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IMC Hands Over Completed NEEDS Intervention Projects To UniPort



It was an atmosphere of pomp and ceremony as the authorities of the University joyfully received rehabilitated projects executed under the 2013 NEEDS Assessment Special Intervention Fund by the Federal Government at the University Park, last Monday, reports *Obinna Nwodin*.

Speaking at the hand-over ceremony, Chairman, IMC, *Marcus Nwagwu*

Side Bar CHS 39th INDUCTION

The College of Health Sciences holds its 39th Induction Ceremony this Friday at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium. Time is 10:00am prompt. Details next week
~Editor

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100 Benefit From Nollywood Film Workshop



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Senate has elected Professor Regina Ogali as the new Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Administration. Professor Ogali is of the Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry in the Faculty of Science. Until her election to the exalted position, Professor Ogali was Dean of the School of Graduate Studies.

Her election was a major highlight of the 430th Senate Meeting (Extraordinary) held at the Senate Chambers, last Tuesday. Professor Ogali emerged as new DV-C following a unanimous vote of 133 after Professor Chinedu Chukuegu of the Department of Fine Arts and Design politely declined his nomination to contest the Number Two position in the administrative hierarchy of the University.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, who chaired the meeting had announced that the position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor would be vacant on April 24, 2017 after the incumbent, Professor Anthony Ibe, would have served out his two-year tenure in office. He said that by her successful election, Professor Ogali's name would be sent to the Governing Council for ratification, preparatory to her assumption of office.

Senate Elects Ogali DV-C Admin, Approves New Programmes

By Obinna Nwodin

Professor Ogali becomes the first female academic to occupy the position in the history of the University of Port Harcourt.

A former member of the University Council representing Senate, Professor Ogali had also served as Head of the Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, as well as Director of the

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Prof Lale,
V-C



Prof Ogali,
Incoming DV-C, Admin

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V-C Receives Debate Council Team On Facilities Inspection Visit

By Otikor Samuel

Preparatory to granting the University of Port Harcourt the hosting right to this year's edition of the All-Nigerian Universities Debate Council (ANUDC) competition, a high-powered delegation comprising President of the Council, Dr. Ndubuisi Osuagwu, his Executive and some Board members visited the University last Tuesday to access the state of facilities for the eagerly anticipated talk show.

Receiving the team in the Committee Room, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, congratulated the body for promoting the ideals of elocution, critical thinking and negotiation, which he described as powerful tools required for harmonious living among citizens of a multi-ethnic state such as Nigeria.

"There is nowhere in the world that negotiation is not needed if there must be peaceful co-existence. The idea of engaging our students in debate is a laudable effort which will re-orientate their minds to seek dialogue and negotiation as ways of resolving conflicts. As future leaders, if they engage themselves in talking to one another, rather than resorting to violence, it would assist in solving problems in the society," the Vice-Chancellor said, restating the readiness of Management of the University to support the ANUDC to succeed in its vision. In his remarks, Dr. Osuagwu, disclosed that the All-Nigerian Universities Debate Council was founded at the University of Calabar in 2013, with the University of Port Harcourt as one of the founding institutions. The President revealed that the Council was driven by a collective vision to acculturate students in Nigerian universities on the culture of debate as a means of solving part of the many problems bedeviling the country.

"Our country has suffered many crises because we don't talk to each other and seek solutions to problems before

they explode. We want to build future leaders by inculcating in them the culture of rational discourse and graceful disagreement. If they listen to others, it will assist in ameliorating our problems, especially now that we are talking about alternative dispute resolution to foster peaceful co-existence," the President observed.

He further disclosed that the Council had its maiden competition in Calabar, while the University of Lagos, Imo State University and Covenant University hosted subsequent editions in 2014, 2015 and 2016, respectively.

Dr. Osuagwu, who told the Vice-Chancellor that the Council was in the process of registering with the Corporate Affairs Commission to formalise its status, expressed the readiness of the body to train adjudicators from Nigerian universities to carry out its activities.

He praised the University for making tremendous improvements in both manpower and physical developments, pointing out that the rapid growth witnessed in the University which had made it to create a niche for itself in the comity of second generation universities must have been the outcome of recruiting best

hands across the country and balanced staff mix.

Earlier, Chairman of the Debate Committee, Professor Iheanacho Akakuru, said the Council was responsible for instilling the art of public speaking among youths in Nigerian universities. He disclosed that the Council was in the University to inspect the state of facilities as part of the requirements for bidding to host the forthcoming competition.

Professor Akakuru further disclosed that the debating team of the University had so far performed well, expressing hope that the Vice-Chancellor would be thrilled when he watches the performance of the team.

Other members of the Council on the entourage of the President were: Professor Michael Otuma (Ebonyi State University), Mr. Dufua Sharp-Akosobo (Vice-President, University of Port Harcourt), Mr. Franklin Ubi (Secretary, University of Calabar), Dr. Sheriff Folarin (Southwest Coordinator, Covenant University), Dr. Williams Obiozor (Southeast Coordinator, Nnamdi Azikiwe University) and Mr. Ekenze Uchenna from Imo State University.



