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Olympafrica Hands Over High Performance Centre Building To Mgt



A new state-of-the-art complex has been added to the ultra-modern facilities at the Sports Institute that further beautifies the skyline of the University. The new complex would house a sports science laboratory and the first anti-doping laboratory that is presently not available on any other university campus in West Africa, reports *Otikor Samuel*.

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Side Bar MEETING OF CONGREGATION

The 63rd Meeting of Congregation holds today at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium. The agenda will be made known on the floor of Congregation. Time is 10.00am. All members of Congregation are invited. Details next week

~Editor

Senate Elects Reps Into New Governing Council, Boards

...As Academic Activities Resume Today

By *Otikor Samuel*

The Senate has elected four of its members to represent it in the newly-reconstituted Governing Council of the University. The four academics were elected at the 427th Extraordinary Meeting of Senate which held on Thursday, January 19, 2017. They are: Professors Anthonia Okerengwo, Henry Alapiki, Femi Shaka and Anthony Ihekweba.

The Chairman of Senate announced Professor Mvedega Jibo from Benue State as the new Chairman of Council, while Chief Johnson Okafor (Imo), Mr. Joseph Fafi (Bayelsa), Hajiya Lubabatu Lawal Ammani (Zamfara) and Bello Duku (Gombe) complete the external membership of the policy making body. Congregation is expected to receive nominations for one Teaching and a Non-Teaching Staff to be voted into the new Council.

The winners of the election polled the highest votes among nine candidates that contested the election to represent the highest academic policy-making body in

the new Governing Council. Of the 234 members of Senate who cast their votes for various candidates during the keenly contested election, immediate past Chairperson of the local branch of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Professor Anthonia Okerengwo, polled a total of 142 votes. She was followed by the Director of the University of Port Harcourt Foundation, Professor Henry Alapiki who received 123 votes to secure a place in Council. Dean of

the Faculty of Humanities, Professor Femi Shaka polled 121 votes, while Professor Anthony Ihekweba of the College of Health Sciences polled a total of 110 votes, respectively.

Professors Chukwudi Onyeaso and Barisua Nwinee scored a tie of 97 votes in fifth place. Former Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Professor Love Akonye got 80 votes, Professor Adewale Dosunmu scored 53 votes, while Professor Ibitamuno

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Prof. Jibo,
New Council Chairman

Prof. Lale,
V&C

Police Reassures UniPort Mgt On Security



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Onyeaso Relives Tenure, Akinbami Steps In As Dean



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Abraham Emerges SSC President



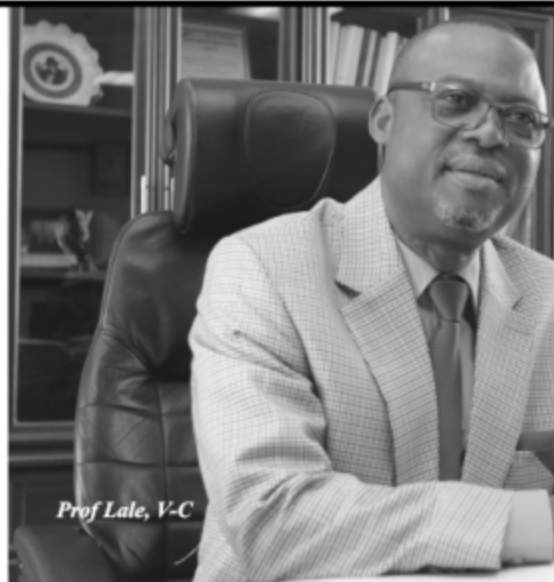
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Medical Women's Lecture On Diabetes For Feb 21



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Prof Lale, V-C

As A New Academic Session Begins Today

By Williams Wodi

As a new academic session begins today, it is important to remind all students that their stay on Campus has a very short shelf life. Events of the recent past have proved that we cannot continue in this endless medley of contrived crises that benefit only a few self-serving patron saints of narrowly-defined causes that do not conform to the general weal in a civilised community of scholars.

As it stands now, a few professional trouble-makers who operate under the platform of students' unionism appear to have mistaken cyclical agitation and vandalism for emancipation from abjectly-defined interests that are dictated from behind the scene by dubiously-motivated 'special advisers.' By now, it should be clear to the professional agitators that masquerading under the guise of student unionism does not shield anybody from the rule of law and rigorous adherence to a code of conduct that separates a civilised community of scholars from prehistoric mastodons and certified anarchists.

Over time, we have coined the definition of student unionism in such narrow confines that only anti-establishment cadres can fit into the concept. Unionists who do not invoke thunder, tempestuous wind, fire and brimstone are generally dismissed as not only badly compromised, but also ideologically bereft of the authentic *aluma* spirit of cyclical struggle against constituted authority. While it is true that legislating good conduct can be an uphill task, allowing self-validating anarchists to reign like infamous Al Capone will return the Campus to the pre-Hobbesian social jungle where life was short, nasty, brutish and violent.

Often, testosterone thrums through the brains of young people, making them feel 'immortal' and 'invincible' in the heat of the

moment; but they must be made to understand that exhibiting a biological impulse is not a licence to disrupt the academic calendar or endanger lives and property on Campus. Student leaders and their sponsors are not allowed to recklessly press the panic button at the slightest provocation to advertise real or perceived grievances. The tragedy of our situation is that a few student leaders who have graduated hang around to cajole those left behind to sacrifice their academic future on the pretext of crusading for their rights as cannon fodder. Everybody has a right!

On closer scrutiny, we find that the heightened sense of unbridled activism in the University is traceable to the huge sums of money that accrue to successive Executives of the Students' Union. For instance, in the last academic session alone, the Executive squandered over N58 million on frivolities that should have given way to quantifiable projects during the service year. This *aluma* spending spree happened just within a record time of only nine months. Even Usain Bolt will envy this lightning speed! Being declared worthy in character and learning means that students must strictly adhere to the cultural and intellectual conventions that govern a civilised academic environment. Students and their shameless patron saints must use their brain chemistry to identify where the boundaries are and respect them in line with the rules of civilised conduct. Shouting out some colourful epithets and threatening constituted authority is not the way to proceed or get results in a globalised knowledge society in which universities are noted as arbiters of refined taste.

