja said: "One event we are planning for this year is to launch our journal known as *Nigerian Agricultural Policy Research Journal (NAPReJ)*. It will be a new peer review journal of agricultural policy and rural development of professionals in sub-Saharan Africa. It will be launched by the Agricultural Policy Research Network, APRNet with support from IFPRI and will

primarily focus on agricultural and rural development issues, economic policies, livelihood and environmental studies, amongst others issues."

The Acting President of APRNet was accompanied by the South-South Zonal Coordinator, Dr. Ndubueze-Ogaraku.



Ag. Zonal President, APRNet, Dr. Onoja (in white), flanked by other participants

EPIHMANAEMAEZE, Students' Union President

A President of Students' Union for the 2015/2016, I am in total of 100% with the students' reaction to the unfortunate incident of April 11, at least, if not for anything else, for being the President of the Faculty President of Management Science, Peter Okeke, who was protesting a policy which did not go down well with students, pray that his well-fund and well-organized protest in the corridors of our campus. However, what we begged and prayed for then, we later got.

Now we are happy that the students are protesting their First Semester Examinations against the policy of 'no fees, no examinations'. The present arrangement is in line with the vision of all serious students which is to learn and complete their programmes within the stipulated period, so as to become eligible for their postgraduate studies in their institutions. We are happy that the suspension of activities of the Students' Union and its affiliate bodies is being taken into consideration by the Senate. The constant 'no fees, no examinations' policy has been extended and from 2015/2016, students would be paying charges in two instalments due to the current economic condition in the country, as every institutional payment is a pre-condition necessary to participate in a particular semester that the student pays for. I wish to appreciate all stakeholders, particularly the Management and Students of the University for being able to reach a compromise and in the same vein, pray that the already established relationship between the authorities of the University and the Students be maintained to avert breaches of peace in future. We are all satisfied with the decision of moving the University forward as major stakeholders and we should all be seen to be doing so. We are happy that the First Semester Examinations are going to be held. I am confident that everything will pass off without incident. I am also well prepared to write my own papers and I urge all students not to do anything that would disrupt the ongoing examination in our University.

NIAKAPKA, Secretary-General Students' Union

I must say that we are very happy that after the protests, critics on campus as a result of the protest which took place on Monday, April 11, 2016, we are now back to normal.

As students, staying away from the Campus for too long actually excited much from us on the negative side, but thank God, we are finally back and the strictness of the University is resuming academic activities.

As an individual and a Student Leader, I feel so delighted that I am back to school, because at a point I was feeling shy that we were out of school and staying away from our books. It really affected me personally.

My advice to students is that we have faced a lot of issues, one of which is that we believe some students have in respect to payment of their fees. My advice is that we urge. My advice is that we have faced the fact that payment of school charges is an essential precondition to participating in academic activities and achieving our academic goals. As an academic pursuit, So, we should try to ensure that we play our own part for the running of the system. I want

Students Speak On Resumption Of Academic Activities

Students of the University returned to academic activities after Senate directed the reopening of the Institution, following the violent protest of April 11, 2016 which resulted in the regrettable death of a student and widespread destruction of property. UniPort Weekly sampled the feelings of the students as they settled down to write their First Semester Examinations after a ten-week stay at home:

to appeal to Management to also be student-friendly in its policies so that future occurrences of what happened would not be repeated.

DIVINE BARANGO, PRO, Student Union

Coming back from home for examinations, we should would put some stress on our toes. I believe that most students, though not well-prepared were eager to come back to write their examinations in line with the revised academic calendar. If there was anything the students had wanted, it was the suspension of the 'no fee, no examinations' policy. With the compromise now reached, the students are happy to resume their studies. One thing I learnt as an individual was the need to bridge the perceived communication gap between Management and Students. Now, we have learnt a lesson to regularly interface with relevant stakeholders of the University. Mistakes are bound to happen from time to time, but the most important thing is to learn a lesson from them and strive never to repeat such mistakes in future. UniPort is our own; it is the unique University in Nigeria and we will have learnt from what happened. We are now putting ourselves together to ensure that the University environment offers us a conducive place for learning.

