

UniPort Weekly

Vol. 32, Edition 314 February 20 - February 27, 2017

For information and enlightenment

ISSN: 1522-2225

A Publication of the Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria

Diete-Koki's Progenies Endow Chair At 3rd Memorial Lecture



In fulfilment of their pledge at the 2nd Professor Kenneth Diete-Koki Memorial Lecture, progenies of the pioneer Dean of the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, have made good their promise by endowing a Professorial Chair aimed at immortalising the consummate physiologist, medical educator and mentor, reports *Onkor Samuel*.

More on p3

Side Bar SSLT INDUCTION

The 6th Induction Ceremony of the School of Science Laboratory Technology (SSLT) holds tomorrow at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium. Time is 2.00pm. Details next week.

~Editor

Music Is
Queen Of The
Arts ~Ajienka

Story
on
p3

New Council Pledges Better
Welfare Package To Staff

Story
on
p4

Senate Approves
Guidelines For Direct
Entry Into Medicine

Story
on
p5

Osuji
Satisfied
With NUC
Accreditation
Exercise

Story
on
p6



NEEDS Implementation C'ttee Tasks South-South Varsities On Stewardship

● *Praises UniPort On Projects Documentation*

By Onkor Samuel

Pro-Chancellor of the Ahmadu Bello University and leader of the Implementation Monitoring Committee (IMC), to the South-South of the NEEDS Assessment Intervention Project in Nigerian public universities, Architect Mohammed Dewu, has charged universities in the zone to be prudent in the management of scarce resources allocated for the purpose.

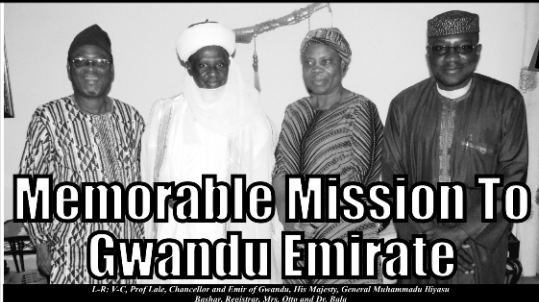
Architect Dewu made the remarks while

speaking as Chairman at a two-day Retreat for universities in the South-South region between Monday and Tuesday last week at the Emmanuel Egbogah Auditorium of the Emerald Energy Institute, IPS Park. He disclosed that the Retreat was part of the statutory requirements by the IMC to take stock of the progress and challenges encountered in the implementation of the NEEDS Assessment Projects in each institution. "We are here to interact and have a feedback from stakeholders for better

performance. We are on a fact-finding mission that would enable us to hear from the beneficiaries of the progress and challenges in the implementation of the projects in their various institutions. If there are suggestions you want us to take back to the Implementation Monitoring Committee (IMC), please do well to inform us about them. I welcome you all to this Retreat and urge you to be frank and sincere in your presentations to enable us ascertain the actual state of projects in

More on p6

Read UniPort Weekly online @ www.uniport.edu.ng



L-R: V-C, Prof Lale, Chancellor and Emir of Gwandu, His Majesty, General Muhammadu Bhasar, Registrar, Mrs. Otto and Dr. Bala

By Williams Wodi

Most last trip to the Northern parts of the country happened years back, when Islamic fundamentalists who read their Holy Koran upside down had not launched their deadly project of Boko Haraming life in the once pristine North East. So, when the trip to pay homage to the highly-revered Emir of Gwandu and Third Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt was announced, it was on a note of utter trepidation that I agreed to sign on to the trip to Birnin-Kebbi.

In these days when airlines run like Lagos *mofue* buses, you cannot bet on the validity of a flight ticket, let alone the flight schedule. In these uncertain days of what the taxi driver that drove me around Abuja called *reke-chim*, service failure by fledgling airlines could be blamed on anything ranging from bad weather, scarcity of aviation fuel or outright strike action by irate air crews, including dangerously-flying birds.

Safe for the occasional turbulence that is characteristic of the unpredictable Northern weather, the flight to Birnin-Kebbi, the Kebbi State capital was largely uneventful with a velvet landing at the modest Sir Ahmadu Bello International Airport on the rustic outskirts of the city. It was the equivalent of landing in the middle of nowhere. The four-member delegation comprising the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, Dr. Haliru Bala of the Department of Management and your truly, were promptly hurried onto waiting Prado Jeeps and driven at whistle speed to the city centre.

As we rounded off a sharp bend, the city came into view with its impressive Islamic architectural building designs that recalled the splendour of the legendary Sokoto Caliphate that was established in Gwandu Emirate in the mid-18th Century and later at Sokoto in 1809. Most of the structures stood half-hidden, enclosed by weather-worn and dusty brown walls. As we arrived at a part of the central business district, a white metallic signpost announced our final arrival at one of the numerous Guest Houses belonging to the Kebbi State Government, our unofficial host. Once we were checked-in, the elaborate hospitality of the good people of Kebbi was laid out right in front of us. It was like being checked into a *fattening* room as chefs and other officials that manned our Guest House treated us to unending desert hospitality at its very best.

That Friday night, the elements quarreled over what type of weather that would greet us the following grey Saturday morning. We had what looked like hourly reminders to be at the dining table and as the time ticked away, it was becoming obvious that weight watching in Birnin-Kebbi was going to be a challenge of galactic proportions for even a determined ascetic. Routinely reveling in choice Fulani menu in an alluring environment, we almost forgot that we were in Birnin-Kebbi as official guests of the venerable Emir of Gwandu, His Majesty, General Muhammadu Bhasar (CFR, nm). The Palace was far removed from our memory as we

settled down to explore our new accommodation amidst the whistling evening breeze that caressed our drying faces.

