Police Warns Miscreants Against Hijacking Students’ Protest

By Otkor Samuel

The Rivers State Police Command has issued a stern warning to miscreants and professional agitators against hiding behind the unfortunate demise of a student of the University of Port Harcourt to unleash mayhem at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital and its environs, warning that security operatives were more than equal to the task of containing the threats.

The warning came on the heels of protests that resulted in partial shutdown of services at the hospital as a result of threats to lives and property of medical personnel, and the general public that seek medicare at the UPTH. The heightened security alert was triggered by a two-day protest by some students in apparent response to the unfortunate death of a Second Year Student of the Department of Theatre and Film Studies in the Faculty of Humanities, Miss Kelechi Ndudagwa. The protesting students were angered by alleged denial of emergency response to the dead student by duty nurses at the Accident and Emergency Department of the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital. Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of Operations, Mr. Muhammed Ali, who was on hand to assess the situation, pledged to tighten security on Campus and at the UPTH, including the University’s host communities to discourage hoodlums from taking More on p6
Issues bordering on effective media coverage of development strides in rural areas of Nigeria formed the main thrust of the maiden conference of the University of Port Harcourt Chapel of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) organised by the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies (LCS) at the Amata Braide Lecture Hall from Thursday, 27th to Friday, August 28, 2015.

Welcoming guests to the conference, which had the theme, Making the Unreached Heard: Reporting Development Strides in Rural Nigeria, was the Chairman, Professor Charles Onyedike Udofio, noted that the theme was necessitated by the need for journalists to shift attention to the long-neglected rural areas of the country, recalling that during the inauguration of the Chapel on March 4, 2015, he promised to organise annual workshops that would prepare practicing journalists to respond to emerging challenges in the field, stating that the conference was part of efforts aimed at fulfilling that promise. “Over the years, we have had conferences on political issues, health matters, regional matters, amongst others, but we feel that rural Nigerian communities are yearning for the attention of practising journalists to report issues of development since they bear more of the burdens associated with under-development. We feel that journalists must not only report the rural communities when the chief executive of state commissions projects whether they are acceptable to the people or not,” he said.

Addressing guests at the well-subscribed occasion, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ini Edo, congratulated the Department for drawing attention to the underreporting of developments in the rural areas of the country, pointing out that more Nigerians live in those areas than the urban areas that benefit from the bulk of media report.

He informed the gathering of the recent rating of UniPort as Number One in Nigeria and Sixth in Africa by the Times Higher Education, United Kingdom, adding that the National Universities Commission (NUC) has recently described the University as one of the Big Four universities in the country. “This means that UniPort has overtaken some of the first generation universities in Nigeria in terms of institutional capacity to deliver quality service to its growing clientele,” he observed.

The Vice-Chancellor, who was represented by the Director of Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit, Professor Tony Akinyi, called on media practitioners and other stakeholders to join in sustaining the standards already attained by the University, describing the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies as one of the success stories of UniPort in recent times. “Journalists make the world think. What will the world be like without journalists to inform, educate and entertain us; including holding politicians accountable to the people? That is why it is important that you continue to hold periodic workshops to brainstorm on modalities for improved service delivery to your target audience,” he told the participants.

Earlier in his opening speech, chairman of the occasion, Mr. Ethioye Abues, noted that “in the Nigeria of today, the importance of development cannot be overemphasised, and journalists have a critical role to play in making sure that people in the rural areas are not neglected in the scheme of things, especially as it affects development efforts targeted at them,” expressing hope that at the end of the conference, media practitioners, scholars and students of Communication Studies would find ways of ensuring that rural dwellers get deserved media attention which would make them have a sense of belonging.

Delivering a keynote address on the theme of the conference, Professor Nkemewu Udofia of the Department of Communication Arts, University of Uyo, said: “Nigerian rural condition is a newsworthy phenomenon and development journalism in Nigeria must focus on the rural condition. Reporting the rural condition would serve as a barometer for gauging achievements in the area of citizens’ welfare, since it is in the rural areas that the majority of the population is found,” he explained.

