

CGRP Lecture

The Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemical (CGRP), Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS), organised a Public Lecture delivered by a former Group Executive Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Engineer Alex Ogedegbe at the NLNG Building, along East/West Road on Thursday, July 7, 2016. Our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU**, captured highlights of the Lecture:



DV-C, Prof Hakeem Fawehinmi, declaring the event open on behalf of the V-C, Prof Ndowa Lale



Director, Centre for Nuclear Energy Studies, Prof Ayo Kuye, reading a citation on the Guest Lecturer



Guest Lecturer, Engineer Alex Ogedegbe delivering the Lecture



Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Prof Maureen Etebu addressing the gathering



Director, Emerald Energy Institute, Prof Wumi Iledare (left) and Director, Centre for Research Management and Development, Prof Alice Nte



Cross-sections of the participants at the Lecture



Another cross-section of participants



Course Rep, CGRP Graduate Programme, Muiywa Komolafe, speaking on behalf of the students



Dr. Chijioke Nwaozuzu of EEI making a contribution



R-L: Ag Director, CGRP, Dr. Koyejo Oduola, Profs Iledare and Etebu, Engr Ogedegbe and Deputy Director, EEI, Dr. Nwaozuzu



DV-C (Acad), Prof Fawehinmi (4th right), flanked by Guest Lecturer, Engr Ogedegbe, Profs Nte, Kuye (left), Ag Director of CGRP, Dr. Oduola, Profs Etebu, Iledare (right) and others



DV-C (Acad) Prof Fawehinmi (4th right) flanked on the right by Dr. Oduola and on the left by Engineer Ogedegbe and some students of the Centre



HoD To Reposition Chemistry Dept For Quality Research, Teaching

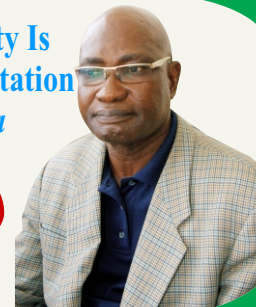
Repositioning the Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry for full accreditation of courses, engaging in ground-breaking research, enhancing staff-students interaction and the quality of graduates produced by the University, will form the cardinal goals of the new Head of Department, Professor Gloria Obuzor, reports **Humphrey Ogu.**
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Side Bar VALEDICTORY LECTURE

The 8th Valedictory Lecture of the University will be delivered by Professor Michael Oti of the Department of Geology tomorrow, Tuesday, August 23, 2016 at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium at 3pm. Details Next Week
~Editor

My Priority Is Full Accreditation
~Shaka

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SERVICOM Unit Drills Students On QA/QC

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V-C Pledges Support For ACCE Confab In UniPort

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NHIS/NUC Team Evaluates Lulu-Briggs Health Centre

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New UniPort Base Police Commander Promises To Flush Out Criminal Elements

By Obinna Nwodin

The Officer-in-Charge of the newly established operational Base of the Nigeria Police near the University of Port Harcourt, Chief Superintendent of Police Ben Igwe, has reiterated the resolve of his men to eliminate all forms of criminal activities in and around the University within a stipulated timeframe. Mr. Igwe gave the assurance when the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale,

led other Principal and Senior Officers of the University on a familiarization visit to the new staging Base on Friday, August 12, 2016. The visit was aimed at formally welcoming the officers and men to the University and encouraging them to put in their best in the battle against criminality in the University and its environs. Igwe said that he had already received extensive brief about the crime burden in the University and its neighbourhood, declaring that he was happy to be in the

den of criminals. The CSP promised that he and his men would do everything possible to rid the area of criminal elements and make it conducive for staff and students of the University to freely move around once again.

"I understand that this area is a den of criminals and I am happy to be in their midst. I am extending an open invitation to all the criminals that operate in this area to come forward and be counted. I am here to

More on p6



New Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor Femi Shaka, has explained that he was motivated to seek the position to rectify the anomalies that resulted in Interim Accreditation status for all, but one Department in the Faculty that was once the flagship of academic excellence in the University.

"I was thoroughly scandalised to notice that the oldest Faculty in the University secured full accreditation only in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. That embarrassing development was a huge scandal that would not have made the founding fathers of the Faculty proud. I felt I could do something to change the situation with the support of my colleagues and Management of the University. We all recall that the pioneer Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, the venerable Emeritus Professor Ebiegheri Alagoa, put our programmes on a solid pedestal which was emulated by other Faculties in those good old days," Professor Shaka told our Correspondent.

"It is not that my predecessors did not try their best while they were in charge of the Faculty; it was just that they each had to contend with serious challenges that scuttled their ambition to take the Faculty to higher grounds. I am on a mission to deploy all my networks and persuasive powers to secure better funding that would help us reposition the Faculty to scale through the next accreditation exercise. It is an important mandate that I cannot compromise for anything else," Professor Shaka disclosed.