The short trip to the Emir's expansive Palace the next morning was an exercise in curiosity as we did not know the type of reception that awaited us in the presence of the great man that courtiers simply referred to as *Baba*. Along with a group of delicious subjects hurried on the colourful Persian rug, we sprang to our feet like automated robots as the revered Emir was led into the expansive reception hall in measured regal footsteps, sandwiched in-between a forerunner and a dutiful praise singer. First time visitors to the Palace would leave with the impression that such practised royal processions had been repeated uncountable times. The weight of history descended upon us as we sat face-to-face with the third in the hierarchy of Northern Emirs and one of the successors of the great *Shehu Uthman Dan Fodjaye* who launched the historic revival or *tajedd* movement in the mid-18th Century that banished idol worship and positioned Islam—the worship of the true Allah and His Messenger Muhammad (SAW) in that part of Nigeria. In its historical moment of splendor, according to Makhtar Umar Bunza, the Gwandu Emirate extended to Nape land and Iorin in Nigeria, right up to such Francophone areas as Zaharama, Say, Jinja in Niger Republic, to the Emirate of Macina in Mali and Liptako in Burkina Faso.

Soft-spoken and full of wisdom, the royal father made a lasting impression on us as a very knowledgeable ruler, who is vast on current affairs on Nigeria and around the world. "The University of Port Harcourt is a great centre of learning, research and public service and I am happy to be associated with such a unique institution as its Third Chancellor. The forthcoming Convocation Ceremony is another opportunity for the University to showcase its latest graduates to the world and I am happy to accept your invitation to preside over the event. The Convocation is also a sign of progress and institutional maturity that we must all applaud. I believe that this visit has afforded you an opportunity to experience the rich cultural heritage of the great Gwandu Emirate which I have the privilege of leading. Kindly send back my goodwill and royal blessings to the new Governing Council, Senate, Staff and the entire Students of the University. Tell them of my wish that everybody should live in peace as a precondition for accelerated development," the Emir said.

Handing over the official invitation letter to the 31st Convocation Ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lale, apologised to the Chancellor for the seeming delay in paying him the usual royal homage befitting his high office. "We are coming this late since you were appointed as our Chancellor because of the disruptions in our academic calendar and other unforeseen circumstances. We are happy to meet you in good health and we pray Allah to continue to preserve and prolong your life. We are also here to formally invite Your Majesty to the 31st Convocation Ceremony of the University. Your first visit to the University had a stabilizing effect on us and we are hopeful that your second coming will bring more royal

blessings to us.

We also wish to express our gratitude to Your Majesty for the hospitality extended to us since our arrival here. We pray Allah to grant you journey mercies as you join us at the coming Convocation Ceremony," the Vice-Chancellor told his host.

Royal courtesies over, our guide, the delectable Dr. Bala took us to the inner courtyard where we saw so many horses, including the Emir's luxurious stallion that is pressed into duty during the *dauber* and other important ceremonial events. The tour took us to the expansive Iahuna Rice Mill that processes and packages no less than 340 bags in one hour,

enough to feed West Africa with proudest Nigerian rice. We also inspected the endlessly rolling rice farms that supply the mill with a ten-year stock in the event of a *force majeure*, and then on to the Federal University, Birnin-Kebbi. Baba's humble abode was not left out of the sight-seeing part of our rendezvous. As we prepared to head for the airport on Sunday afternoon on the return trip to Port Harcourt via the Federal Capital Territory, our guide, the personable Dr. Bala knocked on the door again, with a royal *fatusa* summoning us back to the Palace for the generous Emir to formally bid us a final farewell. We had already packed our belongings and were ready to go home. This latest twist in the tale was disarming enough for us to glance at each other in curiosity. Our flight by AZMAN Airline was scheduled for three o'clock that evening, but you cannot take anything for granted when it has to do with air travel these days. You flew only when the pilot decided to take off. You could shout yourself hoarse and nobody will talk to you, let alone address your concerns—no matter how genuine they may be. Service failure has become the 'new normal' at Nigeria's innumerable 'international airports' that mock at the crass lack of capacity by civil aviation authorities.

More words of wisdom and the second missionary journey to the Palace successfully accomplished, we whistled through the same route to the Sir Ahmadu Bello International Airport. We were now on edge because our flight deadline set for three o'clock was nervously inching closer by the minute. We had to politely reject the Emir's launch offer, or so we thought. The trip to the airport was far shorter than our initial arrival trip in Birnin-Kebbi and once we checked into the VIP Lounge, our thoughts understandably focused on the flight back to Abuja. Unknown to us, however, the trademark hospitality of the Gwandu Emirate literally trailed us to the airport. With the AZMAN flight already humming on the tarmac and to our surprise, the Government House Catering Service promptly arrived to seamlessly lay out an elaborate three course lunch on the table for us to relish before departure. Gwandu hospitality will find you anywhere. We ate with the accustomed speed of passengers in a hurry. Surprising, our hosts did not share our sense of urgency. It was a trip to remember and as we landed in Abuja late in the day, it was obvious that another trip to Gwandu Emirate would be ceased with both hands.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Prof Ndowa E. S. Lale - Publisher
Prof Emre Ekekeke - Editorial Chair

Williams Wodi - Editor
Obinna Nwodin - Associate Editor

Correspondents: Secretary: Photography:
Morty Adeniji Gofya Ameh Headman Ali
Okeke Samuel Okeke Okeke
Humphrey Okeke Okeke
Ehiorimi Johnson Okeke Okeke

Call: 08033093371

Cont'd from Page 1

Announcing the endowment of the Professor Kenneth Diete-Koki Chair of Neurophysiology at the 3rd Memorial Lecture in honour of the great man at the Ebitimi Banjo Auditorium last Tuesday, son of the late pioneer Dean, Edward, who also represented the Amosyasho of Twaon Brass, King Alfred Diete-Spiff, disclosed that the family would put down part of the N10 million endowment to activate the new Chair.