Udofia, noted that “The rural areas are in the news only when there is something to take government officials there, and the news will be what the government officials said at the occasion. Nigeria’s rural areas have thus become ‘Third World’s’ in Nigeria, with the national media performing like the international news media.” The first and second lead papers were presented by Drs. Vincent Ekwerekwe and Godwin Okon, respectively.

On his part, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor John Onunkwugwu, who recounted the history of journalism, emphasized the Nigerian press for the role it played in the development of the country, saying that the press has never failed Nigeria at critical moments of its history. He urged all stakeholders to support journalists as they work towards the growth of the country.

Also speaking, Chairman of the Rivers State Council of the NUJ, Mr. Onyemike Ejoji, noted: “The event is a welcome development that would certainly enrich the practice of journalism in Nigeria. Represented by the Vice-Chairman of the Council, Eche Akpabio, the Chairman further said: “We appreciate what you are doing here in this young Chapel. God will strengthen and give you powers to do more to advance the cause of journalism. I would like to use this opportunity to invite members of the UniPort Chapel and students of Linguistics and Communication Studies to find time to visit our state-of-the-art secretariat at Ernest Ikoli Street, Port Harcourt.”

The two-day event, which featured workshops for journalists and presentation of the maiden edition of the Journal of Media Practice and Research, also had in attendance media practitioners, scholars and students of Communication Studies, including the Zonal Director of the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN), Mr. Junas Emuchere, who was represented by the Head of News, Gina Dale Osiaka, and Chairman of the Rivers State Chapter of the National Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ), Mrs. Lillian Okonkwo and Secretary of the NUJ in Rivers State, Subhi Max Alalboh.
CENTECS Engages Stakeholders On Rising Insecurity

Cont'd from p1

Delivering the keynote address on behalf of the immediate past Commissioner of Police in Rivers State, EFE Onwubiko, the former Public Relations Officer of the Rivers State Police Command, Dr. Risik Ewemba, who described insecurity as detrimental to the growth of society, identified unemployment, manipulation by selfishly-motivated elite class, discontent with personal socio-economic situation, selfish interest of most youths, revenge motive for past wrong doings, attraction of membership of a cult group, fear, as well as unfair distribution of resources, as causes of cultism, criminality and allied social vices that have contributed to insecurity in Nigeria.

She listed a weak legal framework, legal support/defence, including information/confusion with security agents, family/community protection, political sponsorship, inadequate security manpower and craved value system, as some of the major challenges militating against efforts aimed at curbing the menace of cultism. Dr. Emo-Asobi, who identified the role of government, business organizations, civil society, religious groups, communities, as well as individuals in the fight against rising criminal tendencies, noted that the offer of amnesty, family pressure, redeeming spiritual values, personal gain, hope that government will meet demands, escape from fear of death and capture, as well as offer of better means of livelihood, as solutions to the menace of cultism and criminally in impacted communities.

In his address, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndola Lide, who was represented by Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Henry Alapoku, said that the objective of the partnership with NSRP was to address challenging issues that bother on conflict, peace building and social transformation, adding that where there is no peace, there cannot be development. The Vice-Chancellor, who acknowledged that issues of insecurity were not peculiar to any particular community, advised participants to be peace agents. He said that society can only make progress through dialogue, urging all stakeholders to join forces with CENTECS to combat such social vices that create insecurity in the country.

Also speaking, a visibly satisfied Acting Director of the Centre, Dr. Fidelis Allen, stated that the event which was under the auspices of the Rivers State Conflict Management Alliance and supported by the Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme (NSRP), was designed to identify ways of tackling cultism and criminality, as well as discuss emerging security challenges with stakeholders with a view to strategically addressing them.

Dr. Allen also said that the monthly dialogue was aimed at interacting closely with stakeholders on key conflict issues in Rivers State, as well as influence security policy decisions that would promote peace and development in the area.

In a goodwill message, representative of NSRP, Wunna Akpochi, who advised the Centre to remain pleased to support the event, stated that it was hinged on the importance of inclusive stakeholder groups. She added that the platform would provide ideas to government on how to tackle insecurity in the State.

Achibuehe advised universities to equip activists with the knowledge and practical skills that would enable them bring solutions to social problems.