V-C, Prof Lale (seated centre) flanked by DV-C (Admin), Prof Ibe, Registrar, Mrs. Otto, Bursar, Mr. Aliet (left), President of ANUDC, Dr. Osuagwu, Univ. Librarian, Dr. Umeozor, DV-C (Academic), Prof Fawehinmi and other members of the Debate Council (standing)

Building a harmonious relationship and providing an enabling environment for staff development, strengthening the existing welfare package and engendering an excellent academic culture, are among the priority issues set by the new Acting Head of the Department of English Studies in the Faculty of Humanities, Dr. Chinyelu Ojukwu.

Exchanging views with a *UniPort Weekly* Correspondent in her office last Wednesday, Dr. Ojukwu, regretted that the Department was highly

Ojukwu Unveils Blueprint To Reposition English Dept

By Humphrey Ogu

polarised, disclosing that she had advised her colleagues to work as a team to enable the Department develop to its full capacity.

The new Acting Head expressed a desire for a less-polarised and more harmonised work environment that would be conducive to the established tradition of academic excellence in the Department. "There should be a marked difference between a department in a university and a political party in the street. This is an academic environment and not a political setting in which people can engage in any pastime of their choice to advance their pecuniary interest. We are one family and should collectively strive to develop academic excellence in the Department, rather than operating along our own preferences as is currently the case. There will always be conflicts among people, but what matters most is the maturity with which such conflicts are approached and resolved, especially by academics, who should lead by example," she charged her colleagues in the Department.

"In my own modest way, I shall work tirelessly to bring the Department back on track as envisaged by its founding fathers. I would prefer a situation in which academic and non-teaching staff can work in concert to impact positively on the Department and our dear students. I want to see more active

lecturers, who are passionate about teaching and research. On my own part, I would ensure that staff are more comfortable in their offices as a way of making them give their best to students and the Department," Dr. Ojukwu pledged. She cited the recent rewiring of the Department to supply electricity to staff offices through the Department's power generating set, which she executed on assumption of office.

"I gave my best during my first outing as Acting Head of Department, and I pray that God should give me the strength to replicate what I achieved in office then in my second coming. At that time, I was living some distance away from the University campus and commuting to school was a cumbersome exercise, especially with a chaotic traffic situation. Now that I live on campus, I pray to God to grant me the grace to continue to steer the Department in the right direction for the remaining part of my tenure, which is in its early stages," Dr. Ojukwu told our Correspondent.



Dr. Ojukwu

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IMC Hands Over Completed NEEDS Intervention Projects To UniPort

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Implementation Monitoring Committee (IMC), Professor Kimse Okoko, commended authorities of the University for executing the projects to specification within the agreed timeline. He observed that the renovated hostels, classrooms and lecture halls have not been renovated since they were constructed over 40 years ago.

The Chairman expressed hope that by 2018, over N1.3 trillion would have been spent on the intervention projects, based on the Federal Government-ASUU 2009 Agreement. Professor Okoko hoped that government would continue to release funds for total rehabilitation and expansion of facilities in public universities to bring them at par with what obtained elsewhere.

Professor Okoko, who is also Chairman of the Committee of Pro-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities, acknowledged the concern raised by the Vice-Chancellor on the escalating cost of building materials which adversely affected the cost of executing projects under the NEEDS platform. He expressed hope that the situation would convince government to take another look at the payment modalities to contractors. Professor Okoko praised the extent of projects implementation by the Management, declaring that he was proud to identify himself with the University, where he taught for many years.

In his welcome address, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, disclosed that "a total of N5,667,407,407.22 was allocated to the University of Port Harcourt under the 2013 Presidential Intervention. Out of the amount, the University received N5,100,666,666.50, representing 90% of the allocation in three tranches."

He further stated that contracts worth N3,632,403,064.34 were awarded for the construction of seventeen new facilities between August and October 2014, expressing delight that most of the projects have been completed and handed over by the contractors. Professor Lale also stated that "the release of the 3rd tranche in August 2016 facilitated award of contracts worth N1,248,826,457.31 for the renovation and rehabilitation of fourteen blocks of students' hostels that were in sordid stages of dilapidation," adding that "further steps to stem the ugly tide of dilapidated facilities for which the University was acquiring an unenviable status, prompted the award of contracts worth N292,277,503.20 for the renovation of nine dilapidated lecture halls, classrooms and sundry facilities in December 2016."

In a goodwill message, Acting Dean of the Student Affairs Department, Dr. Otu Ekpenyong, had on behalf of the students thanked the Federal Government and authorities of the University for providing a conducive environment for academic activities. He promised that the facilities would be jealously guarded to ensure their longevity.

Speaking on behalf of the Chairman of MayFair Projects

Limited, Consultants to the Projects, Mr. Peter Ibole, expressed gratitude to the Federal Government through the Managers of the NEEDS Assessment Intervention Fund, whose allocations to the University of Port Harcourt provided his company a platform to contribute to national development.

"To have successfully renovated 15 hostels, nine lecture halls and classrooms which were in awful states of disrepair in less than eight weeks, is indeed an achievement worthy of commendation," he said. Mr. Ibole added that the feat was made possible because all the parties involved worked diligently towards the successful execution of the projects within the stipulated timeframe.