Edward, who conveyed the gratitude of the family to the University for immortalising his father with the annual event, restated the support of the family to the sustenance of the Memorial Lecture. He recalled the life and times of his late father, describing Professor Diete-Koki as a loving, caring and disciplined man, who wanted the best for his children, students and society.

In his remarks, Chairman of the event and second Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Sylvanus Cooksey, recalled the support late Professor Diete-Koki gave him as he set out to acquire the General Hospital, Port Harcourt, for the training of clinical students.

"I am elated to participate in the event to honour our distinguished late Professor Kenneth Diete-Koki. I wish to pay my special tribute to him for his support and commitment as we charted the way forward for the College of Health Sciences. Prior to my assumption of office as Vice-Chancellor, there was a frosty relationship between the University and the Rivers State Government. I recall that Professor Diete-Koki actively supported me to thaw the relationship and at the end of the day, my administration succeeded in laying a strong

foundation for town and gown relationship with support from the Rivers State Government." Professor Cooksey recalled, pointing out that instituting a Memorial Lecture Series in honour of the late academic giant was another way of fostering that symbiotic town and gown relationship.

In his address, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndolu Lake, who spoke through his deputy in charge of Academic matters, Professor Ilasekun Fawehinmi, commended the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences for sustaining the legacy of the great physiologist.

"This 3rd Lecture in honour of late Professor Diete-Koki is very important to many reasons. The celebrated scholar was a day-in in the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences and Department of Human Physiology in particular. The topic of the Lecture: *Who Should Benefit from University Education?* is very apt today, considering the need for universities to collaborate with the industry and government to promote knowledge and skills for the advancement of society," representative of the Vice-Chancellor said.

Presenting the lecture, a protégé of Diete-Koki, Professor Anthony Edeigbo of the University of Benin, regretted that African universities had not fully exploited the full potentials of higher education to bring the good life to their peoples.

"Available records show that African countries were more of consumers than contributors to global innovation in science and technology and this situation has adversely affected their

contributions to global development," the Guest Speaker explained.

Professor Edeigbo, listed cultism, examination malpractice, indolent dressing, financial recklessness, armed robbery and plagiarism, as some of the obstacles to the growth of African universities, recommending adequate funding from governments, international linkages and partnerships, endowments, stakeholders' involvement, steady academic calendar and staff development, as ways to boost the fortunes of Nigerian universities.

He praised the University of Port Harcourt on its hard stance against plagiarism, promising to enlighten the authorities of his university on the stern measures the University of Port Harcourt had put in place to check plagiarism by indolent staff and students, who chose to copy already certified works, rather than engage in original research in the finest tradition of scholarship.

The Guest Lecturer, who stressed the need for government and corporate bodies to support higher education, pointed out that: "Nobody does a PhD programme with his or her money except in Nigeria. In other climes, the state, organisation or somebody pays the fees and even pays the candidates some stipend in order to encourage scholarship. Nigerians and Africans should start thinking in that direction."

Earlier in his welcome address, Dean of the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Professor Chijioke Nwanuche, disclosed that the lecture provided a forum for participants to reflect on the outstanding contributions of Professor Diete-Koki to the establishment of the Faculty to become one of the most formidable Faculties of Basic Medical Sciences in the Nigerian university system.

"Our Department of Physiology is highly ranked among its peers in Nigeria today due largely to the enduring inspirational leadership and mentorship of the great Professor Kenneth Diete-Koki, who once lit up the hallowed lecture theatres of the University of London with his original groundbreaking research on the muscle spindle," the Dean remarked, commending the Guest Lecturer for accepting to give the lecture.

One of the major highlights of the event was a mini-roundtable at which Diete-Koki's pioneer students threw more light on his legacy in the academy.



3rd V-C, Prof Cooksey (middle front row) flanked by Guest Lecturer, Prof Edeigbo, Dean, FEMS, Prof Nwanuche (right), Provost, CIIS, Prof Muto (left), Edward (middle, back row) and other guests

Music is Queen of the Arts Ajenka

By Mercy Adeniji and Humphrey Ogu

"Music is the queen of the arts as it expresses only the quintessence and that which cannot be said." With these loaded words, immediate past Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, charged the staff and students of the Department of Music to brace up for the challenges of creativity, innovation and capitalising knowledge for the advancement of society through music.

Professor Ajenka stressed the need to patent, publish, produce and think of new ways lecturers and students can turn knowledge into capital in a growing Department, which formed the major thrust of the first Distinguished Lecture Series organised by the Department of Music, held at its Recital Hall on Wednesday, February 8, 2017, with *Music: Developing an Entrepreneurial Department and Centre of Excellence*, as its theme.

Delivering the maiden lecture entitled: *Developing a Centre of Excellence in Music in the University of Port Harcourt*, Guest Speaker, and 7th Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, Professor Ajenka, focused attention on the need for the staff and students to get down to work. He argued that it had a huge potential to start an Entrepreneurial Department that can capitalise knowledge for the benefit of staff, students and the larger society.

"There is something unique about music and the arts and as a Department, you must look around the world and identify with it as your role model; you must know the industry you are training for if you hope to be relevant in the scheme of things. Art is drawn from creativity, civilisations rise and fall, but only the arts survive, that is why the arts are very important to society. Art is something that is living, born of the spirit, elegant and creative. It is full of harmony, refreshing love, which has a healing power. Good music also has peace in it," Professor Ajenka declared at the lecture.

Giving a brief history of the development of the Music Department in the University, Professor Ajenka, who doubles as an Occupant of the Emmanuel Eghogah Chair in Petroleum Engineering, said he was fired by a vision to transform the University into an Entrepreneurial University during his tenure.