In his contribution, Dr. Lytias Gilbert of Ignatius Ajuru University of Education recommended punitive measures against heads of educational institutions not to be tertiary and secondary levels found to be linked with cult groups. He also suggested engagement of stakeholders in aggressive public enlightenment programmes to sensitize the public on the dangers of criminality, apply deliberate efforts towards job creation, as well as engage in the re-orientation of security personnel to address the problem in Rivers State.

Oxford Scholar To Deliver Lecture In UniPort Sept 29

A Social Anthropologist from the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom, Dr. David Pratten, has indicated interest in delivering a public lecture in the University on Tuesday, September 29, 2015.

Speaking during a courtesy visit on the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndola Lide, last Thursday, Pratten disclosed that he has had a long relationship with the University of Port Harcourt via mutually beneficial research projects, adding that the present trip was in continuation of an earlier visit that dated back to the 1990s when he carried out a collaborative research project on cultural anthropology with experts in the Department of Sociology.

"The University of Port Harcourt has changed a lot since the last time I came here and I commend the authorities for the progress so far made in moving forward," Pratten said.

Pratten, who edits the Journal of Social Anthropology of Africa, also mentioned security studies as one of his research interest, pointing out that "people outside Nigeria only hear of kidnapping, oil-theft and militancy, but nothing is heard of the challenges farmers and fisher-folk who are experiencing difficulties in their vocation as a result of oil production activities in their environment and how resilient they could be."

Responding, Professor Lile expressed joy about Dr. Pratten’s proposal to deliver a public lecture in the University, saying that “it is always a joy of any scholar to receive other scholars from within and outside the country. We hope that your visit will result in a mutually-beneficial collaboration between Oxford University and the University of Port Harcourt. We have a wealth of experience in international partnerships and we will be happy in fostering out an institutional relationship with Oxford University.”

Introducing the visiting scholar earlier, Dr. Steve Words of the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, recalled that Pratten was in the University of Port Harcourt in 1997 during which he engaged in collaborative research projects, disclosing that before the courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor, the visiting scholar stopped over at the Institute of Niger Delta Studies (INDS), where he had fruitful discussions with the Director of the Institute, Professor Abi Derenfka and Professor Ben Nwakoby of the Department of History and Diplomatic Studies.

Also on the team was a doctoral candidate student in the Department of Sociology, Jack Jackson, who is working on a Thesis entitled: "Indigenous Adaptation Mechanisms to Coastal Flooding in the Niger Delta: A Case Study of Selected Rural Coastal Communities."
Straw Art Can Boost Tourism In Nigeria – Enenanjor

By Obianna Nwadike

Having received a patent certificate for his groundbreaking Straw Art Design from the Abuja-based Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office (IPTTO), Professor Marshal Enenanjor, has turned attention to how to project the cultural heritage of Nigeria through this peculiar art form that has received critical acclaim.

Enenanjor made his intention known in an interview with a UniPort Weekly Correspondent on Tuesday, August 25, 2015.

Enenanjor, who was a former Head of the Department of Fine Arts and Design in the Faculty of Humanities, developed the award-winning Straw Art Design in 1983 as a Lecturer in Graphic Design at the School of Technology, Kano. Based on the rising reviews he received, the Straw Artist further disclosed his intention to make a proposal to the Federal Ministry of Culture and Tourism on a blueprint aimed at boosting tourism in the country by exploiting the full potentials of the new art form.

From any proposal, we shall obtain photographs of historic sites from all the 774 local Government Areas and iconic tourist attractions in the country, which would parallel the Straw Artist's African culture and heritage to the rest of the world. These art works would be sold to Embassies, as well as being put on display at airports with the intention of boosting our image,” he stated, adding that the straw art could also take the form of postcards for the decoration of homes, offices, as well as other public places to promote Nigerian art.

Professor Enenanjor, who designed the famous UniPort 2004 NLGA Games Mascot and Logos, disclosed that he was also planning an Arts Exhibition that would feature a number of works collected over the years, adding that the event would be in honour of some distinguished individuals who have shown immense love for art works.

Regrettably that most art enthusiasts were usually put off by the high cost of acquiring artefacts for personal use. Professor Enenanjor assured such persons to lay more emphasis on the intrinsic value of art works, rather than the monetary value attached to them. He also stated that apart from the direct appeal of good art works on their patrons, they also had therapeutic effects which could enhance art lovers emotionally.