The renovated Hostel Projects are: Goodluck Jonathan Hostel, OBJ Clinical Hostels I and II; Claude Ake Blocks A and B; Nelson Mandela Blocks A, B, C and D, Postgraduate Hostels Blocks A, B and C, Clinical Hostel, as well as Aminu Kano Hostel Blocks A and B.

Others are Lecture Hall II located at Choba Park, Engineering Drawing Studio in Choba Park, Lecture Halls 1-8 at the University Park, Faculty of Education, Choba Park, New Lecture Hall, CBN Lecture Hall, ICTC building at the UniPark, Lecture Halls A and B at Choba Park, PS Main Hall and an adjoining Reading Room.

Another set included supply of mattress and pillow to students' hostels in Delta Park; supply and installation of 1,000 Wooden Single Beds in rehabilitated students' hostels; supply of 2,000 chairs in rehabilitated students' hostels; supply of 2,000 tables in rehabilitated hostels; furnishing of offices of Hall Wardens and Supervisors; furnishing of offices of Porters and Students' Common Rooms, amongst other provisions.



V-C, Prof Lale (6th right) flanked by Chairman, Cttee of Pro-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities, Prof Okoko (left), some Principal, Senior Officers and IMC team

Following the compliance of 12 former Faculty Presidents with the directive of Senate at its 428th Meeting (Extraordinary), the expulsion penalty slammed on the erstwhile student leaders have been commuted to rustication for one academic session.

Conveying the new position in separate letters to the affected former student leaders dated February 13, 2017, the Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, explained that Senate at its 428th Meeting held on Wednesday, February 1, 2017, considered the 'Letter of Appeal' written by the students on January 18, 2017 but observed some anomalies in the documents.

"Having complied with the above directives of Senate through your hand-written 'Letter of Apology' dated 2nd February, 2017, the Senate of the University of Port Harcourt has further decided that your expulsion from

Senate Commutes Ex-Faculty Presidents' Expulsion To Rustication

By Otiakor Samuel

the University be commuted to rustication for one academic session," the statement addressed individually to the erstwhile Faculty Presidents read in part.

"Consequently, you are hereby rusticated from the University of Port Harcourt for the 2016/2017 Academic Session. Furthermore, note that if you have completed your academic programme, you will graduate at the end

of the 2016/2017 session, otherwise, you are to continue with your academic programme in the 2017/2018 session," the statement concluded.

The affected former Faculty Presidents are: Chima Kingsley Onyenduzi (Social Sciences), Umejuru Wheomachukwu Onyekwere (Agriculture), John, Godson Nnamdi (SSLT), Jaja Great Loveday (Basic Medical Sciences), Uzomba, Chioma Rachael (Management Sciences), Isaiah, Okwudiri Ernest (Engineering), Okpako, Erhyourwe Henry (Faculty of Science), Amoo, Ahmed Abiodun (Pharmaceutical Sciences), Nwaonu Chukwuemeka Bright (Dentistry), Afolabi, Yemi Ibrahim (Education), Sangha, Nuka David (Humanities) and Opara Emmanuel (Clinical Sciences).

It would be recalled that the decision to expel the students was initially taken at the 426th Senate Meeting of the University on Wednesday, December 21, 2016.

In that Meeting, Senate also summarily proscribed an illegal body known as the Faculty Presidents' Forum for hijacking the functions of the elected Students' Union Executive and threatening in writing to unleash another round of mayhem in the University. In proscribing the Faculty Presidents' Forum, Senate described it as a non-statutory body that had no right to disrupt academic activities or threaten law and order in the University.

Two students, who molested a female lecturer in the Department of History and Diplomatic Studies and eight others, who were cut red-handed in cult-related activities will remain expelled from the University by the order of Senate.



Amua

John

Uzomba

Isaiah

Afolabi

Amoo



Nwaonu

Sangha

Okpako

Chima

Opara

Jaja

V-C Reassures Contractors Of Fairness

By Obinna Nwodin

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, has reassured individuals and corporate entities willing to do business in the University of fairness and openness by his administration in contract award opportunities. Professor Lale gave the assurance when he received the Executive members of a body known as Choba Indigenes Contractors/Vendors Association at the Vice-Chancellor's Committee Room on Thursday, February 23, 2017.

The Vice-Chancellor told the group that "the University system operates in certain accustomed ways that cannot be unilaterally changed by any individual to suit particular interest groups." He drew the attention of the new body to the existence of an older one known as UniPort Indigenous Contractors' Welfare Association, which he said, provided a veritable platform for those wishing to do business with the University to interact and compete for available jobs.

"It will be nice for your group to join the existing Association so that we can have one group to deal with when considering contracts. We do not want to engage a multiplicity of contractors based on ethnic groupings," Professor Lale told them, assuring the body of equal treatment of all qualified and reputable contractors willing to do business with the University. The Vice-Chancellor advised the new body to commence with the due process of registering with the University, as well as



V-C, Prof Lale (3rd right) flanked by the Contractors

the established Contractors' Welfare Association, to create the needed opportunity of integrating them into the system.

"All you need is to be on the right platform and I can assure you as Vice-Chancellor that we will be fair and open to all, and there will be no reason for me to discriminate against any of you, who genuinely wishes to do business with the University," he assured them.