Describing his cardinal vision as ascertaining what led to the loss of accreditation in so many Departments, the Dean vowed to speedily reverse the sordid scenario. "My vision is to get all Departments in the Faculty to gain full accreditation status in February, 2017, when we are due to go through another accreditation exercise. Luckily, I am a member of the reconstituted University-wide Accreditation and Affiliation Committee headed by Professor Julian Osuji. My membership of that important Committee has enabled me to clearly understand how to assess and rectify deficiencies in programmes offered by the various Departments in the Faculty.

"Deficiency in critically required infrastructure, shortage of staff in some vital areas and inadequate funding grossly undermined our accreditation status last time and we would not want such challenges to undermine our quest for full accreditation for all the Departments on my watch. We are working hard to achieve the right staff mix by rank and staff-students ratio—important factors that denied us full accreditation during the last exercise. I know why we failed in the exercise last time and we will not allow such an embarrassing situation to arise again. The best way to

My Priority Is To Secure Full Accreditation For Humanities, Enforce Standards ~Shaka

By Williams Wodi

cure an ailment is through proper diagnosis by a competent physician and the right medication. "My other priority is to move the Faculty to the new ultra-modern edifice dedicated to the memory of one of Africa's literary giants, Dr. Elechi Amadi, who was a Writer-in-Residence in the University. I also want to ensure that younger colleagues are properly mentored and monitored to follow in the established academic tradition that we passed through to arrive at where we are today. We also wish to expose younger academics to the proper format for writing papers that would be acceptable to Editors of International journals, including how they can gain global visibility," Professor Shaka said.

The former Head of the Department of Theatre and Film Studies further disclosed that concerted efforts were being made to reach out to Governor Nyesom Wike, who is a distinguished Alumnus of the University, to persuade him to complete and commission the *Elechi Amadi Faculty of Humanities* building. He further pleaded with the Governor not to forget such an important project that was undertaken by the Rivers State Government under his predecessor—especially now that the man after whom the imposing complex was named recently passed on. "We want the body of Elechi Amadi to be laid in state inside the building as a befitting final mark of honour to the master craftsman," the Dean disclosed. Professor Shaka also disclosed that he had already set up the Faculty of Humanities Staff Welfare Committee headed by Mrs. Antonia Okogwu, to set up a fund that would extend financial support to members in distress, explaining that plans have already been concluded to establish a mini-Cooperative Society that would help cushion the impact of the prevailing economic crunch in the country.

"We know that our students are becoming increasingly more conscious of their rights; it is the duty of a listening Dean to be sensitive to their aspirations in these days of *Aluta*. I have appointed a vibrant and purpose-driven young Lecturer in the person of Dr. Ovunda Ihunwo to act as Staff Adviser to the students. He is expected to interface with the students on their areas of concern before things get out of hand and snowball into crisis situations," the Dean

further disclosed.

On his position on the quality of programmes offered by faith-based Institutions affiliated to the University, Professor Shaka regretted that he was yet to pay an on-the-spot assessment of such places, insisting that they must be properly scrutinised to ensure that they do not deviate from the same quality we offer our students here. "We have a duty to mentor and closely monitor their course content and faculty to ensure that they do not compromise minimum quality benchmarks. I intend to visit all of them soon to have a first-hand account of what they are doing at such affiliate Institutes to safeguard our hard-earned institutional integrity as a Faculty and University," the Dean said.



Prof Shaka

ELTAN Confab Kicks-Off In UniPort August 29

By Humphrey Ogu

The Annual National Conference of the English Language Teachers' Association of Nigeria



Prof Ndimele, ELTAN National President

(ELTAN) will kick-off at the Ken Saro-Wiwa House, Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities in the University of Port Harcourt on Monday, August 29 and end on Thursday, September 1, 2016.

A statement by the Acting Head of Department of English Studies, Dr. Margaret Nutsukpo, which was made available to *UniPort Weekly*, indicated that the theme of the Conference will be, "Multilingualism in Nigeria: Prospects and Challenges in Teaching and Learning English Language and Literature in English in an L₂ Context". Former Head of the Department of English Studies, Professor Nkem Okoh, is billed to deliver the Keynote Address at the Conference, which will commence at 10:00 a.m. each day.

Sub-themes of the Conference include: *Harnessing the Learners' Culture in the L₂ Classroom, Descriptivism in L₂ Pedagogy in Nigeria, Utilising Cultural Materials in Teaching/Learning, Speaking, Multilingualism and Language Endangerment in Nigeria*, amongst other topics.

"Abstracts of prospective conference papers, not exceeding 250 words may be sent by email as an attachment in Microsoft Word format to: eltannigeria@yahoo.com. Prospective presenters should list five key words and include their contact details in their abstracts. All submissions must be in *Times New Roman* font size 12, while presenters should indicate whether they would prefer slides or the traditional presentation method," the statement read in part, further disclosing that a vetting fee of

N3,000.00 would be charged per paper at the registration point, together with 10 copies of each registered paper.

The organisers requested prospective participants to adhere strictly to the latest styles of MLA (for literature-based papers) and LSA/APA (for papers on language and stylistics) in the documentation of full conference papers, disclosing that registration fees for old and new members would be N12, 000 and N15, 000, respectively, while undergraduate and graduate students, would be required to present valid identity cards to enable them make presentation and collect conference materials at a token cost of N1000 and N2000, respectively.