CHIKWANE, GODEKOR, Theatre and Film Studies

When the period of closure of the University, I stayed around in a couple of things, while still studying ahead of my examinations until the University would resume. I engaged in meaningful ventures while the closure lasted. It was a situation that would have been avoided had Management had addressed the

students before it escalated and went beyond negotiation. At the end of the day, we were shut out for good, even though the lesson learnt was a negative one. I read everything I needed to read and I am well prepared for the examinations. I am a French course which I am still deficient in. Whether in my other studies or in my other studies, a serious-minded student would be serious enough with his or her studies.

EMENIKE, ABERNAX, Accounting Dept

We have been away from the Campus for almost three months and it is a pity that on our return, we are asked to write examinations. It is also a pity that during that time, we were not given any opportunity to write our examinations and that was very painful for us as students. There are some things in life that we cannot stop, but I thank God we are back to school and we have started the examinations since last Monday, the day we resumed and everything is going smoothly. I feel great coming back to the school and writing my examination and I believe as students, we are all

prepared for it. What I have to say to Management of this University is that I should always have to listen to some suggestions of the students, as they are the parents of the students, since our parents are the ones that they should look at most critically and dialogue with us to enable us to come on our Campus.

OGNEETEGA, OGBODI, Theatre and Film Studies

The closure of the school really paralyzed our academic activities and I felt so bad being forced to stay at home, because I almost forgot I was in preparation for my examinations. We thank God that we are now back on Campus, because during that period, our parents also had being our counterparts in their universities going for their lectures. The situation was worst with these parents that paid the charges for their wards and children, who returned home because of the closure of the University.

I feel so happy coming back and I wish all the students success as we successfully conclude our examinations. I also wish to advise Management to review the policy that caused the closure to ensure that such an ugly incident does not repeat itself in this University. There should be peace and harmony between Students and Management.

PRINCESS WOST, Basic Programme

The closure of the University affected my education. It affected my studies. The reopening of the University is welcome development. We have now resumed academic activities. I have plans to focus on my studies and be serious with my academics this time around. Basic Students may not have participated in the protest, but we suffered the same effects as regular students. We hope that this type of situation will never arise again in this University.

CHINOZIM, WELL, Basic Programme

The closure of the University to academic activities seriously affected my academic life, because we did not know how the school would respond, so this made it impossible for me to invest profitable time into my academic work. The

TULEAWA AGARA, PG STUDENT, Dept of Computer Science

The University was shutdown two weeks after the programme commenced and that affected me. I am very happy that academic activities have finally resumed. Most postgraduate students are yet

CEFOR To Become Africa's Training Hub in Oilfield Chemicals Research

By Obinna Nwodin

In an effort to realise the promise for which it was established, the World Bank Centre of Excellence in Oilfield Chemicals Research (CEFOR) is making frantic effort to become a training hub for all oil and gas industries in Africa.

Exchanging views on the activities of the Centre with a Correspondent of UniPort Weekly in its Office, last Monday, the Director, Professor Sal Oghomaha, said that the Centre which was one of 10 established by the World Bank, is mandated to bridge the yawning manpower gap in the oil and gas industry on the African continent. "The World Bank recognised the lack of capacity to run the oil and gas sector on the African continent and decided to intervene by establishing the Centre of Excellence to address the deficiency. The irony here is that while virtually all the chemicals applied in the oil and gas industry are regularly sourced, the raw materials to produce them are locally available. In addressing the problem, the World Bank came down here to evaluate our capacity to bridge the gap. When the delegation saw the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) platform, it promptly agreed to key into what we have here. With our focus on graduate programme, we took advantage of this comparative advantage and the potential to establish the Centre with the IPS as its nucleus," the Director disclosed.

Professor Oghomaha also said that in a bid to reach out to other institutions, officials of the Centre visited Makerrers University in Uganda and Kenyatta University in Kenya. As an awareness campaign, they enabled the partners discuss areas of collaboration, including other academic partners of the Centre to include the University of Science, France, University of Technology, Tarlawa, Ghana, Africa Virtual University, Nairobi, University of Lagos, University of Abomey, Benin, Benin, Benin, as well as University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Director stated that the main objective of the Centre was to promote human capital and regional research networks that would develop human capital in Africa; strengthen human capacity and serve as a major training hub for the oil and gas industry workforce in Africa. The ACE also aims to fill gaps in labour market demands for critical skills within the specialised areas, as well as increase capacities of facilities and students in Africa through quality postgraduate education, knowledge transfer and internship programme. Professor Oghomaha added that a total of 62 candidates were admitted after a thorough screening exercise that was conducted in 2013. He further disclosed that the students who were spread across the various Centres on the platform, would benefit from within their stipulated residency period.

to resume and as a result, we are yet to commence lectures, but I am glad that in the next couple of weeks or so, we will resume lectures and continue our research work.