Deviant behaviour attracts institutional and societal backlash that has unintended consequences for all concerned because hurricanes do not respect even those who attempt to shield themselves behind strong umbrellas. The incoming fresh students would do well to resist those who seek to brainwash

them into taking rash actions that could wreck their entire academic voyage here. New students must remember that sanity and insanity are only separated by a thin thread that could snap under pressure. To imitate the distasteful conduct of those students that have been expelled from the University is the worst way to take their place on the frontline of loud and aggressive *aluma* struggle.

It is self-evident that unbridled student activism and godfatherism are disguises that people with a deep-rooted complex wear to cover their academic deficiencies and social gaps. For them, there is only self-justification in professing descent, not that they wish to accomplish any good. The simplistic assumption that some groups or individuals are divinely ordained to speak truth to power is a flag of convenience that agitators fly to perpetuate evil in the name of activism. But the borderlines between the two are clearly demarcated.

On the flip side, the authorities should realise that students are not good or bad on the sole command of their actions. For too long, they complained about the deplorable state of their hostels and classrooms without getting attention or a listening ear. Once the hostels and classrooms were comprehensively rehabilitated, the same errant students took to social media to heap encomiums on the administration of Professor Ndowa Lale. This simply proves the point that students are not automated drones that are remote-controlled by others all the time. A clear majority of them have brains that must be respected. It is a concocted fantasy scenario and a false narrative loop which approximates a buffet of blind faith for anybody to believe that students will not respond to purposeful leadership that takes their welfare into account. If we expect good conduct from students, it is imperative that Management, lecturers and administrators should guide them aright and attend to their legitimate aspirations. All stakeholders must be ready to sacrifice their pecuniary interests to attain greater institutional gains in our collective interest. When we demand loyalty, it must be predicated on principles, not dogma or personal preferences as measures for judging merit.

In the final analysis, students must realise that their sole purpose for coming to the University is to acquire specialised knowledge that would serve them and serve society better. Sacrificing their academics on the momentary altar of *aluma* is a piece of twisted logic that works on its head. Issuing threats, joining confraternities or molesting staff can only earn students involved in such acts of gross misconduct misery and regrets. Disruptive behaviour is antithetical to a culture of academic excellence for which universities are famous the world over.

Let the wise hear and become wiser, and let the arrogant continue to labour under a heavy burden of ignorance. You are welcome back to your Campus, our dear students!

Student World

Biekuromo Monday-Bubou is very passionate about cutting down the cost of fish and animal feeds for farmers. He is also concerned with current methods of feed production with all their attendant health implication for consumers. To get around this situation, Monday-Bubou's research work focuses on alternative methods that uses insects to achieve even better results in fish production.

His research on *Fish Feed Formulation Using Insect Protein*, seeks to address protein deficiencies in fish feed, using locally available resources. Monday-Bubou disclosed that he was worried by the high cost of starting up fish farming business by small, medium and large-scale farmers with feed gulping a huge percentage of the total start-up capital, which in turn skyrockets the cost of the product in the market.

"This is so because other proteins from fish and animal sources are expensive compared to protein from insects. It has been confirmed that 60 to 65 per cent of recurrent expenditure in fish farming/culture is spent on procuring fish and animal feeds. As a researcher, I am conscious of the quality, quantity and cost implication of fish feeds made available to farmers and it is important that we do something about it. The high cost of protein will inevitably affect the overall production output because the aim of every business is to cover cost and generate profit," he said, hoping that local communities would benefit from the research findings as it would reduce cost of fish feed production. It would also afford farmers the opportunity to purchase cost-effective fish feed for their fingerlings.

"Fish feed formulation using insect protein would reduce health-related problems arising from protein deficiencies and also provide hygienic and safe fish food. It would also address health

Monday-Bubou Works On Fish Feed Formulation

Biekuromo Monday-Bubou is currently pursuing a Master of Science degree in Hydro-Biology and Fisheries in the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Faculty of Science. He spoke to Correspondent, ETHEL TIMI-JOHNSON on his research.

hazards associated with poor fish feed formulation that do not conform to global best practice in the industry. In fish feed formulation, the six classes of food are taken into consideration, including minerals and vitamins. Insects are peculiar and abundant in aquatic ecosystems and research has shown that fish species consumes insects in their gut content. Aquatic insects play a major role in trophic structure of fish food (food chain) and without adequate protein, malnutrition will set in amongst fish species," he said.



Monday-Bubou

"The Pearson Square method is used to prepare the fish feed formulation and to arrive at the desired protein level, we choose items with high protein to achieve balanced diet for the fish. For purposes of research, cassava can be substituted with brown wheat and soybean which seem to be more expensive compared to insect protein that fish species are already used to. Insect life cycle is very short, but they are happily in abundance in this region and can, therefore, serve as viable substitutes," Monday-Bubou explained. He further said that his research findings would benefit those who are interested in fish farming and are faced with investing heavily on fish feed. It would also assist local farmers who are dependent on supplementary feed, including domestic waste such as fish offals, which hamper progressing from small-scale to full-scale commercial fish farming.

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Olympafrica Hands Over High Performance Centre Building, As Mgt Pledges To Sustain Sporting Excellence

Cont'd from Page 1

Speaking before commissioning the new edifice at the Sports Institute which attracted both international and national sports administrators last Tuesday, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, said the Management was overwhelmed by the completion and hand-over of the complex to the University, preparatory for the commencement of full academic and administrative activities.

Professor Ibe, who conveyed the resolve of the Lale-led administration to sustain the conquering spirit of the University of Port Harcourt in university sports in the country and beyond, commended the efforts of previous administrations in building a formidable sporting University which had continued to grow in leaps and bounds from 2004 when the University hosted and won the first Nigeria University Games Association (NUGA) competition.