Said he: "An Entrepreneurial University starts from the Departments and Faculties. Your staff must be retrained, and as a Department, you should learn to develop a functional curriculum to train your students on how to grow, create partnerships with people, because the era of publish or perish is gone. It is now patent, publish and produce."

"As a Department, you should aspire to be the best in Africa which means that you should be ready to learn from global best practices. You should aspire to achieve, think of how you can collaborate and cooperate, extensively across all disciplines or collapse and crash. What intellectual property right do you want to have? How do you want to be ranked on the web and how do you position yourself? You must develop a curriculum that is focused on the global sustainable goals, a curriculum that, rich in research-centred entrepreneurship," he said, stating that the discipline of music exists through the music from the Department.

Earlier in his address, Chairman of the occasion and Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor Femi Shaka, who was represented by a one-time Dean of the Faculty, Professor John Enemegwun, congratulated staff and students of the Department for turning out in their numbers to participate in

the lecture. Corroborating the need for students to start thinking out of the box, Professor Shaka advised them to come up with new ideas that would equip them to be unique in what they produced and become the best the University expected of them. "We can do better than the western world. I urge you to be creative and innovative because the time to publish or perish is gone. This is our generation and we must be innovative and creative to benefit from music," he said.

Also speaking, the Head of Department, Professor Oyeuse Nwanuche, recalled that the essence of the event was to rekindle a robust debate about the power of music to affect life and create wealth in a society that was increasingly materialistic in its taste. He expressed appreciation to the 7th Vice-Chancellor for believing in the Department and supporting it to achieve its goals. "I wish to appeal to my fellow labourers in the vineyard of teaching and producing music to work very hard. We promise to organise subsequent editions of the event to encourage teaching and learning among students and staff of the Department," he disclosed.

Highpoints of the event were an impressive musical presentation by the celebrated *UniPort Concert Chorus* and a discussion session.



Cross-section of staff and students of Music Dept. Inset: Prof Ajenka, 7th V-C

New Council Pledges Better Welfare Package To Staff At Maiden Town Hall Meeting

By Obinna Nwodin

Under the new Governing Council that recently held its Inaugural Meeting, staff of the University are in for a better welfare package, as long as they worked contentiously and refrained from undermining the system. The Council also charged students to show full commitment to their studies and respect constituted authority to enable them learn fast and graduate within their residency period. The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman, Professor Mvegele Jibo, gave the assurance when members of the Governing Council had a lively interactive session with a cross-section of staff at the Ebitimi Ransin Auditorium, University Park on Friday, February 10, 2017.

Addressing staff at the capacity-filled auditorium, the Pro-Chancellor described the opportunity afforded new Council Members to serve the University as a privilege that called for utmost humility and a sense of responsibility that would not be compromised under his watch.

"What has brought us here is to help this University grow to a higher level of performance that would justify our appointment. There are other equally qualified Nigerians that the Federal Government would have appointed to this job, but the fact left us to direct the affairs of this University and we promise to do our best to justify the confidence reposed in us by Government. My appointment is God-driven and I want to assure you, on behalf of my colleagues that you will get justice from this Council as long as you do the right thing at your various duty posts."

He expressed hope that the new council under his leadership will put smiles on the faces of staff and students to give them a sense of worth for their services to the University and fatherland. "Our job is to make life bearable for staff and students. When the Vice-Chancellor presented recommendations that bordered on your welfare, we had no difficulty in promptly approving them, because they are issue of welfare which are at the centre of the policy thrust of this Council."

The new chairman, who is a Professor of Political Science, assured the University community of the high respect he has for workers, appealing for cooperation, understanding and patience as Council settles down to put its policy thrust in place for the good governance of the University.

"This Council holds each of you dear because without you, there would be no University at all. The staff of any University are critical stakeholders in its fortunes and future direction. Let me assure you that our policies would conform to democratic standards in line with global best practices." Professor Jibo assured the Town Hall Meeting.

He appealed to staff to cooperate with Management in order to achieve the vision of the founding fathers. "If you have any input to recommend to us for a more efficient governance of the University, I appeal to you that you do with a sense of responsibility and love for this University. We must all cooperate with Management so that we can work in concert



Pro-Chancellor, Prof Jibo (standing), addressing staff during the Town Hall Meeting

to build the University of our dream. As long as all your demands are consistent with extant laws and within available budgetary provisions, you can be sure of getting automatic approval for your legitimate demands. It would be wicked of us to withhold any welfare package that is your legitimate entitlement and I can assure you that we will be fair and firm to all of you," Professor Jibo told the staff that intermittently applauded his speech.

The Pro-Chancellor called for improved work attitude for efficient service delivery, warning that staff must respect the University rules and regulations, as well as the laws of the country to avoid coming into conflict with Management and Council. He further admonished them to treat the students under their care as their children and give them proper guidance and assistance to become responsible future leaders. "This Council means well to the students and we expect them to operate within the laws governing student activism on campus. Their welfare is uppermost in our mind and we will do whatever that is within our powers to create a conducive environment for them to give of their very best," he stated.

Professor Jibo commended successive administrations for giving the University the kind of aesthetic outlook that impresses first time visitors. "Your campus is one of the cleanest campuses I have seen in this country and I wish to commend those who work so hard to make this possible. This campus is conducive for research, teaching and learning and we will do our best to support you to keep it so. I wish to pay tribute to those who have contributed in making this University what it is today and we promise to add our own quota," he stated.

In their separate speeches, immediate past Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, Chairman of the UniPort Branch of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Dr. Austin Sado, Professor Gideon Abu of the Department of Physics, as well as Chairperson of the Non-Academic Staff Union of Universities (NASUU), Mrs. Beauty Igwe and Director of Emerald Equity Institute, Professor Wumi Ifeare, welcomed members of the new Council to the University, assuring them of the cooperation of staff and students to take the University to the next level of academic and infrastructural development.

