

UniPort Condolences Families Of Slain Deputy Registrar, Head Driver



Amidst shock and utter disbelief occasioned by the killing of the Deputy Registrar in the University of Port Harcourt Business School, Mr. Kelsey Makele and Head Driver, Mr. Steven Okon by yet-to-be identified gunmen on Sunday evening, July 24, 2016, a delegation comprising Principal and Senior Officers of the University paid condolence visits to families of the two slain staff, *Otiakor Samuel:* *More on p3*

Side Bar ANUPA CONDOLENCE VISIT

The National Executive Council of the Association of Nigerian University Professional Administrators (ANUPA) paid a condolence visit on the University and family of its slain member, Mr. Kelsey Makele last Friday. *Details Next Week.*

~Editor

133rd Inaugural

Onuchuku Proffers Solutions To Nigeria's Unemployment, Inflation Challenges

By Humphrey Ogu

As successive Nigerian governments strive to tackle unemployment and inflation, a Professor of Economics in the Faculty of Social Sciences, Okechuku Onuchuku, has recommended strategies for salvaging and stabilising the dwindling national economy.

Delivering the 133rd Inaugural Lecture entitled: "War of Supremacy between Unemployment and Inflation: Who is the Actual Loser?" at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, last Thursday, Professor Onuchuku, stated: "To achieve increase in output and employment, moderate inflation, reduction in poverty and misery level and achieve inclusive growth and development, the managers of the Nigerian economy should not rely completely on market fundamentals and forces.

"In our quest for economic development,

the strategy of developmental state becomes imperative. We must place more emphasis on planning and adequate implementation to achieve real development. In the 1970s and 80s, the

Nigerian economy was better in terms of living standards, because more emphasis was placed on planning and the government played a very prominent role

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Orunaboka Bows Out, As Nwogu Takes Over



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The Spokesman As A Combatant

By Williams Wodi

Life is greater than fear, declared an American Cop who recently fell to the hail of bullets from an assassin's gun at Baton Rouge in Louisiana. The business of speaking for an institution is a delicate diplomatic dance that defies conventional explanation. Nobody knows what others think, but everybody knows what the Spokesman thinks, because he or she must speak or write down thoughts that may be interpreted one way or the other. There is no escape route for the Spokesman in the line of duty and many 'enemies' are made along the line, because people are constantly on the lookout for any fable or Freudian Slip to justify their predetermined mindset about the Spokesman—especially in moments of crisis. The Spokesman is a victim of his visibility in the line of duty and he is most vulnerable when public opinions clash. It was the famous American Civil Rights Leader, Martin Luther King, who declared that a man is judged by where he stands in times of crises. The Spokesman must take a stand because he reflects the official position of the institution that pays his bills. He must make a comment where his employers have 'no comments' to make; otherwise he has something to hide—an unpardonable crime in Public Relations practice. Frustrated by the untenable position of the Spokesman in a crisis situation, a former NATO spin doctor famously described an institutional Spokesman as a combatant of sorts hosed up right in the battlefield—armed only with his pen and a grim determination to be heard. The Spokesman should be prepared to dodge bullets targeted at the institution because he must defend it. The irony here is that while the Spokesman manages the 'image' generated by others, he is labelled an 'image maker'.

The Spokesman is supposed to enjoy a better ambience in a sophisticated University environment, but like his Principal, he is usually assailed by a travelling theatre of terror abhorrent and *ad hoc* entropies. The Nigerian public space has recently become inured and totally reprobate with a very high impunity quotient that assails performance. In his combustible book entitled: *The Cancer Ward*, famous Russian dissident writer Aleksandre Solzhenitsyn declared: "There can be no greater affliction than for a doctor to suffer an affliction in his area of specialization." The Spokesman is a grim metaphor for everything that goes awry in an institution and occasionally in people's private lives. He speaks for others and is mistaken for a 'powerful' person on a personal ego trip, even when the system roundly emasculates him.

The Spokesman magnets hatred because he is not far from the glamour, glitz and klieg lights that trail the corridors of power. What he says and does not say are variously interpreted and used against him in the line of duty. The Spokesman is trained to develop an impenetrable skin against targeted verbal artillery and toxic invectives by sundry commentators that may even hit his family members. In the battle to control public opinion, even very enlightened people descend into

decided partisan analysis of the contentious issues of the day. Otherwise respectable academics openly and pseudonymously take their verbal brickbats far beyond the tolerable boundaries of civility just to invite the Spokesman to a wrestling match in the mud.

On April 11, 2016, the University of Port Harcourt descended into the realm of contrived chaos and irrationality. While majority of the students protested peacefully within their democratic right to drive home their point, a few ill-bred ones, empowered by non-academic students, certified renegades and street urchins seized the moment to unleash unspeakable mayhem on Campus that disrupted the accustomed routine. In that unguarded moment of *ad hoc* rage, Mr. Peter Oforam fell to a hail of bullets fired by a 'spirit' that is still invisible as all spirits should remain to justify their celestial status. Max Weber has long questioned the motif of those who claim the "monopoly of legitimate violence," but that is another story. Meetings with student representatives these days usually turn out over



the top in articulation,

tone, delivery and totally heretofore polished in the spirit of *ad hoc*. That is totally understandable in the new dot.com age.