Prospective conference participants are advised to contact Chairman of the Local Organising Committee and Acting Head of Department, Dr. Margaret Nutsukpo, at: margaret.nutsukpo@uniport.edu.ng, National Secretary, ELTAN, Joseph Ahaotu at: joseph.ahaotu@uniport.edu.ng or the National President, Professor Ozo-mekuri Ndimele at: mekuri01@yahoo.com for further information.

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GUIDEPOST

APPOINTMENT

Dr. Helen Imafidor, Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Faculty of Science, appointed *Acting Director*, Community Service Programme. The two-year appointment which took effect from August 16, 2016 terminates on August 15, 2018.

Dr. Chizindu Alikor, Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, granted *Regularisation of Appointment as Lecturer I*, effective April 20, 2015.

PROMOTION

Dr. Theodore Allison, Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted to the rank of *Lecturer I*, effective October 1, 2015.

RENEWAL OF ADJUNCT APPOINTMENT

Professor K.O. Okpala, Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, granted one-year *Renewal of Adjunct Appointment*, effective July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

RESUMPTION FROM SABBATICAL LEAVE

Professor Omotayo Ebong, Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, resumed duty from *Sabbatical Leave* at the University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, effective July 1, 2016.

PASSAGE

The death has been announced of Mr. Kelsey Makele, a Deputy Registrar in the University of Port Harcourt Business School. Mr. Makele died on Sunday, July 24, 2016 and was buried last Friday at his country home in Rumuigbo New Layout, Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Stop Press Deadline For Surcharge Payment

All Full-Time Undergraduate Students are directed to pay up their School Charges and complete Online Course Registration for the 2015/2016 academic session not later than Friday, September 2, 2016. A statement dated August 15, 2016 and signed by the Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, urged the Students to also pay the mandatory surcharge of N5,000 and complete the Undertaking of Good Conduct Form, advising all Undergraduate students to strictly comply with the directive to avoid being sanctioned.

NHIS/NUC Team Pays Monitoring Visit To Lulu-Briggs Health Centre

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

A two-man delegation from the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) and the National Universities Commission (NUC) has ended a one-day monitoring visit to the O.B. Lulu-Health Centre to evaluate the implementation of the Tertiary Institution Social Health Insurance Programme (TISHIP) in the University of Port Harcourt. Receiving the team comprising the Deputy Director, NUC, Mr. Alex Ewurruje and Principal Manager, NHIS Abuja, Mrs. Misari Idiam, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, briefed the team on the extent of implementation of the NHIS and TISHIP programmes in the University in line with the directive of the National Universities Commission.

"The TISHIP programme is a health care package offered to students in tertiary institutions to ensure full access to quality health care in university health care centres and beyond. The scheme also covers referral cases. It is available to registered full-time undergraduate students of the University, who have paid the approved charges for the current academic session. Since 2014, the NUC has been advocating and directing

universities to embrace and fully implement the Scheme for the benefit of students and staff," Professor Ibe explained, adding that the programme has been operational in the University of Port Harcourt since the last quarter of 2014.

Welcoming the delegation, Acting Director of the Health Services Department, Dr. Chinwe Ezirim, who disclosed that the Scheme has facilitated the upgrade of facilities at the Lulu- Briggs Health Centre, noted that the challenges of inadequate health personnel and bureaucratic bottlenecks were seriously hampering effective implementation of the Scheme in the University.

In their recommendations, the visiting team urged the University Management to employ more health personnel and ease the bureaucratic bottlenecks militating against prompt access to approved funds. "The TISHIP Committee should meet regularly, at least, once a month while members are advised to help ease the bureaucratic bottlenecks. The Health Centre should be in a position to carry out a drug audit to ensure that drugs are used judiciously and also embark on unannounced checks of the Pharmacy," they pointed out, expressing satisfaction at the level of implementation of the initiative by the authorities of the University of Port Harcourt.



Prof Ibe (arrowed) with the NHIS/NUC delegates and some staff of the University

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT WEATHER OBSERVATORY WEATHER FORECAST FOR PORT HARCOURT AND SURROUNDING AREAS FOR SUNDAY AUGUST, 21 – SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2016.

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY Y (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 21, AUGUST, 2016	30.0 23.0	76	SW	6.4	6:28 6:42	Isolated thunder storms accompanied with a mostly cloudy disposition.
MONDAY, 22, AUGUST, 2016	31.0 22.0	68	SW	4.8	6:27 6:42	Isolated thunder storms accompanied with a mostly cloudy disposition.
TUESDAY 23, AUGUST, 2016	28.0 20.0	81	WSW	3.5	6:27 6:42	Thunder storms expected late in the day with a mostly cloudy outlook.
WEDNESDAY 24, AUGUST, 2016	28.0 22.0	76	WSW	-	6:27 6:41	Mostly cloudy day anticipated.
THURSDAY 25, AUGUST, 2016	29.0 22.0	64	SW	-	6:27 6:41	Mostly cloudy day anticipated with minimal chance of rainfall.
FRIDAY 26, AUGUST, 2016	29.0 22.0	78	S	2.3	6:27 6:40	Thunder storms expected early in the day with a mostly cloudy outlook.
SATURDAY 27, AUGUST, 2016	29.0 23.0	59	SW	6.7	6:27 6:40	Thunder storms expected late in the day with a mostly cloudy outlook.