Earlier in his address, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, who individually introduced members of the new Governing Council to the University community, announced the approval of the contentious End-of-Year Package, which could not be dispensed last December owing to the absence of a Governing Council. He also announced that Council expressly approved the appraisal exercise that was conducted last year for the promotion of 44 academic staff into Readership positions and the Professoriate.

"I want staff to believe as when we make promises as none of us in Management is out to either undo or shortchange anybody of his or her legitimate entitlements. We call for understanding and hard work and you can be sure that we will do the right thing at all times. The office of the Vice-Chancellor has enough statutory powers to initiate disciplinary action against any erring staff and it is important that we all study our rights and limitations enshrined in the Staff Condition of Service in order not to come into conflict with Management," Professor Lale told the gathering.

Sequel to a one-day workshop organized for Heads of Department and Line Officers in charge of computation of results by the University-wide Degree Results Verification Committee (DRVC) last December, the Committee has organised yet another weeklong Retreat to sensitize its members on the scope of their assignment.

Addressing the Committee members at the Retreat which held inside the Professional Ethics Committee Conference Room at the Donald Ekong Library complex, University Park on Monday, February 6, 2017, Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic matters, Professor Bakere Fawehinmi, expressed satisfaction at the capability and integrity of the Committee members to discharge their onerous responsibilities in a credible

DRVC Ends Weeklong Retreat For Members

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

manner.

"You are expected not to look at any computation errors, but also to pick out suspicious spreadsheets for closer scrutiny. Your job is very crucial to the success of Management, especially in the wake of the forthcoming 31st Convocation Ceremony scheduled for 24th and 25th March, 2017. We have agreed to commit ourselves to achieving the mandate for which the Committee was set up. On behalf of

Management, we want to appreciate all of you for the challenging labour of love you are doing for the University. We promise to give you the necessary support that would enable you succeed in your onerous assignment. We want to ensure that any result or degree certificate issued by this University is authentic and respected around the world and that is why your assignment is critical to us," he told the members.

Disclosing that the Committee was able to clear the outstanding files on degree results computation, the Chairman, Dr. Ganiyu Adekola, expressed hope that at the end of the Retreat, Departments and Faculties would be ready to have the names of successful students included in the 31st Convocation Brochure. "The duty of the Committee is to vet all degree results and confirm that they are in line with approved guidelines before being sent to the Senate Business Committee for final scrutiny and approval by the whole Senate. The Retreat is organized for Departments to submit their 2015/2016 degree results for final vetting before they are tabled before Senate," the Chairman remarked. Examination Officer, Mrs. Elsie Nwachabara, noted that the weeklong meeting was initiated to give immediate attention to the vetting of degree results ahead of the coming Convocation Ceremony.



Dr. Fawehinmi (arrowed) and participants after the retreat

Senate of the University has approved that candidates seeking admission into the Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) and Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) programmes through the Direct Entry mode must possess, at least, the Second Class Honours (Upper Division) degree in relevant Advanced Level subjects to be adjudged eligible for consideration. The approval was given after Provost of the College, Professor Christie Mato, made an animated presentation on the Floor of Senate at its 429th Meeting which held last Wednesday.

The Provost stated that the proposal was based on the decision of the College Academic Board of its 21st Meeting held on Friday, October 14, 2016, which reviewed an earlier

429th Senate in session

Senate decision on the exact mode of seeking Direct Entry admission into the University. The approval further stipulated that prospective candidates must be admitted into the Second Year to enable them take compulsory MBBS courses at that level.

She further stated that Medical and Dental programmes in Nigerian universities usually run for five years through the Direct Entry mode, while candidates admitted through the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination must complete a six-year programme to qualify as doctors or dentists. Professor Mato further stated that indexing of MBBS/BDS students by the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria usually took place in their second year of study.

Senate ratified the reversal of expulsion of twelve former Faculty Presidents to rustication for one academic session as approved at its 428th Meeting. The decision followed confirmation by Management that the affected students had complied fully with a Senate directive to write individual letters, owing up to the charges prepared against them and expressly apologising for their gross misconduct.

Senate Approves Guidelines For Direct Entry Into Medicine, Dentistry At 429th Meeting

• Degree Results Also

By Obinna Nwodin

Senate also took a Report from its representatives on the new Governing Council. Making the presentation on behalf of his colleagues, Professor Asele Ikhwaha disclosed that the

Lale, had informed Senate that the Vice-Chancellor was attending a Conference in Ghana. He also disclosed that the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, was away at the National Assembly, Abuja to defend the University's budget estimates. Professor Fawehinmi further informed Senate that the Governing Council had met and approved the contentious End-of-Year welfare package for staff, as well as recommendations from the Appointments and Promotions Committee in respect of recent promotions in the University.

Professor Fawehinmi congratulated all professors and readers whose promotions had finally been ratified by Council, urging them to go ahead to prefix their new status before their names. He thanked Deans and Heads of Department for the cooperation they have been giving to the Management of the University, appealing for more support to move the University forward. The Acting Chairman also expressed gratitude to the Degree Results Verification Committee on behalf of Senate for the level of work it had accomplished to ensure that results were ready for consideration and inclusion in the 31st Convocation Brochure.

Stop Press

Free Breakfast, Screening At MWAN Lecture Tomorrow

Medical Women's Association of Nigeria (MWAN) holds its maiden Public Lecture entitled: "Diabetes Mellitus: Legacy Effects, Myths or Fiction," to be delivered by Cameroonian-born Professor Jean Claude Mbanya at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 21, 2017. Information made available to *UniPort Weekly* by President of the Rivers State Branch of MWAN, Dr. Rosemary Ogu, indicated that there would be free Fasting Blood Sugar and Eye Test, as well as Free Breakfast, calling on members of the University community to attend the programme.