Earlier in his remarks, Vice-Chairman of the Association, Mr. Achior Chindah, congratulated Professor Lale on his assumption of office as 8th Vice-Chancellor of the University. He said that the group was in the Vice-Chancellor's office to articulate ideas on how

to bridge the gap between community contractors and the University of Port Harcourt Management.

"We want to be part of the impressive infrastructural development you are bringing to the University of Port Harcourt. I wish to assure you that we are very capable of doing a lot of jobs that are on offer here. We appeal to the Management to carry us along as indigenes of the University's host community," Mr. Chindah pleaded with the Vice-Chancellor.

Also present at the meeting were: Nyema Thomas, Chairman; Gabriel Amadi, Secretary; Nduibuisi Igwe, Treasurer and Okocha Njibuanwu, Assistant Secretary.

No fewer than 100 persons participated in the UniPort-Nollywood Film Workshop organised by the Department of Theatre and Film Studies in partnership with the Rivers State Chapter of the Actors Guild of Nigeria in the University between Monday, February 27 and Friday, March 3, 2017.

Delivering the keynote address entitled: "Filmmaking Practice in Nigeria in the 21st Century: The Way Forward," at the opening ceremony, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor Femi Shaka, observed: "Educational and professional training are key areas of deficiency within the cinema. Others include film finance and distribution and the problem of piracy. Of these problem areas, the most important is related to the development of human capital. If we give proper training to the next generation of Nigerian filmmakers in all the fields of the film industry, they will be better placed to produce works which would be competitive in the global market place."

Shaka, who is a Professor of Film Studies, noted that professionalism in the Nigerian movie industry had been established since 1992, stating that: "We now have the Directors Guild, Actors' Guild, Producers' Guild, amongst others. We are happy that today, members of the Actors' Guild are collaborating with the Department of Theatre and Film Studies in this maiden edition of what we have conceived to be a yearly training programme to be jointly carried out between the industry and academia, integrating our esteemed practitioners in the training process of the next generation of Nigerian filmmakers."

Welcoming participants to the maiden edition of the workshop, Acting Head of the Department of Theatre and

100 Benefit From UniPort-Nollywood Film Workshop

By Humphrey Ogu

Film Studies, Dr. John Yeseibo, noted that in line with the entrepreneurial inclination of the University, the Department brings town and gown together in the UniPort-Nollywood Workshop, targeted at bringing professionalism to the industry with "Excellence through Training" as its theme.

On his part, Chairman of the local AGN Branch, Bartholomew Aguugo, said: "The UniPort-Nollywood Workshop is a long-incubated initiative geared towards infusing professionalism into our practice and chiefly the actors."

"For us, it is an opportunity to build our individual capacities in a fusion of practical and theoretical schooling. It is even more valuable to those comrades who seldom had any formal training in this noble practice or those who perhaps didn't have the opportunity to be trained," he added.

The workshop, which drew facilitators from the Department and Nollywood, had Professors Henry Bell-Gam, Innocent Ohiri, Julie Umukoro, and Drs L.C. Krama, Benjamin Ejiofor and Ovunda Ihunwo handling different aspects of the training. Veteran Nollywood directors, Teco Benson and Dr. Chika Onu, who is also of the Department, were on hand to groom aspiring directors, while veteran movie stars and lecturers in the Department, Dr. Sam Dede and Mr. Columbus Iroasonga, drilled would-be actors and

actresses in acting. Others included Dr. Charles Okwuowulu, Mr. Adiele Onyedibia and Richard Iloma. Courses taught at the workshop included Film Acting Techniques, Non-Verbal Acting, Speech and Voice Acting, Directing, Screenwriting, Camera Works and Film Editing, among others. Meanwhile, the participants are expected to embark on the production of short films which will centre on the theme: "Ponzi Scheme in the Campus Environment."

Stop Press Mgt Explains Shortfall In February Salary

Management of the University has explained that the shortfall in staff salaries for the month of February, 2017, was as a result of a drastic shortfall in the allocations remitted to the University by the Federal Government. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, gave the clarification in an emergency meeting with the leadership of the four Unions, last Thursday. Professor Ibe said that the University received only N585, 961, 609 for the month of February, representing 83.64% of the total allocation to the University, adding that after receiving assurances from both the Senate and House of Representatives Committees on Appropriation, it was shocking to record such alarming shortfall in February.

Clarifying the issue further, the Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Allezi, disclosed that given the GIFMIS platform on which salaries are deposited by government, it was inevitable not to pay the available percentage. The Bursar said that he advised Management to pay what was received, pending when the shortfall would be made available. The development followed a memo released by the Bursary Department on the shortfall in the February salary.

A statement dated March 1, 2017 and signed on behalf of the Bursar by the Payroll and Taxation Officer, promised to pay the balance to all staff when the University receives same from the Federal Government.



Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Prof Shaka addressing participants at the opening ceremony

UPBS Fetes Ofurum, Welcomes Onuchuku As New Director

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

In appreciation of the successful completion of his tenure as Director, staff of the University of Port Harcourt Business School (UPBS) organised a rousing send-forth ceremony for their erstwhile Director, Professor Clifford Ofurum. The reception was a mark of recognition for the good job he did during his tenure in office. Three others, namely, Drs. Henry Ozuru and Eniola Taiwo, including Mr. Henry Wobo, who also served out their tenures as Deputy Director, Coordinator of Short Courses and Finance Officer, respectively, were similarly honoured for their contributions to the growth of the

school during the period under review.

Speaking on the importance of the reception which held on Friday, February 24, 2017 at the expansive premises of the UPBS located at Chinda-Worlu Drive, off Sani Abacha Road, Rumueme, the School's Secretary, Mrs. Flora Amadi, noted that it was organised to honour the immediate past Director, alongside other diligent staff who made immense contributions to record the success story of UPBS.

"It is with a mixture of happiness and regret that we send-forth our immediate past Director, Professor Ofurum, who made personal sacrifices to develop the School to this level. We commend his dedication to duty and wish him and the

other departing staff well in their future endeavours. It has been a great experience working with them and we hope that they would remain in touch with us as they return to their Faculty.

"We similarly wish to heartily welcome the new Director, Professor Okechuku Onuchuku and his team as they settle down to unfold their own style of leadership aimed at taking the School forward. We promise to work with him and the new team to move the Business School to greater heights," she said. Mrs. Amadi also pledged on behalf of the staff to extend the same hand of fellowship to the new helmsman as he strives to lead the School into a new era.

In their separate speeches, immediate past Director and his Deputy, Professor Ofurum and Dr. Ozuru, promised to continue to contribute their wealth of experience to give the Business School a pride of place among its counterparts in the country. They also pledged to support the new leadership of the School to enable it succeed and even surpass their own achievements.

Highpoints of the event were presentation of goodwill messages and a farewell toast taken by the new Deputy Director, Dr. Gift Worlu.

In an interview on the side line of the send-forth ceremony, the new Director, Professor Onuchuku, disclosed plans to thoroughly evaluate the existing academic programmes and the administrative structure with a view to making improvements where necessary.

"We intend to introduce specialised Short Courses in New Accounting Systems, Corporate Governance and Public Administration for interested members of the public and corporate organisations. We will launch out for more collaborative programmes with other universities within and outside the country to strengthen our programmes and attract more students.

"We also intend to recruit more knowledgeable industry experts to teach the programmes to create that truly symbiotic relationship between town and gown. The idea is to surpass other Business Schools in the country and be rated as the best," Professor Onuchuku told our Correspondent, promising to also embark on renovation of the school and expansion into the large expanse of land acquired by the University to enhance the School's capacity for enhanced service delivery to its growing clients.



Prof Onuchuku (right) taking over from Prof Ofurum

Fresh students admitted for the 2016/2017 academic session had their first official interaction with the University last Wednesday, as they were taken through the regulatory framework to guide their conduct throughout their residency period in the University.

Declaring the exercise open at the Convocation Arena, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, urged the students to conclude their registration and face their studies to enable them graduate within the stipulated timeframe for their programmes.

"I welcome you all to the University of Port Harcourt. You are victorious students for scaling through the highly competitive admission processes to secure admission into the University. More than 30,000 candidates opted to study in the University of Port Harcourt this year. Of the number, only 21,793 were invited to participate in the screening exercise, while only 9,700 were admitted. So, you can see how fortunate you are to be here. I, therefore, charge you to make judicious use of this rare opportunity. We wish that you would not stay here beyond the period specified for your programmes," Professor Ibe charged them.

In her address, the Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, took the students through the elaborate registration processes prescribed by Senate, congratulating them for securing admission into the University.

"You are very important to us which is why we came out in our numbers to formally welcome you to the University. Most of you must have successfully concluded your online registration formalities and must have submitted your files to enable you obtain your Matriculation Numbers online. For those of you who have gone through these processes, you are now bona fide candidates to be fully admitted into the University on the Matriculation Day, which is now April 20, 2017," the Registrar told the fresh students. She revealed that the Matriculation was moved forward to enable all of them conclude their registration procedures within the specified timeline.

Mrs. Otto also charged the students to take their academic activities very seriously, "as those who fail to meet a minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average of 1.50 would be withdrawn for academic failure. In line with the directive of the National Universities Commission, universities no longer have room for the Pass Degree. University degrees now stop at Third Class, so you must work very hard if you want to succeed."

In their separate presentations, the Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Aliiez spoke on Bursary Services and Students' Insurance Scheme,

UniPort Ends Orientation Exercise For Fresh Students

By Otiakor Samuel

while the University Librarian, Dr. Susan Umecozor, took the students through the *Uses of the Library and e-Learning*. Acting Dean of the Student Affairs Department, Dr. Otu Ekpenyong, made a presentation on *The Role of Students Affairs Department in the Life of Students*, Chief Security Officer, Lt. Col. Reginald Isiguzo (rtd) provided valuable tips on *Students and Security*, while Acting Director of the Health Services Department, Dr. Chinwe Ezirim spoke on *Health Services to Students*.