WELLINGTON HENRY, GEM, Faculty of Social Sciences

The closure of the University affected me in so many ways. It made me sit and read reluctantly, because I could not see my friends with whom I read at night. Before the closure, I used to read at night with my friends, but when I was not possible while the University remained shut on the read to engage in academic activities during the day, I read badly. With the resumption, I feel like a student again and I am prepared to take it from where I left it. I am happy to see my friends who serve as a source of motivation for me. Since we are back to school with examinations, I read all the time to ensure that I get top grades.

on the same page. He added that the partnership has also opened the programme to the industry in such a manner that students can use the modern facilities and laboratories provided by the industry.

Professor Oghomaha stated that the Centre has developed a local synthetic base drilling fluid, which is hitherto imported by companies, collaborated with the Nigeria Content Monitoring Board (NCMB) to develop local additives, as well as with TOTAL to develop local barriers, a chemical used to increase the weight of mud in the drilling process.

The Director said that the Centre was also working to improve the quality of drinking water in Rivers State, pointing out that a number of students recorded remarkable 'breakthroughs' during their career progression. He further disclosed that areas of research focus of the Centre included Reservoir Engineering, Environmental Science, Engineering Studies and Economics, Gas Engineering and Utilization, Geology/Geosciences, Oilfield Chemicals, Biofuels, Environmental Science, Engineering Studies and Economics, as well as the following:

Application, as well as the following:

He cited that the students' Nancy Bunt, was a research grant from the Robert McNamara Foundation to carry out a six-month research in Shanghai, China that was published in the journal *Environmental Science and Technology*. He also said that the students who were also engaged in high impact research works that have proved valuable to several companies.

CEFOR students conducting research in their lab. Inset: Prof. Oghomaha

Briggs Charges Healthcare Professionals On Service Delivery



L-R: Briggs, DV-C (Academic) Prof. Fawehinmi and CMD, Prof Ojula

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equipment, an enabling environment and the necessary funding to carry out quality research and other outreach programmes.

Decrying the frequency of strike actions by staff of the Hospital, the Guest Lecturer recalled that throughout his undergraduate days at the University of Lagos and his postgraduate training in the United Kingdom, he did not witness a single strike action by the medical personnel, wondering why frequent strike actions have become common practice in Nigerian teaching hospitals in recent times. He noted that "a strike action is extremely disruptive, erodes confidence in the profession, trivialises the profession of Medicine, diminishes clinical competence, reduces the status of the Hospital, and it is bad, irrespective of the reason advanced to justify a strike action by doctors and other allied health professionals." He observed that Medicine is a very noble profession and so practitioners cannot step forward by abandoning women in labour, just because they want to embark on a strike action, adding that private practice by staff results in divided loyalty, diversion of patients, and also reduces patients' acceptance of hospitals as places where they can access quality healthcare service.

Commending the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology for initiating the Departmental Guest Lecture series, Emeritus Professor Briggs urged the Department to include preventive measures to the curative clinical procedures that it has so far undertaken, lamenting what he described as the decline in terms of antenatal attendance, delivery rate, fewer gynaecology patients and even fewer major surgeries in recent times. "Anything I can do for this Department and Hospital to move forward, I will do it. The profession, Department, Hospital and the University have done so much for me," he told his junior colleagues.

The Guest Lecturer, who listed teaching and learning, research and innovation, service and community engagement, as imperatives for excellence in quality medical education, noted that they inform public opinion and perception, determine reputation and character and define visibility and greatness.

Speaking after the lecture, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, congratulated the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology for initiating the Guest Lecture series, lauding Emeritus Professor Briggs for giving what he described as a very thought-provoking lecture. "I am not here just as the representative of the Vice-Chancellor and

Management of the University, but also as a former student of Emeritus Professor Briggs. I am glad to be part of this important lecture by my teacher and mentor. I could recall that the Guest Lecturer mentioned strategic planning and other areas in which the University can support the hospital to achieve excellent healthcare. I will do my best to ensure that the hospital gets all the necessary support the University can offer to enable it function at its installed capacity," he assured the gathering.