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

DR. PRINCE C. MMOM
AG. DIRECTOR,
(CDRMS)

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UniPort Base Police Commander Promises To Flush Out Criminals

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beef up security in this area and to assist the Commissioner of Police in flushing out criminals, not only around here, but also in the entire Rivers State. In doing so the criminals should expect an iron fist that would not be a respecter of persons or sponsors of criminals," the Commander assured the University community. He promised that his personnel will not fail to protect inhabitants of the area, who have been living in fear of robbery and kidnapping on daily basis. He advised members of the University community to avail his men of actionable intelligence that would enable them effectively fight crime in the area, adding: "By the grace of God and with full support from the University Management, we shall carry out our operations in such a manner that law abiding citizens will have the freedom to go about their legitimate businesses without fear of being robbed or kidnapped by undesirable elements that have been terrorising the area."

The CSP expressed gratitude to authorities of the University for handing over the facility to the Nigeria Police, assuring them that the officers and men posted there were ready, willing and able to take up the task, which he described as a daunting one.

Responding, the Vice-Chancellor, who expressed gratitude to the Inspector General of Police for promptly deploying a crack team to man the Base, stated that the University and its environs had a concentration of criminals that needed to be treated with an iron fist. "We have suffered



Mr. Igwe (left) briefing V-C, Prof. Lale and other Principal Officers during the visit

grievous losses for so long at the hands of criminal elements that have made life hellish for staff and students of the University, and we are happy that our plea for assistance has finally been answered by the Nigerian Police by your deployment here. Hardly a day passes these days without a staff being kidnapped or a student being robbed by heavily armed men who operate with unbridled impunity. We are now living in grave fear for our safety and your presence here is very reassuring and you can take our total support for granted to enable you succeed in your difficult mission. Be

rest assured that we will support you to ensure that you discharge your onerous duties in the most effective manner," Professor Lale assured the Base Commander, observing that the presence of the team had already started yielding dividends, as criminal elements have started taking off from the area.

Also speaking, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, who expressed gratitude to the Police, prayed God to give the team the power and wisdom to discharge its onerous mandate in the most effective manner.

New Acting Director, Olori Unveils Vision For Entrepreneurial Centre

By Mercy Adeniji

A new Acting Director has emerged to run the affairs of the Entrepreneurial Centre for the next two years. He is Dr. Williams Olori of the Department of Management in the



Dr. Olori

Faculty of Management Sciences, who has successfully taken over the Centre from Dr. Edwinah Amah, who was recently appointed Acting Head of the Department of Management. Speaking on his mandate to a *UniPort Weekly* Correspondent on Monday, August 15, 2016, Dr. Olori said: "What I intend to do as the new Acting Director of the Entrepreneurial Centre is to ensure that students would graduate from the University with specific skills, in addition to their areas of specialization. We will design practical programmes that would help them to become real Entrepreneurs on graduation from the University. This means that students would be guided to develop workable business idea and with the kind of training we are envisaging for them, they should be able to practicalise the ideas and skills we will transfer to them, which they would in turn convert into profitable ventures. In this era of mass unemployment, it is important that the Entrepreneurial Centre should strive to create value adding programmes that would make our graduates self-reliant in line with the Motto of the University. In addition, we need to give them the confidence that would make them believe in themselves as they step out to compete in the larger society. So, we have to go beyond mere talk and theory to actually expose our students to the daunting challenges they will face in the real world on graduation," Dr. Olori told our Correspondent. "We have been able to look at the Mission Statement of the Centre and we are re-strategising to define what we stand for and we have identified

three specific markets that we are going to serve. These are the internal market where we run entrepreneurship programmes for students; we have another market which deals with external bodies and yet another one that would handle commercial benefits from our services and return profits to our graduates," the new Acting Director stated.

"I intend to look at higher skills that are not only confined to the lower cadre, but also targeted at top level Management staff in the organization who would be encouraged to receive requisite training that would enable them become successful Entrepreneurs on retirement from the University," he disclosed.

Dr. Olori stated that an Entrepreneurial University should be in the forefront of incubating and promoting entrepreneurial skills through the kind of programmes that are on offer at the Entrepreneurial Centre.

"We intend to take another look at the implementation process of the GES 300 Entrepreneurship programmes for undergraduate and graduate students to make them more result oriented. At the moment, there is an ongoing holiday programme which was handled by my predecessor, at which participants learn different entrepreneurial skills and I intend to sustain and improve on it to deliver maximum results to students," the Acting Director said.

"On assumption of office, I called for a meeting at which I spelt out my vision to the staff and stressed the need for team work in order to achieve our mission statement. So far, I have received support and cooperation from my staff and I wish to restate my willingness to continue from where my predecessor, Dr. Amah stopped as part of my objectives to take the Centre to greater heights in line with the vision for which it was established," Dr. Olori promised.