Others, who made presentations included President of the University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA), Mrs. Joy Lale, who spoke on *Proper Dress and Moral Codes*, Deputy Registrar (Academic Affairs), Dr. Agatha Ataga spoke on *Rules and Regulations Governing the Conduct of Students in Academic Matters*. Chairman of the Senate Committee on Prizes, Professor Chukwudi Onyeaso enlightened the students on *Prize Winning Opportunities in*

the University, while Acting Director of the Entrepreneurship Centre, Dr. William Olori spoke on the *Benefits of Entrepreneurship*.

The well-patronised exercise which featured cultural dance, also had presentation by Chairman of the Professional Ethics Committee, Professor Frank Uglomoh, who counselled the students on *Code of Conduct for Students*, *Examination Malpractice and Related Matters*, Guidance and Counselling Officer, Dr. Loveth Jeremiah spoke on *The Importance of Guidance and Counselling in the Life of a Student*. Mr. Hanson Aniefloke, who represented the Acting Director of the Information and Communication Technology Centre, Dr. Chidiebere Ugwu, spoke on the services available at the Centre, while Mrs. Mercy Ajenka made a presentation on behalf of the Campus Environmental, Beautification and Sanitation (CEBAS) Unit on the *Role of Students in Campus Cleanliness*. The event ended with an interactive session with the fresh students.



A cross-section of fresh students at the Orientation exercise

Senate Approves New Programmes

Cont'd from Page 1

Students' Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES). Senate also approved the establishment of new Doctoral degree programmes in Film and Television Studies, as well as in Theatre and Media Arts, both in the Department of Theatre and Film Studies, Faculty of Humanities, including a Professional Master of Finance and Banking/ACIB programme in the Faculty of Management Sciences.

Presenting the proposals on the floor of Senate, outgoing Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, Professor Ogali, said that the programmes had passed through the necessary procedures. She said that the professional Master's degree programme in Finance and Banking complied with the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Chartered Institute of Bankers (CIB) which already runs the ACIB programme in the University.

Senate also approved various categories of results presented by the Deans and Provost. The recommendations came from the Faculties of Humanities, Social Sciences, Science, Education, Engineering, Management Sciences, as well as Agriculture. Others were result from the College of Health Sciences, as well as the Schools of Science Laboratory Technology (SSLT) and Graduate Studies.

Following the dust raised by 'mop-up' of backlog degree results in the Faculty of Social Sciences, Senate set up a five-member Ad-hoc Committee headed by the Director of Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit, Professor Ikechukwu Aghagwa, to determine what sanctions should be invoked against academic staff who failed to prepare results of students awaiting graduation, as well as find a lasting solution to avert the embarrassing situation in future. Other members of the Committee are: Professors Michael Horsfall, Iyepu Siminialayi, Onyemaechi Udumukwu and Grace Awi-Waadu. Senate directed that the remaining 'mop up' results from the Faculty of Social Sciences should be tabled at its next Meeting in May, 2017.

Earlier in his brief, Professor Lale had announced the

elevation of some academic staff to the rank of professor and welcomed them as members of Senate. Those elevated were: Professors Cosmos Enyindah, Obstetrics and Gynaecology; Andrew Obafemi, Geography and Environmental Management; Martins Adesope, and Sunday Adetunji, both of Agricultural Economics and



430 Senate in session

Extension; Adedapo Aiyelaja, Forestry and Wild Life Management; Ikechukwu Aghagwa, Plant Science and Biotechnology; Godwin Omokhua, Forestry and Wildlife Management; Sunday Osaat, Educational Management; Ifeji Okoye, Pure and Industrial Chemistry; Ate Okorobia, History and Diplomatic Studies; Julie Umukoro, Theatre and Film Studies; Prince Mmom, Geography and Environmental Management; Walter Ihejirika, Linguistics and Communication Studies; Philip Okerentugba, Microbiology; George Tasie, Religious and Cultural Studies; Kingsley Owete, Religious and Cultural Studies, Nkechi Okoli,

Educational Foundations; Clara Odele, and Baribor Vikoo, both of Curriculum Studies and Educational Technology.

Other are: Professors Morufu Oyebamji, Adult and Non-Formal Education; Johnson Okpako, Human Kinetics and Health Education; Angela Frank-Briggs, Paediatrics and Child Health; Lekia Nwinkana, Educational Management and Planning; Babatunde Akinbami, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery; Best Ordinoha, Preventive and Social Medicine; Barbara Otaigbe, Paediatrics and

Child Health; Joel Umeuduji, Geography and Environmental Management; Prince Nwakanma, Finance and Banking; Nathaniel Abraham and Samuel Nwafor, both of Educational Management and Planning; Innocent Ohiri, Theatre and Film Studies, Ephraim Chukwuocha, Physics, as well as a posthumous elevation of Ramota Ogunkunle to the professoriate.

The Vice-Chancellor advised the newly elevated Professors to provide the needed academic leadership in their Faculties and Departments, and also contribute to robust debate in Senate to justify their new status and move the University forward.

CCSU Ends Maiden W'Shop For Students, Host Communities

By Mercy Adeniji

In pursuit of its core mandate of equipping students to participating more effectively in developing the University's host communities, the Central Community Service Unit organised a sensitization workshop at the Convocation Arena on Monday, February 28, 2017.