"We are proud of the attention we are receiving from topflight sports administrators and athletes from around the world and we will continue to commit ourselves to sports development in Nigeria and West Africa. On that note, the University wishes to express its gratitude to the Executive Director of Olympafrica Foundation, Therno Diack, who came all the way from Senegal and the Nigerian Olympic Committee for their support in helping us to raise the bar of our sporting prowess. We also owe special gratitude to our 5th Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs during whose glorious tenure, the University constructed this imposing sports complex and won the first NUGA competition in 2004," the Acting Vice-Chancellor recalled.

He also expressed gratitude to the pioneer Director of the Sports Institute, Professor Ken Anugweje, Chairman of the Sports Complex Management Committee, Professor Matthew Wegwu, his predecessor, Professor Mark Anikpo and others, who continue to make personal sacrifices to position the University as an attractive global sporting brand. In his remarks, during a courtesy visit to the Vice-Chancellor before the hand-over ceremony of the building, Chairman, Board of the Sports Institute, Emeritus Professor Briggs, disclosed that the Board has commenced full activities in line with the mandate given to it by the Management of the



Deputy V-C (Admin), Prof Ibe, supported by other Principal Officers, Sports Administrators and Project Consultants cutting the tape to unveil the building

University at its inauguration.

"We came to formally tell the Vice-Chancellor that we have commenced activities in line with the mandate given to us. We are proud of our achievements so far in sports and we wish to further consolidate on them. Team UniPort has won consistently in NUGA, WAUG and other sundry competitions and the University does not expect anything less. The Sports Institute is a gold-mine which national and international sporting bodies recognise and we are determined to nurture it to its full potentials.

"UniPort has been given the right to host WAUG, but the Federal University in Makurdi, Benue State will host NUGA before the WAUG games can take place here. Following its completion, we came today (last Tuesday) to formally hand over the building that will house the High Performance Centre to the University. We are aware that Senate of the University has approved a number of programmes for the Sports Institute and we want to keep the Institute running and by doing so, we hope to introduce some innovations and maintain standards," the Board Chairman promised.

Also speaking, Executive Director of Olympafrica Foundation, Therno Diack, expressed satisfaction with the partnership, disclosing that it was the conquering prowess of UniPort that attracted the benevolence of the Foundation which operates in 45 countries. "We have been partnering various institutions, but this is the first University in West Africa with a clear-cut mandate to train future sportsmen and women. Now that we have completed and handed over this building, athletes from

other West African countries would be converging on this High Performance Centre to train," Diack added.

Representative of the Nigerian Olympic Committee, Mr. Tunde Popoola, who praised the University for training highly skilled sports men and women, revealed that most of the athletes representing the country at the Olympics and other fiestas in recent times were trained in the University of Port Harcourt.

"UniPort is a centre of excellence in sports and that was why we got an Intern from here when an opening occurred at the Commonwealth Games Secretariat. This is an academic institution that has the vision which others still do not have and we have taken note of the strong fraternal relationship that exists between the University and sports lovers in Rivers State," Mr. Popoola observed, stating that despite the decline in engagement in sporting activities in the country, the University had continued to up its sporting ante.

In his remarks, Director of the Sports Institute, Professor Anugweje, recalled that the new building was a product of a commitment made at the London Olympics in 2012 which was reinforced at the negotiation of an Olympafrica Centre to build a complex to house the High Performance Centre and the Olympafrica Centre in the University.

Others who spoke at the ceremony included former Chairman of the Sports Complex Management Committee, Professor Anikpo, the Contractor, Chief Emma Mbila and Consultant, Architect Mike Ogbachie. Guests were later conducted round the new two-storey complex.

Police Reassures UniPort Mgt On Staff, Students' Safety

By Otikor Samuel

Ahead of resumption of full academic activities today, the Nigeria Police Base located opposite the University Demonstration Secondary School, Aluu, has restated the total commitment of its officers and men to checkmate criminal activities around the University and its neighbourhood.

Management of the University secured the assurance when it paid a working visit on the Base Commander, Mr. Ben Igwe, to alert the Police of possible resurgence of criminality as the University reopens for academic activities for the 2016/2017 academic session today.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale on the visit last Monday, said the trip was another way of cementing the fraternal relationship that currently existed between the University and the Base Command. He was accompanied on the visit by Principal Officers and other senior staff of the University.

"We are here to thank the officers and men of the Base for the

excellent work you are doing to tackle the security challenges that had bedevilled this area before your arrival here. We are happy with what you are doing which Management of the University had also expressed in writing to the Inspector-General of Police. We intimated the Police Headquarters of your commendable professionalism in the line of duty here and also assured the headquarters of our continued support that would enable you do more in policing our neighbourhood," the Acting Vice-Chancellor said.

Professor Ibe intimated the Police that Senate of the University expelled 22 students on account of their involvement in acts of gross misconduct as determined by the University Senate.

In his response, the Base Commander and Chief Superintendent of Police, Mr. Igwe vowed to sustain the fight against miscreants, who once engaged in all sorts of criminality, including kidnapping of staff of the University, rape and robbery, thereby giving the residents sleepless nights.

"The new Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Idris Ibrahim believes that there is hardly any crime in the country that

cannot be unravelled. We keyed into his vision and that was why we were able to detect some of the crimes committed even before we arrived here, including the abduction and gruesome murder of one of your staff, Dr. Eebah Lebari, who was buried in his premises. We have already contacted the Interpol to apprehend two of the suspects who fled to Benin Republic to avoid arrest. I promised the University community that there would be no more kidnappings until we are relocated from here. And I must say that though it is not easy to secure a cosmopolitan environment such as a university, God has been on our side," Mr. Igwe said, promising to sustain the battle against criminal elements.

On resumption of the University for the new session, the Chief Superintendent of Police stated: "The students are part of us; so we are ready to welcome them back to school and help to create a conducive atmosphere that would enable them go about their lawful activities on and off Campus. Let me, however, inform you that we are beaming our searchlight on some of your students who are suspected of involvement in criminal activities.