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Exchanging views with a *UniPort Weekly* Correspondent in her office last Tuesday, Professor Obuzor disclosed that since her assumption of office on May 28, 2016, she had held useful consultations with different categories of staff and students with a view to enhancing service delivery in the Department, which she said was in touch with its alumni.

"As Head of Department, I encourage teamwork and mentorship of younger academics to enable them explore their full potentials. To this end, we have set up research teams with professors at the head of each team. I expect the professors to mentor their younger colleagues and also share ideas that would lead to very useful research outcomes. We are also concerned about staff welfare and promotion through free-flow of information that would help us build a formidable Department that would serve as a role model in the Faculty of Science and the rest of the University," she told our Correspondent, further promising to carry all categories of staff and students along to ensure that the Department was repositioned and made to engage in high impact research.

Obuzor, who is the serving President of the Chemical Society of Nigeria, disclosed that under her leadership, the Department had re-introduced organised tutorial for First and Second Year students aimed at filling in the gap in normal lecture periods. She recalled that tutorials were in vogue in the 1980s, before the unacceptable practice of 'alternative to practicals' was introduced due to circumstances beyond the control of the Lecturers. "First Year students are very vulnerable to tutorial contractors and we have a duty to ensure that they are not exploited in their

HoD To Reposition Chemistry Dept For Quality Research, Teaching

search for knowledge that would complement what they are being taught at normal lecture periods. To graduate with First Class degrees, students need to be fully prepared right from their first year in the University; the tutorial classes handled by Final Year and Graduate students are geared towards boosting the capacity of students to excel in their studies.

"Without the students, we all have no business being here. Our students have staff advisers, who serve as their academic parents of sorts. We considered the fact that students who have emotional and other problems are not likely to do well in their studies. We, therefore, encourage them to open up to us with a view to providing them with some form of help that would enable them face their studies without divided attention," she said, expressing hope that by the end of her tenure, the quality of graduates produced by the Department would have improved remarkably to enable them compete with the very best anywhere.

Professor Obuzor, who noted that the Department has provided white board markers for teaching activities, said: "We have also started the process of cataloguing all the projects done in the Department over the years. Abstracts, Titles and Supervisors' names are being stored online to minimise embarrassing cases of loss of documents when needed. If we don't cultivate the habit of proper documentation, we will have serious problems in future," explaining that with proper storage of relevant data, the Department has been able to keep

records of student projects and other relevant information for future reference purposes.



Prof Obuzor

Secretaries End National Conference In UniPort

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The University Secretarial Staff Association (USSA) has ended its 38th National Delegates' Conference and Workshop in the University of Port Harcourt with a call to members to preserve the dignity of the profession and help achieve institutional goals to remain relevant in the scheme of things. Declaring open the two-day event which held from Thursday, 11 to Friday, 12 August, 2016, representative of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Matthew Wegwu, congratulated the Association for a successful outing, advising members to embrace modern office practice in a new information age if they wished to remain relevant in the university system. He also commended the national body for choosing the University as a venue for the august

gathering.

"Let me assure you that the issues you have raised such as hazard allowance, stagnation of Secretarial Assistants, responsibility allowance, and training opportunities would be promptly addressed if they fall within the statutory welfare packages in the conditions of service in the Nigerian university system," Professor Wegwu assured the Secretaries that came from tertiary institutions across the country.

"Let me also keep you on notice that new information revolution in the office place has seriously modified the role of the Secretarial cadre. These days, most Executives type and process their own documents even mail them online, thus, reducing the important role of the Secretary who once held sway in documentation. The emergence of Personal Computers, Note Pads and Tablets, amongst

other such amazing devices is increasingly converting your bosses into their own Secretaries. It is, therefore, very important that you devise creative methods to remain relevant in the modern office setting where just about anybody can type, process and mail documents," the Vice-Chancellor's representative told the Secretaries. In his address, National President of the Association, Mr. Ezeme Ogbonna, described the body as a socio-professional, non-tribal, non-political and non-religious organisation with membership that cuts across public and private universities in Nigeria. "We have carved out a niche for ourselves by turning our quarterly NDC/NEC meetings into full-fledged conferences and workshop training sessions of international standard in pursuit of excellence in service delivery and relevance in the workplace," he said.

Regretting that approved welfare packages accruable to Secretarial staff were yet to see the light of day in most universities across the country, the National President advocated for regular training and retraining programmes of USSA members through workshops, seminars and conferences locally and internationally aimed at exposing them to current trends in the profession. "As versatile workers operating in a new age characterised by great innovations in Information Communication and Technology, issues of training should be sacrosanct to enable us remain relevant and efficient on our duty posts. There is need for a holistic and all-embracing approach to make training a continuous exercise in the system," Ogbonna noted.

In his contribution, immediate past Chairman of the UniPort Branch of the Association, Mr. Donald Illeber, commended the National Executive for giving the University of Port Harcourt the hosting right, describing the gathering as timely as the Association was rooting for greater commitment and dedication to duty by its members to attain enhanced service delivery.