He said that only those who looked deep into art works would appreciate their values, especially in a world that was driven by excessive materialism. “You need to have a third eye to appreciate a good work of art, which is exactly what we want those who patronise our works to do. The artist usually feels very stated and more inspired when people appreciate his works. In proper terms, the monetary value is secondary to the intrinsic value attached to a work of art,” the straw artist stated.

Professor Enenanjor lamented the decline in the quality of art works on display in the country today, noting that due to the materialistic nature of society, most patrons no longer wished to identify with the age-old concept art for art’s sake.

Experts Seek Prioritisation Of Petrochem Biz In Nigeria

By Humphrey Ogu

For significant success to be achieved in the gas industry, Nigeria must give prominence to it and allow the market to drive gas prices while strengthening existing regulatory institutions. Additionally, there must be every effort to direct public action towards increased utilization of gas for power generation, fertilizer production and manufacture of petrochemicals.

These were some of the recommendations made at an International Conference on Gas, Petroleum Refining, Petrochemicals and Fertilizers, which took place at the Hotel Presidential, Port Harcourt, between August 19 and 20, 2015.

Organised by the Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals (CGRP), Institute of Petroleum Studies, University of Port Harcourt, in collaboration with the World Bank African Centre of Excellence, and Centre for Petroleum Research & Training, the conference, which had “Maximizing Nigeria’s Gas Value Chain through Partnership and Capacity Building” as its theme, attracted the crème de la crème in the oil and gas sector from within and outside the country.

Welcoming guests to the Conference, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nduka Obafe, who spoke through the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Administration, Professor Anthony Ike, expressed confidence that the outcome of the conference deliberations would provide great impetus for sustainable development in the energy sector.

Also speaking, the Chairman of CGRP Governing Board and former Group Executive Director, Refining and Petrochemicals (R&P), Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Engr. Tony Oghogho, emphasized the need to maximize Nigeria’s gas value chain, which has strong linkages to industrial development, stressing that “true wealth for any nation is generated only by adding values to the natural resources rather than exporting them.”

In his contribution, Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Nigeria Liquified Natural Gas Limited (NLNG), Mr. Babs Omotona, observed that “NLNG is one company that shows a good example of how effective partnership can add value and create wealth, while also building indigenous capacity.”

Keynote Speakers at the Conference were 2014 President of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), Mr. Ottob Shilton and President of Prefo Energy Solution, USA, Dr. Soul Oyekan, who spoke on the topics “Chemical Engineers as Catalysts in Maximizing Nigeria’s Gas value chain” and “Boosting Nigeria’s Economy via Gas Monetization and Oil Refining,” respectively.

On his part, Director, CGRP and Executive Conference Chairman, Professor Godwin Igwe, recommended that Nigeria must move away from crude export to re-claim oil-gas value chains in partnership and capacity building on a global scale. Igwe, who is also the NLNG Chair of Gas, speaking at the opening of the Conference, stated that the conference would focus on “Unite we acquire what all industrialised nations have in common, that is, competences for manufacturing ambestial products, our country will remain underdeveloped. No one or nation is born with skills to produce. All knowledge, skills and competences are acquired through hard learning. A nation that can manufacture many products must develop the people to manufacture them.”

A communiqué issued at the end of the conference and signed by Engr. Oghogho and Professor Igwe, observed that “Nigeria’s gas reserve (estimated at 190 trillion standard cubic feet), most of which is not harnessed, has a tremendous potential for industrial development (gas to power; gas to petrochemicals, and gas to fertilizer), which ultimately leads to economic growth and job creation. But sadly, revenue from existing investment in gas is not reinvested in other areas of gas development” adding that “gas business in Nigeria is not given prominence in the country’s budget formulation, which is benchmarked on three speculative factors: crude oil price, exchange rate and crude oil production rate without special consideration for gas in budget planning.”