In her welcome address, Acting Director of the Unit, Dr. Helen Imafidor, commended Management of the University, including Faculty and Departmental Coordinators for their support, stating that Community Service was in line with the Motto of the University: *For Enlightenment and Self-Reliance*. "The programme strives to instill into the students, awareness of the multiple needs of the community, a sense of moral obligation to help the less fortunate and a desire to make the community a better place for its inhabitants," she told participants.

Dr. Imafidor described community service as service that is rendered for the benefit of the local community, charging the students to always remember to participate

in community development initiatives wherever they may find themselves. "Start where you are with what you have and do what you can. Contentment is not the fulfilment of what you want, but the realization of how much you already have. Expectation of monetary gains is not part of community service which should always be a voluntary effort to make a place better than you found it," she admonished the students.

Delivering a paper entitled: *"Impact of the University on her Immediate Communities"*, Guest Speaker, Professor Johnny Ogunji of the Ebonyi State University, commended the University of Port Harcourt for incorporating Community Service to the curriculum, charging other universities to emulate the good example. According to the Guest Lecturer, a community is a group of people united by, at least, some characteristics such as job sharing, interest, values, experiences or tradition. "Universities are regarded as crucial national assets in addressing policies and priorities. They have become sources of development with innovative thinking and skilled personnel. As students and workers, we should understand the importance and role of the work we do,"

he advised them, stressing the need for cooperation from the community in the development process. He noted that if the community did not cooperate with the University, Community Service would not be effective.

In another paper entitled: *"University Community Service as a Powerful Force for Human Capacity Building and Community Development: Perspectives of the UniPort Theatre"*, a lecturer in the Department of Theatre and Film Studies, Professor Julie Umukoro, revealed that "Community Service at the University of Port Harcourt rests on the resolve to build and inculcate in her students the spirit and culture of freely giving back to their communities. Entrenched into the school curriculum, Community Service is a mandatory second year students' engagement programme in the community. It is designed to create room for interaction between the University and her host communities, while encouraging mutual respect for one another."

Professor Umukoro disclosed that the greatest value attached to the promotion of Community Service included mitigating hostilities between town and gown,

and as an agent of positive development for the mutual benefit of the University and its host communities.

Highpoints of the workshop were an interactive session, goodwill messages from representatives of the host communities, presentation of gifts to past Heads and Directors of the Unit, dance performance by students of the Department of Theatre and Film Studies and a musical performance by Kara Godson. Also present were Chiefs and CDC Chairmen of the different host communities.



DV-C (Admin), Prof. Ibe (seated centre), flanked by DV-C (Academic), Prof. Hakeem Fawehinmi, Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto (left), Univ. Librarian, Dr. Susan Umeozor (right), Guest Speakers and staff of the Unit

GUIDE POST

REDEPLOYMENT

Mrs. Ngozi Maduka, Research Institute Museum, Faculty of Humanities, redeployed to *Consultancy, Research and Development Centre (CORDEC)* as Administrative Head, effective February 20, 2017.

Leyirabari Timah, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, redeployed to *Personnel Office* (Junior Staff), effective February 20, 2017.

Mrs. Gladys Wachukwu, Local Affiliations and University-wide Accreditation Centre, redeployed to *Admissions Office*, effective February 20, 2017.

Miss Juliana Briggs, Faculty of Humanities, redeployed to *Department of Animal Science and Fisheries*, effective February 20, 2017.

Mrs. Barivule Girigiri, Department of Animal Science and Fisheries, redeployed to *Department of Educational Management*, effective February 20, 2017.

Mrs. Anele Wellington, Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, redeployed to *Revenue Bureau Division, Bursary Department*, effective February 20, 2017.

Adieka Kalaiyo, Centre for Conflict and Gender Studies, redeployed to *Department of Nursing*, effective February 20, 2017.

Mr. Charles Agumagu, Department of Hospitality Management and Tourism, redeployed to *Department of Experimental Pharmacology and Toxicology*, effective February 20, 2017.

Mrs. Dieyepiriyi Ekine, Department of Marketing, redeployed to *Faculty of Engineering (Ombudsman's Office)*, effective February 20, 2017.

Mr. Japheth Omere, Personnel Office (Junior Staff), redeployed to *Faculty of Humanities*, effective February 20, 2017.

Mr. Gbaranee Waribor, Faculty of Engineering (Ombudsman's Office), redeployed to *Department of Marketing*, effective February 20, 2017.

Mr. Paul Yerebari, Exams and Records Unit, redeployed to *Local Affiliations and University-wide Accreditation Centre*, effective February 20, 2017.

Mrs. Iniye Spiff, School of General Studies, redeployed to *Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension*, effective February 20, 2017.

Christiana Ichella, College of Continuing Education/Ash-Grove Academy, redeployed to *Department of Nursing*, effective February 20, 2017.

Mr. Julius Agadaga, College of Continuing Education/Ash-Grove Academy, redeployed to *Student Affairs Department*, effective February 20, 2017.

STATUTORY RETIREMENT

Mrs. Bridget Nzimiro, Student Affairs Department, to proceed on a three-month *Pre-Retirement Leave* on April 17, 2017 preparatory to *Statutory Retirement from Service* as Director, effective July 17, 2017.