A major highlight of the National Delegates Conference was the inauguration of a new Executive for the UniPort Branch of the Association headed by Mr. Sunday Aweka as Chairman and Mrs. Kate Wagbara as Vice-Chairman, while Mr. Christian Oti and Mrs. Gladys Amadi would serve as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.



Cross-section of Secretaries at the event. Inset: The newly-inaugurated UniPort USSA EXCO

Ex-UniPort Student Gets Bol Loan

By Mercy Adeniji

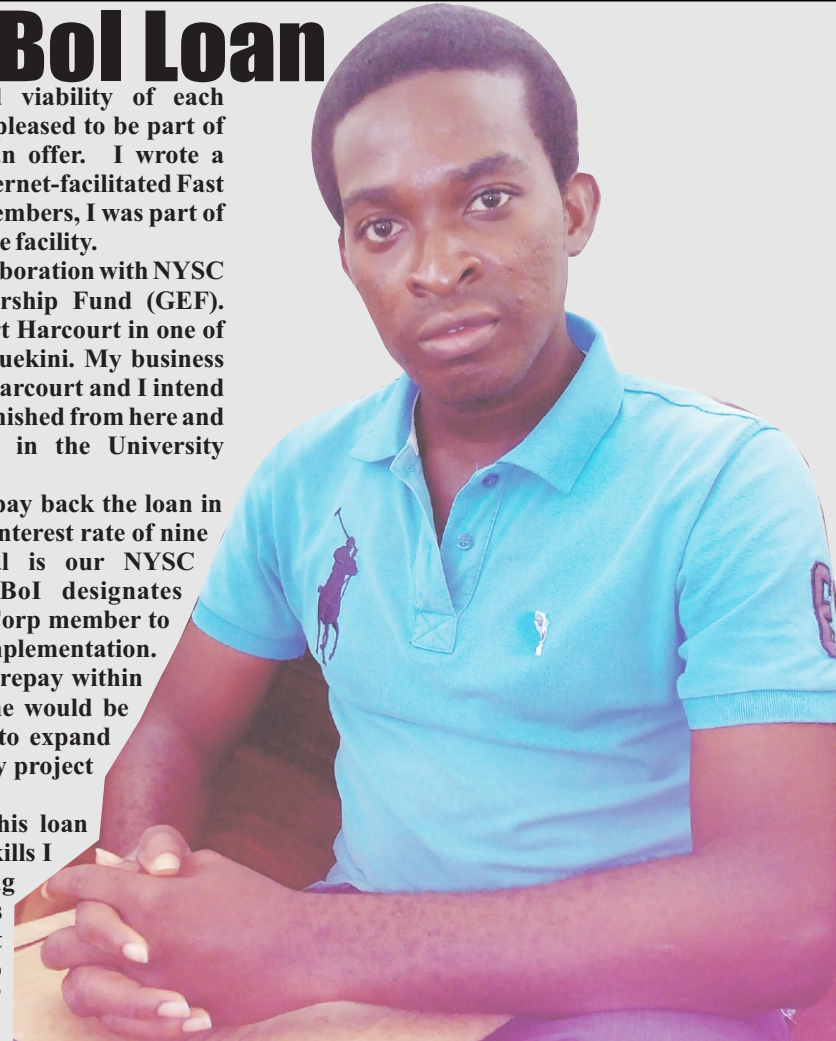
As part of moves to offer solution to rising cases of graduate unemployment in the country, a former Civil Engineering student of the University of Port Harcourt, Mr. Chukwuka Duru, has received a Graduate Entrepreneurship Fund (GEF), an initiative of Bank of Industry (BoI), in the sum of ₦2 million empowerment programme for serving National Youth Corp members. Exchanging view with a *UniPort Weekly* Correspondent on Wednesday, August 10, 2016, Mr. Duru described the GEF as a special ₦2million empowerment programme for serving Corp members launched in 2015. "While we were in Camp for the Orientation programme, this rare opportunity from the Bank of Industry (BoI) came my way. The BoI organised a business/idea competition for serving Corp Members and during that period, and I indicated interest and submitted a business proposal. At the end of the day, one thousand serving Corp members were selected from the Batches 'A' and 'B' and I was selected from Batch 'B', he told our Correspondent. Mr. Duru, who was earlier posted to Ondo state for his National Youth Service Corp (NYSC), but later redeployed to Port Harcourt, recalled that the Bank of Industry organized a three-day capacity training programme on the initiative. "My training was done in Asaba, Delta State and the idea for this training was for us to write a detailed business plan based on what we intended to do, showing our financial business projection to enable our benefactor

ascertain the feasibility and viability of each business proposal. I was very pleased to be part of the final selection for the loan offer. I wrote a business proposal to run an Internet-facilitated Fast Food. Out of the 1,000 Corp members, I was part of those selected to benefit from the facility.