Why My Tenure Was Successful ~Akinola

By Mercy Adeniji

Immediate past Acting Head of Department of Animal Science in the Faculty of Agriculture, Dr. Letrin Akinola, has described her two-year tenure as a huge success, attributing her success to the grace of God, including the prayers and cooperation of her colleagues and students.

Exchanging views with a *UniPort Weekly* Correspondent on Monday, February 13, 2017, Dr. Akinola revealed that she assumed office on February 3, 2015 and successfully handed over to her successor on Monday, February 6, 2017 after placing the Department on a strong footing.

"The terms of reference contained in my appointment letter were well covered as I was able to follow them closely to the letter. I also ran a very open and transparent administration that consulted widely before reaching a decision in the best democratic tradition. My academic colleagues, the administrative staff and students stood behind me all through my tenure and I cannot thank them enough. The support I received was partly because my colleagues could see that I had absolutely nothing to hide," the former acting HOD told our Correspondent.

Reviewing her performance in office, Dr. Akinola listed the purchase of three stabilizers, seven extension cords, five cooling fans, three refrigerators and new departmental generators, as some of the projects initiated and completed with the funds that accrued from the Departmental Teaching and Learning Cost (DTLC) and allocations from central funding.

"Under my watch, the student population rose from 159 to 264 in the 2015/2016 session; eight graduates of the Department were successfully inducted into the Nigerian Institute of Animal Science (NIAS) as Graduate Animal Scientists," she disclosed, adding that the Department also witnessed three major events which had never happened there since its inception. "They were the NIAS verification exercise in November, 2015; successful hosting of the 5th ASAN-NIAS Joint Annual Conference in September, 2016 and the visit of the NAC accreditation team to the Department last December," she disclosed. Dr. Akinola recalled that during her tenure: "The Department had her fair share of challenges, like any other in the University, including the painful stealing of five small ruminants (goats and sheep). Several delays and sometimes mismanagement of funds hindered prompt response to the running of the farm unit, including lack of trained livestock officers in the various animal units which negatively affected effective functioning of the farm. The result was that detection of diseases is sometimes not noticed on time for prompt treatment to be administered and save the livestock. It is also regrettable that farm produce are sometimes marketed without proper consultation with the affected Departments."

Dr. Akinola appealed to staff and students to continue working with passion and love as a means of taking the Department to the next level, even as she appealed for support for her successor, Dr. Monica Ikwankwe to surpass her achievements in office.



Dr. Akinola

Cont'd from Page 1

each University," the Chairman admonished the participants at the opening ceremony.

In his address, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, welcomed participants from sister institutions to the University, hoping that the Retreat would enable the stakeholders to properly appraise the implementation processes of the intervention projects of the Federal Government.

"This Retreat is holding under the auspices of the Implementation Monitoring Committee of the Tertiary Education Department of the Federal Ministry of Education. As you are already aware that this Retreat is aimed at facilitating interactions with beneficiary institutions to assess the progress made so far in the implementation of their NEEDS projects, challenges encountered and proffer solutions to address these challenges to attain a more efficient implementation process," the Vice-Chancellor said in his address. He also hoped that the IMC evaluation would ensure that the funds provided by the Federal Government were properly applied for the purpose

NEEDS Implementation C'ttee Tasks South-South Varsities

for which they were meant.

Following an excellent power-point presentation by Professor Fawehinmi on the total amount allocated to the University, the amount it has received so far in three tranches and the projects they were spent on, Chairman of the Retreat praised the University for the comprehensive report. Architect Dewa noted that the University had done well, judging from its presentation which included still pictures of completed and ongoing projects.

The IMC had convened the Retreat as an opportunity for institutions to make presentations on all aspects of physical projects and staff development, detailing the funds received or expected, challenges in the implementation of projects and other issues pertinent to successful implementation of the NEEDS

Assessment Intervention Project.

At the end of the Retreat, the IMC delegation which included the President of the National Association of Academic Technologists (NAAT), Mr. Sami Sulaiman, representatives of the Federal Ministry of Education, Dr. Uche Uba, National Universities Commission and Office of the Secretary of the Government of the Federation, advised beneficiary institutions to be proactive in executing projects within stipulated timelines and approved cost.

They were also advised to respect procurement laws, open designated accounts for the NEEDS Assessment Projects, follow the NEEDS Assessment guidelines, work with competent Consultants and appoint Desk Officers for effective implementation of the projects.

Institutions in attendance included University of Benin, University of Port Harcourt, Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Rumolomoni, University of Calabar, Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Warri, Federal University, Otuoke, Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Ambrose Alli University, Niger Delta University, Bayelsa State, Cross River State University of Technology and Akwalbom State University.



S' South IMC Chairman, Architect Dewa (middle) flanked by DVC (Acad), Prof Fawehinmi, (left), V-Cs of Sister Institutions, representatives of the Federal Ministry of Education, NEC, Unions, Principal and Senior Officers after the opening ceremony

Osuji Satisfied With NUC Accreditation Exercise In UniPort

the extra mile to complement the effort of Management in

ensuring that full accreditation was achieved for each programme evaluated.

Professor Osuji recalled that the University standing was precarious in the sense that 32 out of the 53 programmes that were presented for accreditation in November, 2014, had interim accreditation status, stating that: "This implied that if any of those programmes had another interim accreditation; it would have been denied this time in line with the extant rules. In addition to those programmes, there were other programmes that are newly presented for accreditation such as the School of Science and Laboratory Technology, Hospitality and Tourism Management and Music.