"They also knew that we are after them, so they shunned the Second Semester Examinations. We will not allow unruly students or their sponsors to disrupt lawful activities in this University and we are putting them on notice to either relocate or be ready to conform to the rules and regulations of the University. Nobody should take laws into his or her own hands in a civilised community of scholars. Anybody who feels aggrieved with the decisions of the University should advertise

such grievances through the proper channels of communication. We also appeal for cooperation because in the final analysis, *The Police is Your Friend*," he assured.

Other Principal Officers on the entourage were: Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Aliezi and University Librarian, Dr. Susan Umeozor. They were joined by Deputy Registrar (Information), Williams Wodi, Chief Security Officer, Lt. Col. Reginald Isiguzo (rtd) and Special Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Kingsley Wogwu.



DV-C (Admin) Prof Ibe (5th left) flanked by Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, Mr. Edwin Ogwuni, CSO, Lt. Col. Isiguzo (left), Base Commander, Mr. Igwe, Univ. Librarian, Dr. Umeozor, DV-C (Acad), Prof Fawehinmi, Bursar, Mr. Aliezi (right) and others

Ingweye Advocates Improved Agro-food Value Chain Mgt

By Humphrey Ogu

The solution to the problems of food production and security in Nigeria lies in adopting a holistic approach to agricultural production through agro-food value chain development. Dr. Julius Ingweye of the Department of Animal Science in the Faculty of Agriculture took this position in an interview with a *UniPort Weekly* Correspondent last Monday.

"It is much more advantageous to consider every stakeholder in the value chain. What we need is to look at the process holistically from input supply to production and processing, wholesaling, retailing, consumption and disposal of wastes. That way, we will be able to identify the challenges, opportunities and find lasting solutions to the problems identified in the process. This will make way for the achievement of sustainability in agriculture and food security for the populace," he explained.

Ingweye, whose main research focus is on sustainable animal nutrition, disclosed that he was currently working on finding alternative sources of livestock feed ingredients to reduce cost of the product for farmers. "The conventional feed ingredients such as soya bean and maize, amongst others, are becoming too expensive for smallholder farmers. Reduction of the cost of feeds to enable the farmers make profit is of utmost concern to me. I am working on finding cheaper and safer feeds for sustainable animal production and better investment outcomes," he disclosed.

As a committed scholar who is passionate about research, continuous professional development (CPD) and internationalisation of education, Ingweye has

participated in a number of fellowships abroad. These include a 6-month Postdoctoral Research Fellowship of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) at the University of Manitoba, Canada in 2012 and a short course in Market Access for Sustainable Development at Wageningen University and Research Centre for Development Innovation, the Netherlands in 2014 under the sponsorship of the Netherlands Fellowship Programme before completing a Professional Master of Science programme in Agricultural Production Chain Management with emphasis on livestock chains from Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences, Velp, The Netherlands.

On the benefits of these trainings to his career progression, the Animal Scientist said: "I have acquired considerable skills, including Value Chain Development, Agro-food Entrepreneurship, Organisation Analysis and Institutional Strengthening and Multi-Stakeholder Management, which I hope to share with relevant stakeholders and colleagues in my Faculty. Being on Study Leave with Pay means that I was co-sponsored by the University; so, I have to reciprocate the kind gesture by sharing ideas that will help scholars in my area of specialisation.

"On my return to the University late last year, I restructured my courses to meet current trends in the agricultural sector in line with global best practice. In the course of my teaching activities, I realised that my students needed to acquire entrepreneurial skills that would enable them key into the entrepreneurial vision of the University and become successful entrepreneurs on graduation. As a way of preparing myself for the task

ahead, I decided to acquire skills that would enable me fuse teaching and research in animal nutrition with value chain entrepreneurship. This informed my enrolling on another Master's degree programme, despite holding a PhD in Animal Science," he said.

Ingweye also called for a Centre for Sustainable Agro-food Business to be run in collaboration with experts in the Faculties of Agriculture and Management Sciences in the University as is the practice in other developed countries.



Dr. Ingweye

Onyeaso Relives Tenure As Dentistry Dean, As Akinbami Steps In

By Mercy Adeniji and Williams Wodi

Following the successful end of a four-year tenure by Professor Chukwudi Onyeaso as Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry, Dr. Babatunde Akinbami of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery has stepped into his shoes in Acting capacity. The change of baton in the Faculty took place on Wednesday, January 18, 2017.

Speaking with *UniPort Weekly* Correspondents on the development, Professor Onyeaso recalled that he assumed office on January 16, 2013 and ended his first tenure on January 17, 2015. "I was re-elected to serve for a second tenure on January 19, 2015 which terminated on January 18, 2017 to the glory of God. I can tell you with a sense of modesty that despite paucity of funding, I accomplished what I set out to do on assumption of office," the immediate past Dean declared at the hastily arranged interview.

On his motivation for taking on the challenging assignment, the erstwhile Dean described service as a debt that everybody owed society. "My motivation has been to contribute to the accelerated growth of the young Faculty to take its proper place in Dentistry education in Nigeria. Even out of office as Dean, I am still determined to contribute my

quota to efforts aimed at stabilizing the Faculty in terms of academic programmes and by extension, make my modest contribution to the overall growth of the University. That have been my driving force among other objectives," Professor Onyeaso further explained.

The former Dean recalled that under his watch, he tried to strike a balance between staff and students that resulted in fraternal relationships and enhanced productivity in the Faculty. "In line with the philosophy and objectives of our Faculty which are also consistent with the vision and mission statements of the University, I tried to ensure that there was an excellent working relationship between staff and students which encouraged and motivated all of us to achieve a high level of productivity in teaching, learning and administration. For instance, the enabling environment that existed in the Faculty during my tenure gave visibility to Dentistry programmes in the University.

"We also established international linkages with reputable

Dental Schools in other parts of the world which helped to internationalise our training programmes here at home. My administration encouraged both teaching and non-teaching staff in the Faculty to contribute to a welfare fund from which we draw to support one another during social events that involve staff of the Faculty. Additionally, we also won several awards and instituted a well-received Dentistry Day programme through which we continue to create awareness on the need for proper dental

care."