On his part, Chief Medical Director of UPTH, Professor Aaron Ojula, expressed gratitude to the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology for organising the Lecture, describing the Department as a pace-setter in many areas of medical practice. "This quality lecture ought to hold on a regular basis, because we are running a tertiary medical institution that requires innovative thinking to enable it compete favourably with its peers in other parts of the world. A university is for the advancement of knowledge and the Teaching Hospital cannot be left behind in the scheme of things. This lecture has shown us that we still have a long way to go in embracing global best practice in the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital and we are very lucky to have the likes of Emeritus Professor Briggs, who have seen it all to draw our attention to the missing links in our practices," he said.

"Our first assignment is to get back to where we were, because we were doing great in the past. The charge to move forward is not an assignment for the Management of the Hospital alone. On the issue of the Hospital Board, I regret to state that most of the time, the Board becomes a problem to us. We pray and hope to get a Board that will assist us to move forward," he added, lauding the Lecturer for his invaluable observations on the current state of the Hospital.

Others, who gave goodwill messages after the Lecture included former Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Ouerin Odi, Professor Anthony Okpani, Professor John Ikimabio and Chairman, Medical Advisory Committee, Dr. Charles Tobin-West, including the Director of Administration Mrs. Boma A. Jumbo and a representative of the Association of Resident Doctors and Joint Health Sector Union, amongst others.

CMRAP's Malaria Research Efforts

By Obinna Nwodin

Malaria is presently an endemic scourge that has caused so much health, economic, social and psychological dislocations in sub-Saharan Africa. Efforts aimed at combating the scourge has been on the priority list of governments, organizations and institutions for too long. High profile conferences in five-star hotels have mostly ended in enriching the organisers and brought no succour to the ordinary people who are victims of malaria.

It is to give a handle to the fight against malaria that the University of Port Harcourt took front seat in the drive to contain, if not out-rightly eliminate this deadly epidemic that is responsible for most hospital presentations in this part of the world. The thoughtful establishment of the Centre for Malaria Research and Phylomedicine (CMRAP) was one such bold move to frontally battle malaria through quality research and public enlightenment on the dangers posed to public health by

the disease.

Over the years, the Centre has embarked on a number of activities to achieve its mandate through quality research, sensitization programmes and other collaborative activities that raise hope of a breakthrough.

Recently, the Centre organized the first International Malaria Colloquium with the Rivers State Government pledging to partner it to fight the malaria scourge, which is estimated to account for sixty percent of hospital presentations in Nigeria. The Centre is also in collaboration with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to find lasting solution to the malaria scourge. The Centre has been in partnership with the Edo State-based Pax Herbal to develop herbal drugs in the treatment of malaria.

Also, the Centre houses a Professorial Chair on Malaria Research endowed by the 2nd Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Sylvanus Cooksey. The Chair is occupied by pioneer Director of the Centre, Professor

Omotayo Ebong. The successful organisation of an international conference on malaria and the Sylvanus A. S. Cooksey Legacy Lecture on malaria, were illustrious activities that gave more visibility to the Centre's activities. The Colloquium & Legacy Lecture attracted heavyweights from the academia, industry, royalty and governmental agencies. The outcome of these activities provided a major fillip to concerted efforts aimed at bringing researchers and the various stakeholders on the same template to fight the malaria scourge to a standstill. The CMRAP monthly seminar on malaria is also a veritable platform designed to sustain quality discourse on ways of eradicating malaria from our environment.

Current Director of CMRAP, Professor Chijioke Nwache, has expressed optimism in the ability of the Centre to make valuable contributions in the battle against malaria. In addition to engaging in research aimed at eradicating malaria, the Centre is also mounting enlightenment programmes aimed at sensitizing the public on the need to live in an environment that would discourage the plasmodium parasite from breeding around human habitation. Such simple habits as clearing the bush around our homes, fumigation, cleaning gutters and preventing stagnant waters from accumulating near our homes would go a long way in reducing our exposure to the female anophelous mosquito that is responsible for transmitting the deadly parasite to humans. Malaria has regrettably been tagged as the poor man's disease because it appears to fester in dirty environments.