"We were mindful that if any programme failed accreditation, especially those with interim status, several consequences would follow. For instance, fresh students would not be admitted into Departments with denied accreditation status, while any certificate awarded by them will not have any real value, among other negative consequences that may tarnish the good image of the University. This untenable situation constituted a very serious challenge to the University, which went all out to explore all legitimate measures that would enable it achieve full accreditation status for all the programmes it presented for assessment," he explained.

The Chairman decried the huge capital outlay required to mount a successful accreditation exercise, adding: "The major difficulty associated with accreditation of programmes is that it is very expensive as each University has to ensure that all available facilities become operational, while those ones that are lacking must be acquired to meet the

stipulated requirements. The reason is that as universities mature, programmes continue to grow in innovation and sophistication, necessitating the acquisition of new equipment, as old ones gradually diminish in relevance in line with the evolution of technology today."

Professor Osuji appealed for an operational vehicle to enable him carry out his duties in a more effective manner, noting that most of the Committee Members live far from the University which pose logistic challenges.

By Humphrey Ogu

Chairman of the University-wide Local Accreditation Committee, Professor Julian Osuji, has expressed satisfaction with the result of the National Universities Commissions (NUC) and professional accreditation bodies in the University. He lauded the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, the University Management and other stakeholders for their collective efforts that resulted in making the exercise successful.

Exchanging views with *UniPort Weekly* on the development, Professor Osuji said: "I am particularly happy with the efforts made by Management of the University to ensure that we prepared adequately to meet most of the stipulated NUC guidelines, notwithstanding the huge cost implications in this era of recession. The period before last November's visit, right up to the weeks after the conclusion of the exercise in December 2016, were very hectic moments for the Management and the various accreditation teams, as we had to prepare for and attend to 30 different accreditation teams."

"The strategy adopted by the Local Accreditation Committee involved giving every criterion set for accreditation serious attention. The various teams painstakingly scrutinised the affected academic programmes to ensure that all the set criteria were tackled inwardly and addressed on their merits before the arrival of the teams," he disclosed, expressing joy that most of the Heads of Department and Deans went



Prof Osuji

GUIDE POST

RESUMPTION FROM SABBATICAL LEAVE

Professor Ife Nwagwu, Department of Civil and Environment Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, resumed duty after a one-year sabbatical leave at the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, effective January 4, 2017.

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Mr. Joe Iyotomunna, Bursary Department, granted a one-year Renewal of Contract Appointment, effective April 6, 2017 to April 5, 2018.

Mr. Ine Obong, Department of Music, Faculty of Humanities, granted a one-year Renewal of Contract Appointment, effective May 13, 2017 to May 12, 2018.

STATUTORY RETIREMENT

Mr. Chituru Ihundah, Bursary Department to proceed on a three-month Pre-Retirement Leave, preparatory to Statutory Retirement from Service as Chief Accountant, effective July 10, 2017.

Mr. Zachariah George, Science and Engineering Workshop to proceed on a three-month Pre-Retirement Leave, preparatory to Statutory Retirement from Service as Chief Technologist, effective May 18, 2017.

Mr. Josiah Akanza, Pro-Chancellor's Lodge to proceed on a three-month Pre-Retirement Leave, preparatory to Statutory Retirement from Service as Catering Officer, effective June 10, 2017.

Mr. Samuel Eboh, Works and Services Department to proceed on a three-month Pre-Retirement Leave, preparatory to Statutory Retirement from Service as Higher Works Supervisor, effective September 25, 2017.

STUDY LEAVE

Dr. Sandra Ofori, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, granted a one-year Study Leave with Pay to enable her participate in the Climate Impact Research Capacity and Leadership Enhancement in sub-Saharan Africa (CIRCLE) Visiting Fellowship Programme at the University of Ghana, effective January 27, 2017 to December 31, 2017.

Music Is Key To Understanding People's History ~ Levine

By Humphrey Ogu

Music is key to understanding the history of a region and if you understand their musical evolution, then you can understand their history. Professor Mark Levine of the University of California, Irvine, made the observation at an interactive session with staff and students of the Department of Music at its Recital Hall on Monday, February 13, 2017.

Levine, who is a Professor of Middle Eastern History, noted that it had become fashionable to multitask in the world of today. "You can't just be a musician, a producer or a journalist these days; you have to know a bit of every aspect of music production and promotion. If you want to be a musician, you have to know the politics, history and developments in the

him for inviting us to interact with students. The second part of our visit is to speak with students on how they are responding to the development of highlife music."

He revealed that the team also interacted with rappers and other music lovers at the Okrika Waterfront Community and elsewhere in Port Harcourt to ascertain the perception of the music in the past and the present, observing that there was a very vibrant highlife music culture in Nigeria that deserved global attention.

Earlier in his welcome speech, Professor Nwankpa, who is Occupant of the Cardinal Jim Rex Lawson Professorial Chair in Highlife Music, recalled that "a research team on highlife music comprising Professors Levine and Bryan Reynolds of University of California and Dr. Ndubisi Nnamani of the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, visited the



HOOD Music, Prof Nwankpa (arrowed) flanked by Prof Levine, Dr Ade-Olusun Olanade (left), Mr. Eyo, Prof Mekki Nzewi (right) and other staff

music industry. If Rex Lawson were alive today, he would probably be studying the music industry to learn how to do several things in the making of highlife music. We are trying to understand Rex Lawson and the role of highlife music in the Nigerian-Biafran Civil War," he said, establishing a difference between Nigerian and highlife music in Ibo and Yoruba and other parts of Nigeria.