The immediate past Dean disclosed that one of the challenges he faced while in office was poor funding, describing Dentistry as a capital intensive programme that required massive capital infusion to make it viable. He also identified the need for regular maintenance of dental equipment and retraining programmes for staff to update their skills on the job. Professor Onyeaso appealed to Management to continue to assist the young Faculty, which he said was still in dire need of more academic staff to bring it closer to staff mix by rank. He drew attention to the need to procure other vital equipment that are necessary for the rounded training of modern Dentists. "One of such critically needed equipment that we urgently need to purchase and install is the Cephalometric X-ray machine that is central to the training of dental students," he said.

Meanwhile, the new Acting Dean, Dr. Akinbami, has restated his resolve to take the Faculty to higher grounds as a compliment to the achievements of his predecessor in office.

"I am confident that we would consolidate on the achievements of my predecessors by improving on the legacy they bequeathed to us through hard work and personal sacrifices. Professor Onyeaso has done a great job over the years, just like his predecessor, Professor Ambrose Obiechina did during his tenure. We are going to reinforce the staff-student relationship, including the standard and quality of Dentistry education in this University. We hope to improve on our infrastructure within the limits of funding available to us during my tenure. I also intend to expand our international linkages to ensure that we continue to conform to global best practice in our training programmes. We really need such global partnerships with these institutions to ensure that we maintain our curriculum which we believe is already of high standard. We shall also improve on our equipment to bring us up to speed with what obtains in dentistry education in other parts of the world," Dr. Akinbami promised.

The new helmsman expressed hope that the Board, Staff, Students and other sundry stakeholders in the affairs of the Faculty would give him all the necessary cooperation that would enable him succeed as they gave to his predecessors in office.



New Acting Dean, Dr. Akinbami (left) and immediate past Dean, Prof Onyeaso

Following the suspension of a five-day warning strike declared by the Non-Teaching Staff of Nigerian universities which commenced on Monday, January 16, 2017, normal academic activities resumed nationwide last Monday. The weeklong strike action was jointly declared by the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), Non-Academic Staff Union (NASU) and National Association of Academic Technologists (NAAT). Speaking with a *UniPort Weekly* Correspondent on the reason for the strike action, Chairman of the UniPort Branch of SSANU, Mr. Bikume Syder, revealed that the warning strike became necessary to remind Government of the urgent need to fully implement the 2009 Agreement which the FGN wilfully entered into with the three unions that declared the weeklong strike. He regretted that Government had been playing a Cat-and-Mouse game with the unions on the implementation of the terms of the agreement which implementation is already behind schedule, assuring the various Congresses that their leaderships at the national and local levels were determined to pressure Government to comply with the document that took so much time, energy and compromises to sign. He listed lack of earned allowance and good governance, poor funding as against the UNESCO recommendation, inadequate infrastructure in the universities and abandoned projects, shortfalls in the payment of salaries, universities staff school, National Industrial Court of Nigeria judgement, non-registration of NUPEMCO, non-implementation of CONTISS 14 and 15 for Technologists, lack of adequate teaching and learning facilities and alleged corruption in the university system, as some of the reasons for embarking on the five-day warning strike. Mr. Syder recalled that the Minister of Labour and Employment, Dr. Chris Ngige, held a conciliation meeting with the three unions on January 18, 2017 under the umbrella of Joint Action Committee (JAC) on the ultimatum issued by the unions. The UniPort SSANU Chairman, who spoke on behalf of

Non-Teaching Staff Resume Work After National Strike

By Mercy Adeniji

his other colleagues commended members of the Branch for complying fully with the directives of the National Executive to down tools. "The strike was very successful; at least, we recorded over ninety percent compliance rate in the University of Port Harcourt and I am sure that it was the same situation in other universities. The warning strike compelled the Federal Government to return to the negotiation table for a conciliatory meeting which we believe is a stepping

stone for actualization of the demands of the workers.

"We know the struggle is not yet over and until victory is achieved, we are only watching to see how much Government will expedite action as they have promised to fulfil all the agreements reached at the conciliatory meeting. This implies that if the Government does not do the needful, we may go back to the trenches which may culminate in yet another avoidable strike." He urged workers and the Executive of JAC not to relent in the struggle to actualize the aspirations of university workers to secure their welfare needs.



A new Executive Committee has been elected to pilot the affairs of the Senior Staff Club of the University for the next two years. The new body will be led by the Head, Department of Educational Management and Planning, Professor Nath Abraham, who emerged as President following a keenly contested election. Of the 934 accredited voters, Professor Abraham polled a total of 551 votes to fend off stiff challenges from two other contestants, Drs. Samuel Ogunbiyi and Abimbola Ogunleye who scored 265 and 104 votes, respectively.

Announcing the results of the election which took place at the Lawn Tennis Court, Delta Park, last Wednesday, Chairman of the Electoral Committee, Professor Prince Mmomo, further declared Mr. Justice Osinga as Treasurer of the Club. Mr. Osinga polled a total of 442 to defeat Mr. Ibinabo Bobmanuel, who scored 417, while ace musical prodigy, Mr. Precious Omuka, won the position of Social Secretary with a total of 322 votes after defeating Mr. Charles Ekeocha and Mr. Iyke Welch, who scored 247 and 242 to take second and third positions.

Mr. Charles Dee-ue was elected Bar Manager with a total of 437 votes against his rivals, Messrs. Harry Amabeoku and Eleazar Ogbegbe, who scored 270 and 176, respectively, while Mr.

Anthony Nnadiukwu scored 551 to beat his rival, Mr. George Elikonwo, who polled 318 votes for the position of Sports Secretary.

The ELECO Chairman further announced that four candidates were returned unopposed for the positions of Vice-President, Secretary-General, Financial Secretary and Assistant Secretary. The candidates were: Mrs. Ngozi Igwe, Mr. Ogha Amabebe, Mr. Yeoh Nelson and Mr. Jonah Tambari. He added that Mr. Patrick Agha was disqualified for the position of Social Secretary for failing to appear for the mandatory screening exercise in line with the Club's Constitution.