How can a Spokesman accept an invitation to wrestle in the mud and still remain credible and believable on issues that have institutional core? The juvenile chorus of disagreement by vested interest on Management's implementation of the Senate's policy of 'No Registration, No Examinations' was ample proof of our collective descent into intellectual perdition and selective short-sightedness. The students were right in agitating for a fair deal, but the self-appointed 'godfathers' and patron-suits of confusion were dead wrong in

championing the cause out of proportions! Is it not the irony of our time that some of those who hold magisterial opinions about the contentious issues on Campus voted with both hands in support of the policy on the floor of Senate? They would have even voted with both legs if it was possible for them to defy gravity or even levitate. As always, the distance between a verbal and shooting war is very short in space-time continuum and refined people do everything possible to distance themselves from the maddening crowd.

There is no alternative to refined discourse and rational argument in a conventional university environment, where superior logic should prevail over twisted thinking and irrational action. Plurality of opinion does not compel everybody to line up behind a leader, but nobody has a right to disrupt institutional vision in pursuit of pecuniary interest. According to Edward Deming, every good leadership must improve the performance of men and machine, improve quality, increase output, and bring pride of workmanship to people. History proves that battles are not that bitter when they are fought with red roses laced with restraining moderation. Those who wield inquisitorial or conspiratorial sledge-hammers ought to know that momentary power is illusory as we recently witnessed. To run from second defeat is not cowardice; it is called common sense which is regrettably not common in the streets.

Rather than buckling under the heavyweight of conscience, some pseudo-activists with provincial vision are rumoured to be regrouping to open new border skirmishes to undermine the system. In the just ended 'battle', we were all losers. Those who claim victory can only celebrate invidious triumphalism, because we are all disinclined by a pyrrhic victory. Change, unfortunately, does not simultaneously cover the interest of all groups. In pre-industrial England, the Luddites dubiously allied with the rentier class and idle nobility to robustly resist the technological revolution that sought to change the mode of production. The same way the producers of candle fought to stop the electric bulbs. People with vested interest tell you they care for you, while those who have your genuine interest at heart show by practical actions that they truly care for you.

In this age in which social media warriors dominate public discourse, lies travel ten times around the world before truth even begins to plan a trip. The rapid rise of self-opsinuated media combatants and faceless bloggers is doing incalculable harm to civilized communication. In this false space, there are neither borders nor boundaries and truth is the first casualty as novelty becomes the norm. Free speech is fun, but making change happen is the harder part of populism.

The University of Port Harcourt is in dire search of men and women who would volunteer to join the 'extra responsibility' team, not those big vegetables chasing their personal demands. Victory may be greater than a game, but graceful participation is far greater than cut-throat competition. We need to pay closer attention to the refined quality and tenor of our public discourse so that we do not collectively trip over the precipice. In the final analysis, the Spokesman must endeavour to rise above all the distasteful institutional profanities that diminish everybody and everything. Those in favour of such a sordid scenario should not bother to raise their hands. They should rather point it at the Spokesman who is the equivalent of the Jewish scapegoat!

Doing the job of the spokesman

STOP PRESS

COMPLETION OF GRADUATE PROGRAMMES

Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, Professor Regina Ognali, has released a list of categories of Graduate Students, who are expected to mandatorily complete their programmes at the end of the 2015/2016 academic year.

In a statement personally signed by the Dean, dated July 28, 2016, and made available to *UniPort Weekly*, Professor Ognali said that the 2015/2016 academic year was expected to end this December. The statement warned graduate students in the following categories: G2009 Full-Time Ph.D Candidates, G2007 Part-Time Ph.D Candidates, G2013 Full-Time Masters Students, G2011 Part-Time Masters Students, G2014 Postgraduate Diploma Students and G2013 Sandwich Postgraduate Diploma Students to conclude their programmes this year or risk the penalty of the policy regulating overstay on programmes.

"All concerned should, therefore, note that no plea for extension of duration of programmes will be entertained forthwith," the statement said, directing Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Deans of Faculty, Directors and Heads of Department to convey the information to their students.

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Late Mr. Makele led a ten-member delegation that was on its way to attend a training programme under the auspices of the Association of Nigerian University Professional Administrators (ANUPA) at the National Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru, Jos in Plateau State before the tragedy occurred on the outskirts of Lafia, Nasarawa State. The lone bullet that hit Mr. Makele on the neck, also killed the Head Driver, Mr. Olon, who was weeks away from his wedding ceremony.