The World Health Organisation's theme for Malaria in 2016 was: *End Malaria for Good*, and so it has become increasingly imperative that we should do it primarily for ourselves to stay alive to worship God in good health. The Professor Cooksey Professorial Chair focuses on defining the molecular epidemiology of plasmodium parasite that infects the human blood stream in the Niger Delta with the stated aim of making significant contributions to the clinical case management of malaria in Nigeria, while CMRAP is dedicated to engaging in collaborative research and enlightenment programmes to keep the malaria scourge at bay. Hope is rising that this double-barrel impact would put malaria on the back pedal and give us something to cheer in the nearest future.



A cross-section of participants at the Malaria Colloquium

GUIDEPOST

APPOINTMENT

Professor Femi Shaka, Department of Theatre and Film Studies, Faculty of Humanities, appointed *Dean of Faculty*. The two-year appointment which took effect from May 31, 2016 terminates on May 30, 2018.

Dr. Bukola Oyeade, Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management, Faculty of Agriculture, appointed *Associate Dean of the Faculty*. The two-year appointment which took effect from April 8, 2016 terminates on April 7, 2018.

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT

Mr. Uchechukwu Onyeukwu, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted *Confirmation of Appointment*, effective March 18, 2015 to retirement age.

Mr. O'neal James, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences granted *Confirmation of Appointment*, effective March 19, 2015 to retirement age.

Dr. Timothy Nte, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted *Confirmation of Appointment*, effective April 25, 2015 to retirement age.

Mr. Destiny Aganwuo, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted *Confirmation of Appointment*, effective March 26, 2015 to retirement age.

RESUMPTION FROM SABBATICAL LEAVE

Professor Abdulrazag Kilani, Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, resumed duty after *Sabbatical Leave* at Nasarawa State University, Keffi.

Professor Philomena Ejile, Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities, resumed duty after *Sabbatical Appointment* at the Federal University, Otuoke, Bayelsa State.

REVIEW OF STATUS

Dr. Ebigbenbo Saturday, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, elevated from *Lecturer II* to *Lecturer I*, effective February 4, 2016.

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Professor Monima Briggs, Centre for Information and Telecommunication Engineering, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective March 31, 2016 to March 30, 2017.

Dr. Amadi Ahiamadu, Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective August 4, 2016 to August 3, 2017.

Dr. Tam-James Atuboyedea, Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective July 15, 2016 to July 14, 2017.

Dr. Awoere Teme, Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Management, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective July 2, 2016 to July 1, 2017.

UniPort Olympiafrica Contingent Returns From Togo Tourney



UDPS Head Teacher, Mr. Ewaocha and some Teachers, Director, Olympiafrica, Dr. Agi, the Pupils displaying their certificates of participation

By Othor Samuel

The contingent of Olympiafrica UniPort Centre in the Under-16 category excelled in the *football* regional tournament held in Lome, Togo between May 12 and 16, 2016, as the team sealed through the preliminary matches to the final stage which it unfortunately lost to Sao Tome during the penalty shoot-out after exhausting the conventional 90 minutes and extra-time.

Director of the Centre, Dr. Chuku Agi, who made the disclosure at a brief certificate presentation ceremony to participants, further revealed that the regional tournament which held in Togo, had contingents drawn from Sao Tome, Niger and Benin Republics, including Lagos and Port Harcourt.

The Director regretted that the Under-13 category lost its match at the semi-final stage to the host country, stating that despite the painful defeat, the UniPort team did very well in the tournament. "We were adjudged the Most Valuable Team in the Under-16 category which gave rise to the award of a special trophy to us in recognition of our effort at the tournament," the Director told our Correspondent on the contingent's return to Port Harcourt.

Dr. Agi informed the pupils that the next phase of the training would commence soon in the University, charging those of them who are interested in sports to make themselves available once the training schedule was released.

Reacting to the development, the Headmaster, Mr. Simeon Ewaocha, expressed gratitude to the Centre for regularly organising training sessions for pupils of the School to keep them physically fit and give them exposure. "We are also happy that our pupils went to Togo and came back with some level of achievement. We will continue to encourage them to do better in future competitions," he promised. Those who received certificates included Happiness Ekwueme, Courage Godwin, Andre Agi, Alerechi Mary-Omodu, Destiny Makele, Precious Ikpe and the Physical Education Teacher, Mrs. Agatha Onuoha.