On his part, Senior Producer/Editor of Afropop Worldwide, Mr. Banning Eyer, disclosed that Afropop Worldwide was a radio programme and online magazine dedicated to music from Africa and the African Diaspora. Said he: "We at Afropop came here to produce a five-part radio documentary programme on Nigerian music and history. In Port Harcourt, the programme has two parts: the first is to talk about the evolution of highlife music in the 1970s and 80s, especially the music of Cardinal Jim Rex Lawson. The head of the Department of Music, Professor Omye Nwankpa, has been very helpful and we are grateful to

University in 2013 under the auspices of the Cardinal Jim Rex Lawson Professorial Chair in Highlife Music. The focus of that visit was on highlife music and its historical and connection with Nigerian history in the pre-independence, independence and post-independence periods and of course, the activities of highlife music in the Nigerian-Biafran Civil War. They have come to continue research in the genre and its interaction with social and political changes in Nigeria," he said, expressing hope that the collaboration would be of mutual benefit to the visiting researchers, including staff and students of the Department.

A major highlight of the programme was a highlife music performance led by Bright Eye of the Stage Band of the Department of Music, which got virtually everyone in the audience on their feet as they could not resist the alluring rhythm of authentic highlife tunes.

Idemeyor Focuses Attention On Emerging Trends In Global Health At FBMS Research Seminar

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Visiting NUC LEADS Scholars, Professor Vincent Idemeyor, has revealed that an estimated 4.2 million health workers were still needed to bridge the yawning gap in tackling the global healthcare delivery crisis, with a whopping 1.5 million of the number needed on the African continent.

Delivering a paper on *Current Trends in Global Health and Implications for Health Financing in Nigeria* at the 2nd Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences (FBMS) Research Seminar Series, which held at the AKB Auditorium, University Park, last Wednesday, Idemeyor who is a Visiting Professor from the University of Illinois, described health workers as the heartbeat and soul of effective health delivery system anywhere in the world.

The Clinical Pharmacologist, who regretted that the world currently faced acute shortage of qualified health personnel, explained that the scenario was far worst in developing

countries, especially those in sub-Saharan Africa. "The global health sector is more recent and emphasises greater scope of health problems and solutions comprising climate change, urbanisation and malnutrition. They transcend national boundaries and are best addressed by cooperative actions and solutions," he stated.

Professor Idemeyor posited that human activities promoted the spread of diseases, explaining that there were many compelling reasons to pay close attention to emerging and re-emerging diseases that continue to increasingly ravage people in developing nations. He listed defence, security and warfare as major obligations of countries in addressing emergent global health challenges.

"There is a spiralling deterioration of healthcare in the poorest regions with global consequences for disease transmission, trade and international relations. Non-communicable diseases in developing countries are major public health and socio-economic problems, affecting developing countries of the world," he noted, adding that Global Antimicrobial Resistance

of emergent diseases to drugs has reached alarming levels in many parts of the world with high level resistance in six World Health Organisation (WHO) regions with limited treatment options.

Elaborating on target indicators aimed at monitoring progress towards universal health coverage, the Visiting Scholar noted that total health expenditure of any country should be, at least, between four and five percent of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and over 90 per cent of the population covered by prepayment and risk-pooling schemes. "The issue of transparency in funding systems play a big role in addressing global health. Openness, clarity of decision and communicating policies should be easily accessible and free," Professor Idemeyor recommended.

Earlier in his address, representative of the Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic matters, Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, commended the Faculty Management for initiating efforts aimed at sustaining the Research Seminar Series, describing it as an opportunity for intellectual harvests that would lift quality research with the potential of capitalising knowledge for the benefit of researchers and society.

In separate speeches, Chairman of the occasion and Dean of the Faculty, Professors Oarefin Odia and Chikoko Nwanche, stressed the need for continuing the high academic standard already set by the Faculty for the benefit of younger academics, especially in quality research and teaching, character moulding, learning and acquisition of knowledge through effective communication.

"We want to commend the University Management and the Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Christie Mazi, for their support, which has enabled the Faculty to mount the 2nd Seminar Series. The idea is to be the best Faculty in the University and beyond and we all have a duty to support this laudable initiative which is the essence of a true university," Professor Odia said.

The event also featured the review of the FBMS Research Bulletin and launch of the Faculty Research Fund presentation by Professor Jeyasu Shiniyalai, including presentation of awards to distinguished staff of the Faculty by the 7th Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka.



Dr. C. (Acad), Prof Fawehinmi (arrowed) flanked by other guests and 7th V-C, Prof Ajienka (4th left)

CITE INT'L CONFERENCE

The Centre for Information and Telecommunications Engineering (CITE) held an International Conference and Exhibition tagged: "ICEIT 2016" from Wednesday, November 23 to Friday, November 25, 2016 with: "The Role of ICT and Telecommunications in Global Economic Revitalisation" as its theme. Our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU**, captured highlights of the event:



Registration in progress



Dr. C. (Admin), Prof. Anthony Ibe (right) welcoming South-South Zonal Controller of Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), PH, Dr. Chidi Diegwu



Prof. Ibe declaring the Conference open on behalf of the V-C, Prof. Ndawa Lale



Dr. C. (Acad), Prof. Hakeem Fawehinmi, addressing the Conference



Engr. Timothy Odelede of Raw Materials Research and Development Council, delivering the Speech of the Guest of Honour, Dr. Ogburnyama Onu



Dr. Diegwu delivering the Keynote Speech on behalf of the Executive Vice-Chairman/CEO of NCC, Prof. Umar Danbatta



CITE Director, Prof. Monica Briggs, delivering his Welcome Address



A cross-section of guests at the event



R-L: Prof. Briggs, Dr. Diegwu, a guest, Prof. Ibe, Engr. Odelede, Deputy Registrar (Acad), Dr. Agatha Anuga, Prof. Fawehinmi, Prof. Joel Umeadadi and Dr. Bourdillon Oniich



Another cross-section



A group photograph after the opening ceremony