The delegation which was led by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Administration, Professor Anthony Ibe, first visited the family of late Mr. Makele last Thursday at Rumuogolo Family in Rumuogolo in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State, while the delegation to the Family of Mr. Olon in Lyo was led by a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Dr. Edem David, who also hails from Akwa Ibom State, last Saturday.

Condoling the family members and well-wishers who gathered at the family compound of Mr. Makele, Professor Ibe conveyed the deep sympathy of the University to the aged father of the deceased, Chief Timothy Makele, his children and other family members, saying that the University was in deep shock over the senseless killing of the two staff by unknown gunmen.

"For the past four months, the University of Port Harcourt has been facing one problem or the other. When we thought that we were gradually overcoming the April 11, 2016 protest by our students, which claimed the life of a student and resulted in massive destruction of property on campus, this unspeakable and shocking incident befell all of us."

"Let me say that it is a normal thing for staff to attend conferences and other events outside the University since its inception. It is important for staff to engage in training and cross-fertilisation of ideas, without which they cannot effectively share knowledge and experiences in other parts of the world. Last Sunday (July 24), the delegation was on the way to Jos to participate in a scheduled training programme under the auspices of ANUPA. We received the sad news that the vehicle in which they were travelling to Jos was

attacked along Lafia Road at about 5:30pm by unknown assailants. The incident happened in broad daylight, which goes to confirm the brazen acts of impunity that take place in our country these days. We are still in shock that two of our staff were killed in the lawful performance of their official duties," Professor Ibe lamented, assuring the two families that concerted efforts were on to unravel the circumstances that resulted in the dastardly act.

He eulogised the slain Mr. Makele as an energetic staff, who was thorough, diligent, and personable, and a very likeable staff, expressing deep regret on his untimely demise.

"Mr. Makele was a vibrant staff, who was very articulate and ready to take on extra responsibility and deliver on any assignment. He was one of the youngest Deputy Registrars to be appointed by the University. We are pained by his untimely death; we are in grief, but we thought it wise to come and condole with the family and his aged father on this painful loss," the Deputy Vice-Chancellor said.

Responding on behalf of the family, Mr. Chikwe Orlu commended the University for the visit. He conveyed the resolution of the family to perform the funeral arrangement in line with the dictates of the Anglican faith, stating that the family would inform the University of the actual burial date.

Also speaking, immediate past Chief of Staff to the



Late Makele



Late Olon

Governor of Rivers State, Chief Tony Oluoch, who is an Alumnus of the University, joined the family to lament the loss of Mr. Makele, saying that he would be sorely missed. Chief Oluoch, who stated that he spoke with late Makele on the fateful Sunday, said it was shocking to hear that he was murdered later in the evening.

"We are still in shock because it is very difficult to believe that our own Kelsey is no more. Kelsey was a friend of all and the calibre of inquirers that have been trooping into his compound to condole with the family shows his reach," Chief Oluoch said.

The Eze Oha Apara, His Majesty, King Friday Johnson, who was also with the deceased on Friday before his demise on Sunday, also expressed shock on the demise of Mr. Kelsey Makele. "It is difficult for me to deal with the sad news, because he came to receive me in the University PRO's office that Friday before his painful demise on Sunday. We can't help it because it has happened, but we pray God to grant all of us the fortitude to bear the loss and grant his kind and gentle soul eternal repose," the royal father said.

SPE Commissions E-Library in UniPort

By Obinna Nwodin

Barcelon six months after the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) promised to donate an e-library to boost research and advance knowledge in petroleum studies, the Society made good its promise with the commissioning of a facility at the Donald Ekong Library complex, last Thursday.

Commissioning the Facility, President of the Society of Petroleum Engineers International (SPEI), Dr. Nathan Meehan, commended the local sector of the organisation for partnering the University in the training of world-class Petroleum Engineers. The President also praised the local body for exhibiting what he described as a high sense of enthusiasm in carrying out its activities, urging members in Nigeria to continue to support the Executive of SPE in its drive to deliver more corporate social responsibility projects to communities in its areas of operation.

Meehan, who is a Senior Executive Adviser to oil servicing giant, Baker Hughes, promised to donate copies of his latest book to the Library. He advised students to look beyond the petroleum industry in

Nigeria in their search for employment opportunities.

"I wish to express gratitude to the Professors of Petroleum Engineering in the University of Port Harcourt for their distinguished records of service and mentorship of young entrants into the profession. Your concerted effort to adhere to global best practices has produced high quality graduates of Petroleum Engineers from this University," Dr. Meehan said, promising SPE's continued support at all times. He received the delegation on a courtesy visit before the e-library commissioning ceremony. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, expressed gratitude to SPE for fulfilling its promise, describing the global recognition accorded the University as a motivation to do more.

"We thank SPE immensely for this great recognition of our Petroleum Engineering programme and for choosing the University for the siting of an SPE Energy Centre. This honour would not only be beneficial to the end users, but it would also give the University global visibility," he said.