Mr. Johnson Marcus, Works and Services Department to proceed on a three-month *Pre-Retirement Leave* on June 10, 2017 preparatory to *Statutory Retirement from Service* as Director, effective September 10, 2017.

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Mr. Donatus Chuku, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective May 18, 2017 to September 12, 2017.

STUDY LEAVE

Mr. Esijolomi Otokunefor, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, granted a three-year *Study Leave with Pay* to enable him pursue a Doctoral degree programme in Electronics in the University of Benin, Edo State, effective December 15, 2016 to December 15, 2019.

DISMISSAL

Mrs. Roseline Aleru, Student Affairs Department, dismissed from service for misconduct, effective February 9, 2017.

Anele Assumes Office As Social Sciences Dean

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Newly-elected Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Kinikanwo Anele, has called for collective efforts to move the Faculty to greater heights, promising to provide adequate academic and administrative leadership with the support of older and younger academics.

Speaking shortly after a well-attended deanship hand-over ceremony which held last Wednesday, Professor Anele disclosed plans to strengthen the Faculty Journal to enable younger academics make accelerated progress to the peak of their careers through regular publications and training programmes.

"Colleagues would be encouraged to attend seminars and workshops and there are also plans to introduce a Faculty Lecture Series to stimulate intellectual discourse in the finest tradition of the Social Sciences. The Faculty under my watch is poised to regularly invite reputable academics to deliver public lectures, as well as interface with our staff and students," the new Dean further disclosed in his Inaugural Address.

Reiterating that his tenure would ensure discipline among staff and students, Professor Anele promised to interface regularly with students to ensure compliance with extant rules and regulations governing the University. "I want to commend past Deans who have done so well over the years to bring our dear Faculty to this level. My job is to take it to the next



Prof Anele (left) taking over from Prof Onuchuku as Dean

LCS Unveils New Utility Vehicle

By Mercy Adeniji

In continuation of his aggressive developmental strides, Acting Head of the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Dr. Baridisi Isaac, has purchased another utility vehicle aimed at enhancing mobility in the Department.

Commissioning the newly-acquired ACURA JEEP on Thursday, February 23, 2017, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor Femi Shaka, again praised the Acting Head of Department for his initiative in transforming the Department.

"Each time Dr. Isaac approaches me, I always giggle with joy, because I know there is a new project to be commissioned in his Department. It is not for nothing that I

named him the doyen of HoDs in the Faculty and I want others to emulate his good example. Dr. Isaac has been tapping and relating to alumni of the Department with positive results. I know how hard it is to make things happen, especially in this era of recession that is biting hard in the pocket. Dr. Isaac is a change agent and I am proud to work with him," Professor Shaka said before commissioning the vehicle.

In his remarks, Dr. Isaac, reiterated his commitment to deliver on his vision of driving development in the Department with minimal dependence on funds from Management, which he regretted were not forthcoming as expected due to paucity of allocations from the Federal Government.

Government.

"Development that is driven by self-help is the pattern we have decided to adopt here. In furtherance of this vision, we acquired an ACURA JEEP to facilitate movement in the Department. We hope to do more as we are able to raise funds," the Acting HoD said.

Present at the brief commissioning ceremony were teaching and non-teaching staff, including students of the Department, who separately expressed joy at the developmental strides of Dr. Isaac.



Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Prof Shaka, cutting the tape to commission the vehicle, while Ag. HoD, Dr. Isaac (left) and others watch in admiration

NEW GOVERNING COUNCIL INAUGURAL MEETING

The new eleven-member Governing Council, comprising five distinguished Nigerians appointed by the Federal Government and six Internal Members elected from Senate and Congregation held a brief introductory session at the Council Chambers on Wednesday, February 7, 2017. They were joined by other Ex-Officio Members led by the V-C, Prof Ndowa Lale. The Members embarked on a Bus Tour of the University Parks and later held a Town Hall Meeting with staff at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Friday. Pictures below show highlights of the sessions as captured by our Cameraman, **HEADMANALU:**



Chairman of Council, Prof Mwendega Jibo, V-C, Prof Lale (middle) with Internal and External Members at the Council Chambers



Pro-Chancellor, Prof Jibo addressing new Council Members



V-C, Prof Lale explaining a point to Chairman of Council



Pro-Chancellor and other Council Members inspecting the Senate Chambers



University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA) President and Wife of V-C, Mrs. Joy Lale, welcoming the Pro-Chancellor to the Gladys Cookey Resource Centre



Pro-Chancellor and V-C in a handshake and others at UDSS



Prof Jibo (2nd left) flanked by V-C, Prof Lale, Council Member, Alhaji Bello Duku and Ag. Director of CCE, Dr. Aaron Kikpoye (left) at the Conference Hall of the College



Immediate past Director of UniPort Business School, Prof Clifford Ofurum, displaying state-of-the-art equipment at the ODeL Centre of the School



Pro-Chancellor and his entourage at the famous Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS)



Dignitaries rise for National and UniPort Anthems during the Town Hall Meeting



Pro-Chancellor addressing staff at the Town Hall Meeting



A cross-section of staff



A group photograph of Governing Council Members, some Principal Officers and Council Officer, Mr. Roland Wabali (right)