The communiqué, also observed that “Nigeria’s economy is still largely dependent on the sales of crude oil, which has a very low value when compared to refined products and therefore can do better when the country focuses on the export of petroleum products and petrochemicals,” recommending that “Nigeria’s gas budget planning should not be based only on oil, but must clearly recognise the contribution of gas. Annual revenue from gas targets should be set by government on gas resources.” It called on government to create an enabling environment for private sector investments in the gas and petrochemical business.

The Conference, which featured an intensive panel discussion led by the MD/CEO, Energia Limited, Engr. Felix Amiezyegu, MD/CEO, Midwestern Oil & Gas, Engr. Charles Odun, and the Vice-Chancellor of Federal University, Otuoke, Bayelsa State, Professor Masblajji Akoko, hosted 23 technical papers with about 300 participants drawn from the industry, academia, government agencies, oil producing communities, civil society and the media in attendance. Further Special Advisor to the President on Petroleum Matters, Dr. Emmanuel Egbohag, the Acting Director, General, National Office for Technology Acquisition and Liaison (NOTAP), Professor Sofisoye, the Consultant to the President/Chief Executive of Dangote Industries Ltd., Mr. Mansur Simgiri, General Manager, Division of Strategic Planning, Dangote Oil Refining Company Ltd., Dr. I. Fatona, Managing Director, Niger Delta E&P Plc, Executive Secretary, NUC (representing by Prof. F. Omalade), Mr. Esole Aroh, Group Head of Projects, NOTOCHEM Chemical Industries, and President of the Nigerian Society of Chemical Engineers, Prof. Emmanuel Wani, were among dignitaries that graced the Conference.
PJC-GWDS Honours Rivers First Lady,
Dame Aguma At National W'shop

By Olufunke Samuel

Winners of the annual Global Women's Initiative, Justice Ebersch Nyesom-Wike and long-time gender activist, Dame Hannah Aguma, were two distinguished advocates of women’s rights decorated as Patrons of Honour for the Patience Jonathan Centre for Gender and Women Development Studies (PJC-GWDS) for promoting gender and women issues.

The award recipients, who were both represented, were presented with their award plaques by the Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnadi in recognition of their advocacy for women’s issues. The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Ezenwa Ogeche, commended the recipients on their outstanding contributions to the advancement of women’s rights.

The award ceremony took place at the University’s Auditorium, where the keynote address was delivered by Justice Nyesom-Wike. The event was held to recognize the significant role played by these women in raising awareness and advocating for gender equality.

Chairperson of the opening ceremony, Dr. Ogbonnaya (4th right) and other dignitaries
Police Warns Miscreants Against Hijacking Students' Protest

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advantage of the situation to usher in a climate of insecurity. He was accompanied on the visit by Chief Superintendent and Divisional Police Officer in-charge of Choba, Mr. Andre Joseph.

“What happened at the UPTU is very unfortunate and it is our hope that the Management of the hospital would engage in soul-searching to prevent a recurrence of the incident, but it is still not enough for anybody or group to do death of the student as an excuse to threaten the public peace. It is the primary responsibility of the Nigeria Police to safeguard lives and property whenever they may be under threat, as we have our police stations in strategic places and we are intensifying patrols around the University’s host communities to ensure that no one cashes in on the unfortunate incident to cause fear and insecurity in the University and its environs,” the Assistant Commissioner of Police promised in an unscheduled meeting with the Management of the University.

Mr. Ali, who commended the ongoing effort by the University to open a new Police Division opposite the University Demonstration Secondary School along Alum Road to contain rising criminality in that axis, restated the readiness of the Command to bring security closer to the people in concert with relevant stakeholders in the area. He expressed delight of the University of Port Harcourt was driving the process with support from the host communities, calling for cooperation from all stakeholders to safeguard lives and property in the vicinity.

Receiving the delegation on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndoma Eba, who regretted the unfortunate incident, expressed gratitude to security operatives for handling the protesting students in a professional manner that was devoid of casuistry on all sides.

Professor Eba stressed the need for the Police to continue to mount extended surveillance around the University and the Teaching Hospital to forestall renewed threats to lives and property by faceless elements using the unfortunate demise of Miss Ndaguwa as an excuse to disrupt academic activities in the University, disclosing that Management of the University was in touch with the Student Union and the UPTU to get to the root of the matter with a view to ensuring that approved protocols were followed in attending to students of the University who seek medical attention at the UPTU in future.