Also speaking, Country Chairman of the Society, Engineer George Kalu, stated that as part of the

strategies to achieve the objectives of the organisation, it decided to collaborate with high profile institutions such as UniPort to create the necessary platform that would help improve the quality of research and graduates for the industry.

"It is based on the excellent training that students receive here and the quality of your research that SPE decided to fulfil its promise to donate an e-library facility, as well as build an Energy Centre aimed at enhancing collaboration between the academia and industry players," adding that the Universities of Port Harcourt, Benin and Ibadan have been designated as Centres of Excellence in Petroleum Engineering. "In these Centres, typical challenges in the oil and gas industry will be extensively discussed. We also plan to enter into a Joint Venture agreement to strengthen the proposed collaboration," the Chairman said, assuring the University Management of SPE's continued support.

In his remarks, Africa Regional Director of SPE, Engineer Adeyemi Akilawon, stated that the gesture was a way of encouraging students of Petroleum Engineering to receive quality knowledge that would drive the industry and enable young entrants to become dependable professionals.

In his remarks, outgoing Chair Occupant of Shell-Aret Adams Professorial Chair in Petroleum Engineering and Distinguished SPE Lecturer, Professor Adewale Dosunmu, thanked SPE for the kind donation, explaining that the University was very strong in Petroleum Engineering studies. Services available at the facility include One petrogram access for UniPort Staff with uniport@edu.ng email ID; e-library server with SSID e-library broadcasting with a hundred and fifty metres of the UniPort Library; user ID and Password for all SPE UniPort Chapter students with allocated monthly allowance for access to the e-library server, as well as dummy ID for other students who do not have predefined user ID.



Dr-C (Admin), Prof Ibe (middle) flanked by SPEI President, Dr. Meehan (right) and others

As part of her drive for quality service delivery by the administrative and technical cadres, the Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, has taken her crusade to staff of the Student Affairs Department, soliciting their support in efforts aimed at moving the University forward.

Speaking during her maiden official meeting with staff of the Department on Monday, July 18, 2016, Mrs. Otto declared: "The essence of this meeting is to formally solicit your cooperation as we work as a team to advance the cause of the University. We need your total cooperation to achieve our collective objective of moving the University to where we all want it to be, especially in these lean times and I believe that God will crown our efforts with success."

The Registrar stated that in line with the vision of the University which is to be ranked amongst the best universities in Africa, renowned for its teaching, research, creativity and innovation, it was important for staff to regard themselves as part of the vision of progress. "We need to reconsider the way we do our job and how we relate to each other and the general public. The rules and regulations are written in our University Law and our Conditions of Service, including schedule of duties. At our various levels, we are to carry out duties in a proper manner and timely too. Staff must not engage in or belong to secret clubs and must not divulge official secrets, misappropriate University funds or approve expenditure for goods and services not delivered by service providers," she admonished them.

According to Mrs. Otto, staff must not use official hours for private businesses or enrolling in Full-Time studies; they must also not use unauthorized persons to perform official duties and should not be absent from their duty posts without seeking official approval or proceeding on Sick Leave that is not authenticated by the University's Health Services Department. She also advised them to respect the established hierarchy in administration and

Registrar Takes Crusade For Quality Service Delivery To Student Affairs Dept

By Mercy Adeniji

shun other unacceptable conducts. "As staff, we must obey the laws and regulations of the University, maintain honesty, fairness, integrity and

you all to extend the same cooperation you gave her to her successor, Mrs. Mite Ngeh."

In his contribution, Acting Dean of the Student Affairs Department, Dr. Ota Ekpenyong, revealed that the Registrar's visit afforded staff an opportunity to present



Registrar, Mrs. Otto, addressing the staff

adhere to Total Quality Management (TQM) in all activities. We should also respect the statutory rights of staff and students, adhere strictly to the official resumption and closing hours and dress decently as public servants. You must not do anything that would tarnish the good image of the University and you should be ready to accept postings and additional responsibilities, as well as cooperate with other staff to achieve institutional goals," the Registrar advised them. Mrs. Otto further commended the outgoing Director of Student Affairs Department, Mrs. Bridget Nizimiro for the quality services she rendered to the University. "We recall that she recently forfeited her Leave to serve as Acting Registrar because of the love she has for the University. It is on record that Mrs. Nizimiro meritoriously discharged her functions to the admiration of everybody and left a solid legacy. I urge

their needs to the administration. "The Student Affairs Department plays an important role in the life of fresh students, who make their first contact with the University through the Department. It is important that we should be supported to effectively discharge our responsibilities to students and other stakeholders, we also face some serious challenges that Management should address to facilitate our functions," the Acting Dean said.

Also speaking, Associate Dean, Dr. Ademola Onyean, expressed gratitude to the Registrar for the visit, hoping that it would mark a new beginning in the operational structure of the Student Affairs Department. A major highlight of the meeting was an interactive session during which the Registrar clarified some issues of concern to the staff. Also on the programme were Mr. Job Borghara and Mrs. Elizabeth Ndiokko.