STOP PRESS
MAIDEN OSC
PUBLIC LECTURE

Our Saviours' Chapel (Protestant Chaplaincy), University of Port Harcourt holds her maiden Public Lecture entitled: *The Enhancement of Ethics and Social Development in Contemporary Society* as follows:

Date: Friday, 1st July, 2016
Venue: Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park.

Time: 10.00am
Guest Speaker: Most Reverend Benjamin Kwashi, Archbishop of Jos Province and Bishop of Jos Diocese (Anglican Communion)
Chairman: Emeritus Professor Nimi D. Briggs, OON
Host: Venerable Saturday T. Nbete, Chaplain, OSC
Chief Host: The Vice-Chancellor Join us!

Contact: PROFESSOR REGINAE OGALI, Chairman, Public Lecture Planning Committee

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
WEATHER OBSERVATORYWEATHER FORECAST FOR PORT HARCOURT AND SURROUNDING AREAS
FOR SUNDAY JUNE 26 – SATURDAY, JULY 02, 2016.

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI	TEMPERATURE LO	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY 26 JUNE 2016	30.0	22.0	77	WSW	3.3	6:23 6:47	Thunders storms expected late in the day with a mostly cloudy disposition.
MONDAY 27 JUNE 2016	31.0	23.0	69	WSW	2.2	6:23 6:47	Thunders storms expected late in the day with a mostly cloudy outlook.
TUESDAY 28 JUNE 2016	34.0	23.0	58	W	2.4	6:24 6:47	Thunders storms expected late in the day with a mostly cloudy outlook.
WEDNESDAY 29 JUNE 2016	31.0	22.0	61	WSW	-	6:24 6:47	Cloudy day forecasted.
THURSDAY 30 JUNE 2016	31.0	22.0	53	W	-	6:24 6:48	More clouds than sun expected.
FRIDAY 01 JULY 2016	31.0	22.0	54	SW	5.8	6:24 6:48	Thunders storms expected late in the day. Mostly cloudy day forecasted.
SATURDAY 02 JULY 2016	31.0	22.0	62	SW	12.9	6:24 6:48	Thunders storms expected with a mostly cloudy outlook, with a high chance of rainfall.

DR. V.E. WELI

AG. HOJ

DR. PRINCE C. MMOM

AG. DIRECTOR

(CUMMINS)

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY & ENV. MGT.

1st Sylvanus J.S. Cookey Legacy Lecture

The Sylvanus J.S. Cookey Professorial Chair in Malaria Studies held the 1st Sylvanus J.S. Cookey Legacy Lecture and presentation of History and Society in Nigeria, written by Prof Cookey at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on May 17, 2016. Our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU**, captured highlights of the event as shown below:



Ag. V-C, Prof Anthony Ibe, welcoming 1st V-C, Prof Sylvanus Cookey to the V-C Committee Room, while Igwe Nwaeze Achebe watches



A group photograph after a courtesy visit on Ag. V-C



Ag. V-C, Prof Ibe declaring the event open



His Majesty, Obi of Onitsha, Igwe Achebe making Chairman's opening remarks



Chair Occupant, Prof. Sylvanus J.S. Cookey Chair on Malaria Studies, Prof Omatayo Eboag



Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Oghonnaya Onu speaking



Amayanyaho of Opobo and Chairman of Rivers State Council of Traditional Rulers, King Dandison Jaja in a warm handshake with Dr. Onu



Guest Speaker, Prof Emmanuel Ezedimachi delivering the Lecture



Dr. Onu (with microphone), flanked on the left by Ag. V-C, Prof Ibe and Igwe Achebe on the right by Prof Cookey, King Jaja and Sir Gabriel Toby



Prof Ekechukwu Amucheuzi reviewing the book, 'History and Society in Nigeria', written by Prof Cookey



Prof Cookey receiving his portrait presented to him by Prof Henry Alapiki and Eboag



R-L: 1st V-C, Emeritus Prof Nimi Briggs, 2nd V-C, Prof Joseph Ajienka and others during the Lecture



Prof Cookey and other dignitaries after the Lecture