"The BoI programme is in collaboration with NYSC called Graduate Entrepreneurship Fund (GEF). Right now, I am serving in Port Harcourt in one of the secondary schools in Rumuekini. My business location is University of Port Harcourt and I intend to set up the eatery, because I finished from here and I know my target audience in the University environment," he explained.

Mr. Duru said that he had to pay back the loan in three years with a single digit interest rate of nine percent, while our collateral is our NYSC discharge certificate. The BoI designates Project Supervisors for each Corp member to monitor the extent of project implementation. If the loan recipient is able to repay within three and half years, he or she would be entitled to another facility of to expand the business. I want to start my project at the Choba Park Campus.

"The opportunity to obtain this loan facility has been great as the skills I acquired while in school during the entrepreneurship courses from the University of Port Harcourt has taught me how to be confident and self-reliant," Mr. Duru disclosed.



Mr. Duru

SERVICOM Unit Drills Student Leaders On Quality Service Delivery

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The Service Compact with all Nigerians (SERVICOM) Unit in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor, has ended an interactive session for student leaders designed to expose them to efforts being made by Management of the University to enhance service delivery to them and other stakeholders in the affairs of the Institution. Speaking at the interactive session which held on Friday, August 12, 2016, at the Central Office Building, University Park, Focal/Feedback Officer of SERVICOM, Dr. Ikechukwu Agbagwa, disclosed that SERVICOM was aimed at ensuring improvements in service delivery in the public service and averting service failure. "UniPort subscribes to efficient and prompt service delivery to all clients, especially students. The SERVICOM Unit was established to manage and monitor the service delivery system in the University, as well as develop a Service Charter for the University that would bind all staff and students, including all those who do business with us," the

Focal/Feedback Officer told the participants.

Dr. Agbagwa, who advised the student leaders comprising the Student Union Executive, Faculty and Departmental Presidents to pass on the information disseminated to them at the interactive session, stressed the role of the students in ensuring quality and prompt service delivery in the University. "This Unit is open to valuable information and discussions from students and other stakeholders that would help improve the service delivery system in the University of Port Harcourt. Students are encouraged to make use of this important avenue created by the University to serve them better and the SERVICOM office is here to facilitate the process," Dr. Agbagwa told the students.

Giving an update on the efforts of the Admissions Office to improve students' admission and registration procedures, representative of the Registrar, Dr. Agatha Ataga, who noted that the University has introduced processes to enhance service delivery in the University, told the students that the interactive process was aimed at ensuring

that they would graduate and return as alumni to make meaningful contributions to the development of their *Alma Mater*.

Acting Director of the Health Services Department, Dr. Chinwe Ezirim, Web Services and Software Development Unit Officer, Mr. Aniefiok Hanson and Fees Monitoring Officer, Mr. Emeka Opara, gave updates on improved healthcare service delivery in the University, the operations of the Information Communication and Technology Centre on course registration and results upload and payment of charges, respectively, while the SERVICOM/Quality Control/Assurance Unit gave an update on improved computation of results through the establishment of Departmental Examination Committees, and resuscitation of the Course Adviser system to encourage harmonious staff-student interaction, amongst other objectives.

Responding on behalf of the student leaders, Student Union President, Mr. Ephraim Inno-Anamaeje, commended the SERVICOM Unit for working towards addressing issues of concern to the students. "We are happy to note that you are tackling issues of concern to us such as timely computation of results,

installation of multimedia and public address systems in large lecture halls, amongst others. When we are taken into confidence in the policy conception and implementation processes, we will understand and go along with such programmes. This interactive process has exposed us to some important issues that we did not previously know about. It is our hope that this laudable initiative would be continued to give students a sense of belonging," he stated.



Ag. Director, Dr. Agbagwa (arrowed) flanked to the left by Dr. Ataga, Asst. Director SERVICOM, Dr. Collins Wizer, Dr. Ezirim, Students' Union President, Inno-Anamaeje, staff of the University and other Student leaders

We Shall Participate Fully In Elechi Amadi's Burial ~Lale Assures Family

By Obinna Nwodin

Authorities of the University of Port Harcourt have assured the family of late Literary Icon, Dr. Elechi Amadi of their willingness to participate in all activities lined up to give him a befitting burial in recognition of his standing in society. Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, gave the assurance when he received the family of the celebrated writer in his office, on Friday, August 12, 2016.

Professor Lale, who acknowledged the pioneering effort of Late Dr. Amadi to the establishment of the University in 1975, noted that "all over the world, individuals and groups who make concrete contributions to the development of institutions are usually remembered for what they have done, especially when they pass on as the literary icon recently did," stressing that Dr. Amadi was in the forefront of those the University owed so much gratitude for what they have done to advance knowledge and the course of humanity. Earlier in his speech, eldest son of late Dr. Amadi, Mr. Carl Elechi Amadi, who expressed gratitude to authorities of the

University for the condolence visits to the family by different groups on Campus since he passed on, said that they were in the University to brief the Vice-Chancellor on how far they have gone with preparations for the burial. "The family is planning a six-day series of activities that would culminate in the final burial rites. We want to know what plans the University has towards

assisting us give our father a befitting burial," Carl said, assuring the Vice-Chancellor that the family was poised to play its own part to ensure a successful burial for the renowned writer and Patriarch.