UniPort Hosts Nigerian Army Swimming Competition

By Otiok Samuel

The Head of Civil Military Coordination, Colonel Shamsdeen Amusa, led other top officers and sports contingents from five Brigades under the 82 Division to the Nigerian Army regular Inter-Divisional Sports Competition at the University of Port Harcourt Swimming Pool at the Sports Institute.

Welcoming the delegation to the University on Wednesday, July 20, 2016, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndawa Lale, told the

contingents that the facilities at the University meets Olympic standards and provides the right platform for such competitions.

"We are happy that you chose our University for the competition, because we have a very harmonious relationship with the Nigerian Army. For instance, we recently paid a working visit to the Commander of the 2 Brigade, Port Harcourt Barracks, during which the former Commander, Brigadier-General Stevenson Otiabaji, expressed willingness to partner us in securing the University," the Deputy Vice-Chancellor said.

Also speaking, Chairman of the Sports Complex

Management Committee, Professor Matthew Wegwu, described available facilities at the Swimming Pool section of the Sports Institute as the best in Rivers State, adding that similar facilities were also available at the Adokiye Amiesimaka Stadium at Igburuta in Ikwerre Local Government Area.

Professor Wegwu also stressed the need for more collaborations between the Army and the University in the development of sports, disclosing that Colonel Major Martin Luther has been nominated to head the Security Committee of the forthcoming West African Universities Games in the University this November. In his speech, Colonel Amusa disclosed that 2 Brigade, Port Harcourt Barracks, 13 Brigade, Calabar, 14 Brigade, Ohaifia, 34 Brigade, Owerri and 82 Division Garrison, Enugu, participated in the swimming competition.

The Officer, who expressed gratitude to the authorities of the University for their cooperation towards ensuring a successful competition, restated the commitment of the Nigerian Army towards the security of lives and property in Rivers State. "In the Nigerian Army, we have the Military/Civilian Cooperation Committee which I am privileged to head. The aim is to resolve and minimise areas of friction between us and civilians," he disclosed. Colonel Amusa also solicited the support of the University in the provision of educational opportunities for suitably qualified personnel of the Nigerian Army for enhanced service delivery.

In a sideline interview at the venue of the competition, Head of the 2 Brigade Physical Training Wing, Major Luther, further disclosed that six track and field events including, boxing, wrestling, taekwondo and gulf featured at other locations before the swimming event in Port Harcourt. The athletes competed in different swimming styles such as butterfly, backstroke and free style for both male and female categories.



The athletes at the swimming pool. Inset: DV-C (Admin), Prof Ibe (centre) flanked by Col Amusa, Lt. Oluochukwu Okejenye, Unis. Librarian, Dr. Susan Umueozor (right), DV-C (Acad), Prof Fosehimi, Registrar, Mrs. Otto, Bursar, Mr. Alize (seated left and others

A leading literary critic and retired Professor of Comparative Literature, Chidi Maduka, has faulted the recent directive of the Federal Ministry of Education on admission into Nigerian universities, describing the decision as a step in the wrong direction that further erode the already dented credibility of the system.

Exchanging views with a *UniPort* Weekly Correspondent at his residence on Thursday, July 21, 2016, Maduka said: "What the Federal Ministry of Education did about admission into universities is not right. The university is an autonomous and unique entity; it must be allowed the freedom and flexibility to select the right kind of students to fit into its own peculiar orientation," insisting that by the operational structure of universities, the Federal Government cannot be in control of admissions.

Maduka, who noted that universities should operate in such a way that they can contribute to the growth of society, observed that: "The reputation of every university rests on the achievements of the scholars in it. In other words, as a scholar, it is through the nature of your scholarship, what you have done to promote knowledge in your area of specialisation for the benefit of humanity that gives the university a name. It is not the other way round and any scholar that has not succeeded in bringing reputation to his university has not worked hard enough."

Maduka, who was a founding father of the University, cited *Kingdom*, as a young journal in the Faculty of Humanities that attained international reputation in the late 1970s and 1980s, recalling that the journal entitled: *Working Papers in African Literature*, which he founded in the Department of English Studies and produced with stenics, broke into the international literary scene.

"When I decided to start the journal, there were no funds. I had to move round in search of funds to keep it afloat. I had to write a special letter of appeal to the then Dean of Graduate Studies, Professor Ebhegher Alagon to give me a grant of N200 to enable me publish the journal, which as I told him, will be useful at the graduate level. He approved and made available the money, and with the help of the late Ken Saro-Wiwa, who supplied free papers with which I was able to publish the first issue of the journal. I thought it was a small journal, but we didn't know how it went out. My articles in that journal were later published in two top journals in the US," he disclosed.

Maduka Flays FG's Position On Varsity Admission

By Humphrey Ogu

He expressed regret that a book entitled: *Gabriel Okara*, which was edited by him and published with the support of Emeritus Professor Alagon and other public-spirited individuals from Bayelsa State, was yet to be presented to the reading public.