Professor Mmomo, expressed gratitude to the agents and security operatives for contributing to the huge success recorded at the election, describing the polls as credible, transparent and a model for Nigerian election umpires.

In his acceptance speech, the new President, Professor Abraham, promised to raise the bar of performance in the

administration of the Club which serves the important purpose of relaxation for senior staff and visitors to the University.

"First of all, let me thank the Almighty God for keeping us alive to see this day and for the peaceful and orderly voting process. I also wish to thank the Electoral Committee under the chairmanship of Professor Prince Mmomo for such a glittering record of transparency and orderly voting process that have shattered previous records. Some observers have said that this election was probably the best ever conducted in Nigeria and I am tempted to agree with their verdict.

"I wish to express gratitude to all senior staff who made the effort to exercise their franchise and I wish to assure them that their trust in me is not misplaced. You can expect quality leadership and service from this moment. Let me on behalf of this new Executive thank you again and solicit your support to take the Club to where we all want it to be," the new

President said. He commended his predecessor, Dr. Otu Ekpennyong for his achievements under very difficult circumstances and extended a hand of fellowship to those who contested against him to join him in the onerous task of repositioning the Club for greater service delivery to revellers.

Abraham Emerges New Senior Staff Club President

By Otikor Samuel



New SSC President, Prof Abraham (right) and his EXCO taking Oath of Office

Cont'd from Page 1

Aminigo got 33, respectively.

The Vice-Chancellor and Chairman of Senate, Professor Ndowa Lale, announced the four candidates with the highest votes as elected representatives of Senate to the new Governing Council which was recently reconstituted by the Federal Government. The electoral process was supervised by the Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, who was assisted by other staff of the Academic Office.

Senate also elected ten other representatives into various Boards and Committees. They are: Professor Adewale Dosunmu (Senior Staff Disciplinary Committee), Professor Matthew Wegwu (Institute of Agricultural Research and Development), Professor Paul Iro and Dr. Vincent Wali (Delta Series Editorial Board, Science), Professor Nathaniel Abraham and Dr. John Yeseibo (Delta Series Editorial Board, Arts), Professor Oledinma Nwanna-Nzewunwa and Dr. Tobinson Briggs (Staff Housing Loan Scheme), Professor Josephine Ebong (Publications Committee) and Professor Prince Mmom (Appeals Committee).

The Chairman charged representatives of Senate to the Council to discharge their functions dutifully and with a high sense of responsibility to justify the confidence reposed in them. He frowned at reported cases of some top officers of the University engaging in nocturnal meetings with students on how to unleash mayhem on Campus, warning that there would be no winners in a chaotic setting.

Senate, thereafter, resolved that its representatives to the Governing Council must, henceforth, show accountability by briefing it on a regular basis, urging those elected to leave credible legacies for future generations.

Senate also received and ratified results from the Faculties of Humanities, Science, Education, Engineering, Management Sciences, School of Science Laboratory Technology, Agriculture and College of Health Sciences. Senate approved all the degree results, mostly Second Semester results of 2015/2016 academic session tabled for consideration by the various Deans and Provost.

Senate Elects Reps Into New Governing Council, Boards

Earlier in his brief, the Chairman of Senate welcomed all members of the body to the first Meeting for 2017, adding that the meeting which was initially scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, was moved forward to Thursday to enable the Vice-Chancellor and Registrar attend the inauguration of the new Governing Council in Abuja.

Professor Lale further announced Wednesday, February 1, for the 9th Valedictory Lecture. With the topic: *The Other Five Percent: An Exercise in the Gorilla Psychology*. The Lecture would be delivered by Professor Francis Ukaigwe of the Department of Geology at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium at 3:30pm, while the 10th Valedictory Lecture entitled: *Agricultural Practice in a Changing Climate: Beyond Infatuation to Devotion* will be delivered by Professor Chidi Ibe also of the Department of Geology on Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at the same venue. Founders' Day celebration is billed for next Monday with Founders' Day Lecture as major highlight. He announced that 38th Matriculation Ceremony will hold on Tuesday, March 14, while the 31st Convocation Ceremony will hold on 24th and 25th March, 2017.



Okerengwo



Alapiki



Shaka



Ihekwa

The Chairman of Senate also announced the appointments of Drs. Tochukwu Okonkwo, Chinyelu Ojukwu and Jonah Aprioku, as Acting Heads of Department of Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry, English Studies and Experimental Pharmacology and Toxicology, respectively.

Professor Lale told Senate that the Student Disciplinary and Related Matters Committee (SDRMC) was constituted with Professor Anthonia Okerengwo as Chairman, Mr. Kingsley Wogwu as Secretary, while the Dean of Student Affairs, Dr. Otu Ekpenyong will serve as an Ex-Officio member. Other members of the Committee are: Drs. Uzoma Chima, Chima Wokocha, Gift Worlu, Edward Imo, Gladys Emenike, Tobinson Briggs and Chief Security Officer, Lt. Col. Reginald Isiguzo (rtd).

Following a presentation on the amendments of the date of resumption for the 2016/2017 academic session by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, the august body ratified the 2016/2017 Academic Calendar for Full-Time and Sandwich programmes and fixed resumption of academic activities for today. The Vice-Chancellor told Senate that the comprehensive rehabilitation of hostels and classrooms resulted in the adjustment of the academic calendar.

As Mastomys Return To Town

By Humphrey Ogu

Mastomys *Natalensis* also known as *Multimammate* rats are here again. They may be lurking in your neighbourhood right now and massing to wreak havoc. This should be a source of worry to the public, because *Mastomys* are not in the business of treating people to a picnic or a fiesta; they have one mission: to spread a killer virus—Lassa Virus, which causes Lassa Fever. Lassa Fever, also known as Lassa Haemorrhagic Fever (LHF) is an acute haemorrhagic illness that manifests between 2 and 21 days.