Late Dr. Amadi who died on Wednesday, June 29, 2016, following a brief illness was a Writer-in-Residence and an Honorary Alumnus of the University of Port Harcourt.



V-C, Prof Lale (arrowed), some Principal Officers of the University and members of late Dr. Amadi's family

V-C Pledges Support For ACCE October Confab In UniPort

By Otikor Samuel

Preparatory to the 18th edition of the Conference of the African Council for Communication Education (ACCE) to be hosted in concert with the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies of the University of Port Harcourt, a delegation of the Nigerian Chapter of ACCE and Senior Academics from the Faculty of Humanities paid a visit to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale at the Committee Room, last Monday.

Tagged *UniPort 2016*, with the theme: *Communication and Economic Development*, the National Conference which would also feature the Annual General Meeting of ACCE, is billed to hold between October 25 and 28, 2016 at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium and Amatu Braide Lecture Hall, University Park.

Receiving the delegation which was led by Dean of the Faculty, Professor Femi Shaka and National Coordinator of ACCE, Professor Danjuma Gambo, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lale, promised that the University would play its own part to ensure successful hosting of the Conference in line with the established tradition in the University.

"We are so proud of the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, which is one of the best staffed Departments in the University. On our part as Management, we will do our best to ensure the success of the Conference within our limited resources. I can't remember any Conference by a learned society that failed in this University, and I do not envisage that this one would be different from other such events we hosted

here. I want to thank you for choosing our University for this very important continental Conference that we will be privileged to host. I am also pleased to note that the theme is also most appropriate at this time of global economic meltdown and I pray that God will empower the organisers to make the proposed Conference a huge success," the Vice-Chancellor said, expressing hope that some of the senior academics in the Department would also reach out to well-meaning individuals and groups to contribute towards the success of the Conference. According to him, the University alone would not be capable of footing the entire budget for the Conference which is expected to attract dignitaries from all over the world.

Briefing the Vice-Chancellor and Principal Officers of the University on the forthcoming Conference, Professor Gambo disclosed that the ACCE set its main objective in line with university education aimed at attaining excellence in teaching, research and community service.

"The forthcoming Conference which is tagged *UniPort 2016* is the 18th National Conference of the African Council for Communication Education. We are expecting about 350 active participants and greater participation from members of the University of Port Harcourt community. There will also be an exhibition by reputable publishers and we will need the assistance of the University Librarian to provide space at designated places within the Library complex for that purpose. The Local Organising Committee has a budget of about ₦4.2 million; so, we are seeking the assistance of the Vice-Chancellor to offset a substantial part of the bill and to provide accommodation for the Executive Council

members that would be in attendance.

"We also wish to request the Vice-Chancellor to personally declare the Conference open, in addition to hosting a pre-Conference Cocktail, provide security and power supply, including transportation to and from the main venue to enable us organise a very successful Conference," the National Coordinator requested. Professor Gambo, who currently serves as External Examiner to the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies in the Faculty of Humanities, regretted the ugly incident that played out in the University that resulted to the suspension of the Vice-Chancellor, expressing happiness that Professor Lale had again stabilised and brought the University back on track to render quality services to students and other clients.

He described the relationship existing in the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies as very cordial, showering praises on the current Dean of the Faculty, Professor Femi Shaka, Professors Philomena Ejele, Professor Ozo-mekuri Ndimele and the Acting Head of Department, Dr. Baridisi Isaac, for committing themselves to the growth of the Department and Faculty. Also speaking, ace Communication scholar and former National Coordinator of the Council, Professor Desmond Wilson, also lamented the unfortunate event that befell the University in the recent past, describing it as an unnecessary assault on the autonomy that the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) stridently fought for and won to safeguard the Nigerian system.

"There are so many negative ideas that are now regrettably imported from outside the University system. Unfortunately, politicians decide what happens in the universities these days without weighing the consequences of their actions that are mostly predicated on pecuniary interest and ego-tripping. When we asked for autonomy, we didn't expect that the autonomy would be implemented the way it has turned out today," he lamented.

Earlier, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Shaka, had stated that the Conference would be open to scholars in other disciplines as the sub-themes would tackle issues relating to the economy, solid minerals, oil and gas sector, youths, agricultural development, gender empowerment, ethnic identity, national development and environmental sustainability, amongst other topics. Other National Officers that were also in attendance at the courtesy call included Professor Desmond Wilson, Drs. John Orhewere, Jude Kur and Godwin Okon of the Department of Mass Communication at the Rivers State University of Science and Technology.



V-C, Prof Lale (6th right) flanked by Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Prof Shake, ACCE National Coordinator, Prof Gambo, Ag HoD, Dr. Isaac, Prof's Ejele and Ndimele (right) and DV-C (Admin), Prof Ibe, Registrar, Mrs. Otto, DV-C (Acad), Prof Fawehinmi, Univ Librarian, Dr. Umeozor and others