"The book was the outcome of a very well-attended symposium organised in honour of Dr. Gabriel Okara by the Faculty of Humanities. I had to upgrade the materials in the book with an article entitled, *Gabriel Okara: A Poet of the Mystic Insight*, published by Professor Obi Maduakor in *World Literary Quarterly* of the University of Oklahoma in

1987 and my own article entitled: *Gabriel Okara in African Literature*, to make it more relevant. The book was published three years ago," he disclosed.

He appealed for support from the Faculty of Humanities and the University to facilitate the public presentation of the book on Okara, especially now that the venerable gentleman was still alive, describing the book as a very important addition to the African literary corpus.



Prof Maduka (right) fielding questions from Correspondent, Humphrey Ogu

V-C, Others Charge UDPS Graduating Class

By Mercy Adeniji

Graduating pupils of the University Demonstration Primary School (UDPS), have been advised to be obedient to their parents, teachers and always exhibit the good qualities inculcated into them by their teachers during their days in the School.

Declaring open the 2015/2016 End-of-Year Graduation/Prize Giving Ceremony held at the Ebitimi Banjo Auditorium on Tuesday, July 26, 2016, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lake, congratulated the pupils for exhibiting outstanding qualities, urging the pupils to go out and prove themselves worthy ambassadors of UDPS.

Professor Lake, who was represented by the Director of Special Projects, Professor Matthew Wegwu, congratulated the pupils for completing this phase of their education, commending the teachers for giving the pupils foundational knowledge that would prepare them for a lifetime of academic pursuit. "Always remember your background and your *Alma Mater*. To some persons,

the standard of education in Nigeria has fallen so low; but the pupils of UDPS have proved that standards are still very high here. We congratulate you for attaining this height in your academic career and we urge you to strive even harder to excel in your future endeavors," representative of the Vice-Chancellor said.

Also speaking, Chairman of the occasion and a Lecturer in the Faculty of Education, Dr. Clara Olele, congratulated the parents, teachers and pupil of UDPS for successfully ending the academic year. "Primary Education is the foundation of formal learning. During this period, pupils are taught good study habits, morals, reflex ability, self-discipline and basic learning skills. We celebrate your achievements. We are proud of the graduating class and we urge the pupils to continue to carry the school banner high. As you go to secondary school, you are expected to study hard because every worthy social activity is an investment in your future," Dr. Olele charged them.

In his address, Headmaster of the School, Mr. Simeon Ewauche, congratulated the graduating pupils, charging them to always remember their *Alma Mater* wherever

they may be. "We commend the 20 pupils who have been found worthy in character and learning as they proceed to various secondary schools.

"In this academic session, most of our pupils in primaries five and six classes who sat for the 2016 National Common Entrance Examination passed into Federal Government Colleges. The School's contingent to this year's quiz competition under the auspices of the Rivers State Chapter of the Science Teachers' Association of Nigeria (STAN) performed very well.

Administering the graduating class, Chaplain of the Chapel of The Annunciation, Reverend (Fr) Bartholomew Alagon, charged the pupils to be of good behaviour and always imbibe the good values passed onto them by their teachers and parents. He urged them to obey their parents and older people in society in line with biblical injunction. "As parents, no matter what you are doing, our civic duty is to spare time for your children. Do not forget to teach them what it means to have the fear of God. Try to introduce to them what is good and when they come back from school, be interested in what they are doing," he said.

Presenting his Valedictory Address, the Best Graduating Pupil for 2015/2016 academic session, Master Patrick Agha (Jr) expressed satisfaction with the quality of teaching they received from their teachers. "A few years ago, just like yesterday, we were struggling with the alphabet, but today, we can read and write, comprehend and put together powerful compositions. We salute the efforts of our parents and guardians in meeting the requisite obligations of this stage of our academic pursuits and we remain indebted to them," expressing gratitude to Management of the University for providing them a conducive environment to learn.

Highlights of the event included the presentation of Prize to the Best Graduating Pupil instituted by Mrs. Ifeja Iyagba, launch of the sixth edition of the *School Year Book*, cultural displays, choreography and drama presentation entitled: *Tears of an Orphan*, written by Njideka Odom and presentation of Prizes to other deserving pupils.

Other dignitaries that graced the occasion included Chairman of the Board of Governors and Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, who was represented by Dr. Fidelis Ike-Jakfa, former Chairman of the Board of Governors, Dr. Ofonime Ndisio and former Administrator of the School, Dr. Christine Kowolinski, including Drs. Lolo Nsoh-Abraham, Fanny Anikpo, and Ngel Nwankwo, amongst others.



The graduating class with some teachers. Best Graduating Pupil, Patrick Agha Jr (arrowed)

Onuchuku Proffers Solutions To Nigeria's Economic Challenges

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in directing and boosting economic activities," Onuchuku said, regretting that available indices showed that inflation and unemployment were the winners of the war of supremacy in Nigeria, with the masses at the losing end.