"The virus is transmitted to humans from direct contact with infected rats or by catching and preparing them for food, or through contact with food

or household items contaminated with rat faeces or urine. The virus can also be transmitted through contact with an infected person's body fluids," the World Health Organisation (WHO) reports on its website, <http://www.who.int>.

"Prevention of Lassa Fever relies on promoting good 'community hygiene' to discourage rodents from gaining access into homes. Effective measures include storing grain and other foodstuffs in rodent-proof containers, disposing of garbage far from human habitation, maintaining clean households and keeping cats. Because *Mastomys* are so abundant in endemic areas, it is not possible to completely eliminate them from the environment. Family members should always be careful to avoid contact with blood and body fluids while caring for sick persons," the WHO website stated.

Symptoms of the fever, according to WHO, include fever, general weakness, and malaise, which may be followed by headache, sore throat, muscle and chest pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, cough, and abdominal pain, a few days later.

"In severe cases, facial swelling, fluid in the lung cavity, bleeding from the mouth, nose, vagina or gastrointestinal tracts and low blood pressure may develop," it points out. People manifesting the symptoms listed above are advised to contact qualified medical personnel for immediate attention.

Although healthcare worker caring for Lassa Fever

patients and laboratory workers are more likely to be at risk, our major concern here are non-healthcare workers who may not have adequate information about the symptoms, causes, treatment, prevention and control of the killer disease. As the saying goes: "knowledge is power". People who are aware of the symptoms, causes, treatment, prevention and control of Lassa Fever are more likely to take measures that would keep the disease at bay.

I have tried to impress it on a few close associates that such viral diseases as Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) and Lassa Fever, could be prevented through deliberate preventive measures that are far cheaper than full-scale treatment. Contracting these ailments is not a matter of destiny as some fatalists appear to believe even in this 21st century!

As the world shifts attention from curative to preventive medicine in the understanding that prevention is cheaper and better than cure, it becomes imperative to take preventive measures in warding off *Multimammate* rats from our environment. This includes keeping the environments clean enough to make them uninhabitable for rats. Where the rats are already endemic, the next step is to ensure that food items are kept away from their reach.

A Clinical Pharmacist, Professor Vincent Idemiyor of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, noted that under normal procreative conditions, *Mastomys* can reproduce millions of their kind.

"It is not possible to eradicate *Mastomys* because of their population and procreative ability. Unlike elephants, which take about 20 to 24 months to give birth, *Mastomys* have only a two-year lifespan and they procreate a lot. As a result of indiscriminate bush burning during farming seasons, *Mastomys* flee to human habitations where they pose a threat to lives," he stated. We can defeat them.



Mastomy

GUIDE POST

APPOINTMENT

Professor Sylvanus Kalu, Department of Marketing, Faculty of Management Sciences, appointed *Director*, Institute of International Trade and Development (IITD). The two-year appointment which takes effect from March 13, 2017 will terminate March 12, 2019.

Professor Andrew Obafemi, Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences, appointed *Assistant Director*, Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainable Development (INRES). The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect terminates on December 5, 2018.

Dr. Babatunde Akinbami, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Faculty of Dentistry, appointed *Acting Dean*, effective January 18, 2017.

Dr. Ebele Ifionna, Department of Finance and Banking, Faculty of Management Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of Department*, effective January 24, 2017 to January 23, 2019.

Dr. Prayer Abu, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of Department*, effective December 13, 2016 to December 12, 2018.

Dr. Monica Ironkwe, Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, appointed *Acting Head of Department*, effective February 7, 2017 to February 6, 2019.

Dr. Lezusi Torbira, Department of Finance and Banking, Faculty of Management Sciences, appointed *Coordinator*, ACIB/ BSC Linkage Programme, effective January 24, 2017 to January 23, 2019.

Dr. Ravag Bello, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, appointed *Coordinator*, Physics Electronics/ Physics Production Technology Programme of the School of Science Laboratory Technology (SSLT). The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect terminates on January 3, 2019.

RENEWAL OF APPOINTMENT

Mr. Matthias Nkudo, Department of Management, Faculty of Management Sciences, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment as Lecturer II*, effective January 10, 2017 to January 9, 2018.

Dr. Thekumere Nwede, Department of Management, Faculty of Management Sciences, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective January 15, 2017 to January 14, 2018.

Dr. Helen Olor, Department of Hospitality Management and Tourism, Faculty of Management Sciences, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment as Lecturer I*, effective February 7, 2017 to February 6, 2018.

Professor Josiah Ayotumuna, Department of Crop and Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, granted *Renewal of Adjunct Appointment*, effective May 3, 2017 to May 2, 2018.

Dr. Cecilia Ekwueme, Department of Educational Studies and Educational Technology, Faculty of Education, granted *Renewal of Adjunct Appointment as Reader*, effective November 16, 2016 to November 15, 2017.

Stop Press

INRES Lecture Series

The Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainable Development (INRES) invites researchers, graduate students and other members of the University community to a Special Lecture entitled: *Internationalisation and Innovations in Education and Research—Bridging the Gaps between Academia, Industry and Government*. The Lecture is to be delivered by the Chief Executive Officer of ENVIROFLY Consulting UK Limited and Africa Strategy Adviser to Lancaster University, UK, Dr. Akanimo Odon. A statement by INRES Director, Professor Ben Ndukwe disclosed that the Lecture is aimed at providing linkage to several international research funding opportunities in 2017, adding that the Lecture would hold Thursday, February 2, 2017 at the Conference Room 1, AEB Building, University Park. Time is 11:00am.

Diabetes Association of Nigeria Monthly Meeting/Free Eye Check

The Rivers Chapter of the Diabetes Association of Nigeria holds its monthly meeting at the Senator Lee Maeba Diabetes Centre, University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH) on Saturday, February 4, 2017. Information made available to *UniPort Weekly* by the Vice-Chairman of the Association, Dr. Hamilton Oporum, indicates that the meeting will start at 8:00 a.m., stating that there would be free blood glucose test, free eye check and health discussion/lecture. Dr. Oporum urged interested members of the University Community, who were not able to participate in free blood glucose and eye tests during the World Diabetes Day celebration last November to avail themselves of this opportunity.

UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT PORT HARCOURT
APPROVED ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR 2016/2017 SESSION FOR
FULL-TIME AND SANDWICH PROGRAMMES

FIRST SEMESTER

- 0.0 Monday, 12th December, 2016 – Friday, 6th January, 2017
Pre-resumption Registration for Fresh Students
1.0 Monday, 19th December, 2016
Registration of Returning Students Begins
2.0 Friday, 23rd December, 2016 – Sunday, 29th January, 2017
Christmas Break
3.0 Sunday, 29th January, 2017
Fresh and Returning Students Arrive
4.0 Monday, 30th January, 2017 – Friday, 21st April, 2017 (12 Weeks)
(i) Lectures Begin for All Students (30th January, 2017)
(ii) Late Registration for All Students (End of Registration – 24th February, 2017)
(iii) Orientation for Fresh Students (1st March, 2017)
(iv) Matriculation Ceremony (Tuesday, 14th March, 2017)
(v) Convocation Ceremony (Saturday, 25th March, 2017)
(vi) Easter Break (Friday, 14th April, 2017 – Monday, 17th April, 2017)
(vii) End of Lectures (21st April, 2017)
5.0 Monday, 24th April, 2017 – Friday, 28th April, 2017
Revision
6.0 Tuesday, 2nd May, 2017 – Friday, 19th May, 2017 (3 weeks)
First Semester Examinations
7.0 Monday, 22nd May, 2017 – Saturday, 3rd June, 2017 (2 weeks)
First Semester Break
8.0 Wednesday, 19th July, 2017
Extra-ordinary Meeting of Senate to consider First Semester 2016/2017 Results
SECOND SEMESTER 2016/2017 SESSION
9.0 Sunday, 4th June, 2017
(i) All Students Arrive
(ii) SIWES (June 2017 – December 2017)
10.0 Monday, 5th June, 2017 – Friday, 25th August, 2017 (12 weeks)
(i) Lectures Begin for All Students (5th June, 2017)
(ii) End of Lectures (25th August, 2017)
11.0 Monday, 28th August, 2017 – Saturday, 2nd September, 2017
Students Union Week: Cultural Activities/Students Union Election
12.0 Monday, 4th September, 2017 – Friday, 8th September, 2017
Revision
13.0 Monday, 11th September, 2017 – Friday, 29th September, 2017 (3 Weeks)
Second Semester Examinations
14.0 Monday, 2nd October, 2017 – Saturday, 21st October, 2017 (3 weeks)
2016/2017 Long Vacation
15.0 Wednesday, 15th November, 2017
Extra-ordinary Meeting of Senate to consider Second Semester 2016/2017 Results

2017 SANDWICH PROGRAMME

- 1.0 Monday, 10th July, 2017 – Friday, 14th July, 2017
(i) Fresh and Returning Students Arrive (10th July, 2017)
(ii) Students Resume (contact with Student Affairs)
(iii) Registration of Fresh and Returning Students
(iv) Orientation for Fresh Students
2.0 Monday, 17th July, 2017 – Friday, 6th October, 2017 (12 Weeks)
(i) Lectures Begin for All Students (17th July, 2017)
(ii) End of Lectures (6th October, 2017)
3.0 Monday, 9th October, 2017 – Friday, 13th October, 2017
Revision
4.0 Monday, 16th October, 2017 – Friday, 20th October, 2017
Examinations for All Sandwich Students
5.0 Wednesday, 15th November, 2017 Extra-ordinary
Meeting of Senate to consider Sandwich Programme 2017 Results

*Editor's Note: This is the corrected version of the Approved Academic Calendar for the 2016/2017 session. It supersedes the earlier version published in the UniPort Weekly Edition 309.

Medical Women's Lecture On Diabetes For Feb 21

Plans have been concluded for the maiden Public Lecture under the auspices of the Rivers State Branch of the Medical Women's Association of Nigeria (MWAN). Renowned Cameroonian-born Professor Jean Claude Mbanya is expected to deliver the much-anticipated lecture entitled, *"Diabetes Mellitus: Legacy Effects, Myths or Fiction?"* at the University of Port Harcourt.

Mbanya, was elevated to the position of Honorary President of the International Diabetes Federation, following a glittering service as President of the global body between 2009 and 2012.

A statement jointly signed by President and Secretary of the Rivers State Branch of the Association, Drs. Rosemary Ogu and Vetty Agala, disclosed that the landmark gathering would also focus on "strategies for achieving effective and sustained glycaemic control," appealing to stakeholders to attend the lecture.

Companies and organisations that address healthcare issues would have an opportunity to showcase their products at the historic event, which would also feature free diabetic screening for interested members of the public at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium before the lecture on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 10.00am.

"We hope that Professor Mbanya's visit will open an avenue for mutually beneficial relationships between our organisation and other partners in our activities aimed at improving the lives of people affected by diabetes," the statement further explained.

The Medical Women's Association of Nigeria is a voluntary Not-for-Profit Organisation of registered female medical doctors determined to improve the health of Nigerians through activities that include healthcare education and awareness campaigns on the dangers of diabetes and other preventable diseases.



Dr. Agala, Secretary

Dr. Ogu, President

HOSTEL RENOVATION INSPECTION

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, led other Principal and Senior Officers on an unscheduled inspection tour of on-going hostel renovation work in the University. One week later, he also embarked on a similar visit to ascertain the level of completion of the projects. Pictures below captured by our Camera man, **HEADMAN ALU**, show highpoints of the inspection visits which held between Tuesday, 4 and Wednesday 11, January, 2017:



V-C, Prof Lale (arrowed down), leads Principal Officers, Mgt. Staff and Students on the inspection tour



V-C, Prof Lale and others interacting with contractors on site



Some of the hostels under renovation



V-C, Prof Lale inside one of the hostels

Some completed projects



Another view of the renovated hostels at the University Park