Defining inflation as a persistent upward movement in the general price level, the Inaugural Lecturer pointed out that inflation affected people differently. "When prices are rising, they are likely to lead to the erosion of the purchasing power of money of most income groups, especially the working class, as well as the peasants in the rural sector," he submitted, pointing out that stagflation refers to a situation whereby the economy experienced severe unemployment, as well as high inflationary rate also known as concessionary inflation.

"The Nigerian economy is characterised by secular stagflation. The problems of inflation and unemployment are still at alarming rates in the country. On the average, between 2005 and 2015, inflation and unemployment were still double digits," he observed, stressing the need for inclusive economic growth and development through planning and adequate implementation by government, rather than planning and leaving the implementation to market fundamentals.

The Inaugural Lecturer stated that the way out of Nigeria's economic problems was for the country to shift the supply function forward by stepping up production of goods and services, explaining that "increase in production activities in the real sectors of the economy will increase the value chain and create employment, increase output of available goods and services which will in turn reduce prices at which goods are produced, reduce poverty and misery of the citizen and ensure inclusive growth."

Onuchuku described unemployment as a situation in which people who are willing and able to work at the prevailing wage rate are unable to find jobs, listing seasonal, frictional, structural and cyclical unemployment, as types of unemployment that bedevil an economy in recession. He added that the effects of unemployment included brain drain, increase in social vices and crimes, increased rural-urban migration, fall in national output, drain on government finances, potential sources of political instability, high dependency ratio and fall in the standard



Inaugural Lecturer, Prof Onuchuku (4th right) flanked by V-C, Prof Lale (4th left) and other Professors before the Lecture of Living, amongst other negative indicators.

Professor Onuchuku, who is Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, observed that the primary responsibility of government in any economic system, irrespective of its political arrangement, was to initiate policies towards the achievement of four basic macroeconomic goals such as price stability, maintaining full employment, achieving equilibrium in the balance of payment position and achieving sustained economic growth, pointing out that the achievement of the goals could be referred to as economic stability.

"The maintenance of economic stabilisation is primarily a matter of regulating aggregate demand for goods and services and stimulating the productive capacity of the economy. The two generally accepted policy frameworks for achieving these goals are monetary and fiscal policies. In specific terms, monetary and fiscal policies consist of a series of set of decisions, legislations or directives by the monetary authorities and the central government aimed at regulating supply, cost and availability of credits, as well as regulating spending in the economy through adjustment of government spending and taxation," he explained.

He noted that there are macroeconomic objectives, which policy variables are meant to achieve in any society, stating that the economic objectives are usually referred to as target variables, while the policy variables for achieving

them are referred to as instrumental variables. "The instrumental variables are those that the authority in charge of stabilisation can manipulate to achieve specific objectives. Thus, stabilisation policy refers to those measures or actions by government and apex monetary authorities designed to achieve increase in income and employment, promote price stability, and maintain external balance," he explained, listing full employment, price stability, economic growth, balance of payment equilibrium and equitable distribution of national income as some of the goals of stabilisation.

Commenting on the presentation, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adenuga Lale, commended the Inaugural Lecturer, whom he described as a successful economist and politician, for delivering a thought-provoking lecture. He expressed hope that policy-makers would take his recommendations seriously with a view to salvaging the economy and reduce the hardship Nigerians faced at the moment.

"With the high misery index, high poverty index and crime rate, it is surprising that Nigerians are amongst the 'happiest' people on earth. This is probably because they have their hope elsewhere," he observed. The Vice-Chancellor regretted that two staff of the University, including a Deputy Registrar, had their lives lost last week due to the rising crime rate that is associated with a bad economy.

Kilani Defends Hijab In Schools

By Otioker Samuel

A heated controversy generated by the decision of an Osogbo High Court on the use of hijab in public schools continues to polarise opinion in Osun State, an Islamic scholar and senior academic in the Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Professor Abdulrazaq Kilani, has rubbished the controversy, describing the public outcry by concerned Christian groups as totally unnecessary and merely contrived to deceive the uninitiated.

Making the clarifications with a *UniPort Weekly* Correspondent on the various hard-line positions on the matter on Tuesday, July 12, 2016, Professor Kilani, averred that hijab was used as an 'attire of honour' by female Muslims, describing it as a pattern of dressing meant to protect Muslim women from harassment and possible molestation and possible by randy men. He said that Prophet Muhammad's wives wore the veil when privacy from visitors to the Mosque where he lived and received visitors to the Mosque was required.

frowned at a situation in which non-Muslims assumed authority on the interpretation of the Holy Quran, pointing out that the hijab had always been an integral part of the Islamic dress code for women.

"The use of hijab is not a new thing. Islam considers modesty as a sacrilegious act, which necessitates the shielding of Muslim women to preserve their dignity and prevent them from being molested in public places where they are most vulnerable. When you cover yourself and dress properly, you will save yourself and the society from immorality and that is what Islam prescribes for women. Even male Muslim dress in moderation," Professor Kilani said.

On the resort to choir robes by some students of Baptist High School, Iwo in Osun State as a direct response to the court ruling on hijab, Professor Kilani criticised the act as misguided, arguing that dawning choir robes to school by Christian students was not part of the approved school attire. He further submitted that the contentious hijab was not different from the same purpose served by school berets or head-ties.

"Some female students were beaten outside the school environment for wearing hijab in Lagos and the case was taken to court. Remember that Nigeria is not a secular state; it is a dual state. Our pluralism can only be enhanced when we test controversial issues in the law courts. We lost the case in Lagos, but won in Osun State. So, I think that the proper thing for any person who is not satisfied with the judgment to do is to approach the appellate court, rather than resorting to self-help and media trial of Muslims, whose only crime is that they insist on practising their faith," Professor Kilani said.

On the widely held belief that Islam is a violent religion, Professor Kilani described such verdict as a hasty generalization and misconception that is predicated on ignorance. "Islam is a peaceful religion, but there is the other 'Islam' created by mainstream western organisations and scholars aimed at demonising the faith. Yes, Islam is a peaceful religion, but Muslims cannot subscribe to injustice just to appear compliant in society. Islam encourages its adherents to be just in their dealings with

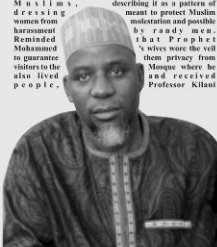
everybody; we do not tolerate dilution of our faith as prescribed by the Holy Prophet. That is one of the cardinal principles that people must understand. The seeming clash between Islam and other non-Islamic religions is a clash of supremacy and contest for adherents. Jihad does not prescribe war or domination of others; it simply means to struggle and to strive. It could be a struggle for knowledge, it could be a struggle within oneself, for money and spreading of the faith by word of mouth, through the media or any other suitable means."

The scholar, however, admitted that in the course of making Jihad, a Muslim faithful could resort to self-defence, explaining that: "You can only resort to self-defence if attacked, but not by initiating violence."

On why Jihadists should resort to self-defence and not leave vengeance to God, Professor Kilani said: "In Islam, one has a right to take laws into his or her own hands. The problem is that there are ignorant people; there are arribans and miscreants who carry out mayhem that contributes to the stereotyping of Islam in the popular western press. The Islam people read or see in the media is different from Islam in the Quran. There are disconnects among some Muslims," he conceded, reiterating his earlier assertion that Boko Haram remained totally un-Islamic. He pointed out that whoever killed another would be taken to hell.

On the relationship between the Muslim community and other members of the University community, Professor Kilani said: "So far, we have a good relationship with non-Muslims on this Campus. It is a reflection of the fact that Port Harcourt is a cosmopolitan town and I have been telling people in other parts of Nigeria about the excellent relationship we are enjoying in this University. Of course, the University should be a role model for others to copy. If the University does not get it right, then you don't get it right anywhere else. The Muslims here are happy about the religious tolerance we are enjoying here. If I am offered an opportunity to teach in another university, I will not go because I am comfortable here," he said, calling on Nigerians to harness the advantage of the pluralistic nature of the country by imbibing the virtues of tolerance and good neighbourliness.

"The problem is that we seem to be a religious society, rather than a godly society which should be our common standard of conduct. Pluralism means that you respect me even if you don't believe in what I believe in and vice versa," he concluded.



Prof Kilani

LCS Self-Funded Projects Commissioning

The Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies (LCS) commissioned new intercom facilities, eight refrigerators, over 40 plastic chairs, printers and accessories, reconstructed the Reception Hall and new office spaces which were the six projects embarked upon by the Acting Head of the Department, Dr. Baridisi Isaac on Friday, June 24, 2016, barely six months in office. Our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU** captured major highlights of the event as shown below:



Acting HoD, Dr. Isaac welcoming guests to the commissioning ceremony



Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Prof. Femi Shaka making opening remarks



L-R: Prof. Philomena Ejelo, Ag. HoD, Dr. Isaac, Dean, Prof. Shaka, ASUU UniPort Chairman, Dr. Austin Sado, Student Union President, Ephraim Inno-Anamarje and a Parent, Mr. Lucky Mgbeken



Senior Academic in the Dept, Prof. Ejelo presenting goodwill message



Cross-sections of staff of the Department and others at the ceremony



The Dean commissioning a new office complex for the Departmental Graduate and Non-NUC programmes/LINCOMS Secretariat



Prof. Shaka commissioning a set of over 40 plastic chairs



A view of rehabilitation work in the Dept



Dean, Prof. Shaka flanked by Prof. Ejelo (right) and Ag. HoD, Dr. Isaac (left) using some of the new upholstery chairs



Prof. Shaka unveiling new eight refrigerators for the offices



Dean test-running the intercom facilities