Registrar of the University, Mrs. Matilda Nnadi, who also described the death of the student as most unfortunate, reiterated the commitment of Management towards prioritizing the welfare of students in and outside the Campus.

Meanwhile, the Management of the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital has again, expressed regret over the death of the student in its facility. Addressing a crowded Media Conference last Tuesday, Chief Medical Director, Professor Aaron Ojofs, deeply commiserated with the family of the deceased student, the University of Port Harcourt and the entire students of the hospital, assuring the general public that a panel has already been raised to thoroughly investigate allegations of negligence by schedule officers at the circumstances surrounding this unfortunate incident is already being investigated and where any staff is found culpable as is being alleged, adequate disciplinary measures would be applied according to extant civil service rules and professional codes of conduct,” the CMD said.

Calling for restraint from all parties, particularly from students of the University, who staged a protest that disrupted normal activities at the hospital last Monday, Professor Ojofs deeply commiserated with the family of the deceased student, the University of Port Harcourt and the entire students of the hospital. He also expressed regret over the death of the student in its facility. Addressing a crowded Media Conference last Tuesday, Chief Medical Director, Professor Aaron Ojofs, deeply commiserated with the family of the deceased student, assuring the general public that a panel has already been raised to thoroughly investigate allegations of negligence by schedule officers at the Teaching Hospital.

Following the unfortunate demise of a Second Year female student of the Department of Theatre and Film Studies in the Faculty of Humanities, Miss Kechi Ndaguwa, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndoma Eba, met a delegation of the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), last Tuesday to brief the Association on the sad situation. He called on NANS and protesting students of the University not to further incite tension over the incident that has spawned public attention on the University and the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital.

Professor Ndoma Eba, who stated that the University was deeply saddened over the incident, commended the delegation for coming to the University to obtain accurate information on what happened to the late student. The Vice-Chancellor informed the NANS delegation that while the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital provided the facility for the clinical training of medical students of the University, it had a completely different management structure that was unknown to most members of the public describing the death of the student as totally unacceptable to the University.

He told the delegation that Management of the University was doing everything possible to ensure that such an incident did not occur again, adding that the authorities would engage in a comprehensive sensitisation programme aimed at updating students on the healthcare facilities available to them in the University and the Teaching Hospital.

Earlier, NANS Vice-President in charge of Special Duties, Mr. Uduak Ekhaba, had appealed to the authorities to place matters concerning student welfare on the front burner to forestall reoccurrence of a similar incident.

Mr. Erhabor said that NANS received news of the unfortunate demise of Miss Ndaguwa with shock and total disbelief, stressing the need to pay adequate attention to the welfare of over 40 million students in tertiary institutions in Nigeria. He described students at the main universities as established in Nigeria, urging the authorities to create an enabling environment for them to achieve their full potential as leaders of tomorrow.

The NANS representative further disclosed that the delegation was in the University to obtain firsthand information over the circumstances surrounding the death of Miss Ndaguwa, noting that security and welfare of students were the primary responsibility of university authorities. He commended the authorities of the University for the proactive steps so far taken to address the situation, adding that there was an urgent need to draw the attention of higher authorities to investigate the student’s death.

Meanwhile authorities of the University have condoled with the family of late Kechi Ndaguwa, a letter addressed to Chief C.E. Ndaguwa and signed by the Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnadi, read in part: “We received with great shock and grief the sad news of the death of your beloved daughter and our student, Kechi Precious Ndaguwa, a Year Two female student with Matriculation Number 2013/1805030 of the Department of Theatre and Film Studies, Faculty of Humanities. On behalf of Management, Staff and Students of the University, we wish to extend our heartfelt condolences to your family and the entire Ndaguwa family on the sad and shocking event.”

V.C. Meets NANS On UniPort Student's Demise

By Obianna Nwodi

The representative of the University informed the delegation that Management of the University was doing everything possible to ensure that such an incident did not occur again, adding that the authorities would engage in a comprehensive sensitisation programme aimed at updating students on the healthcare facilities available to them in the University and the Teaching Hospital.

Earlier, NANS Vice-President in charge of Special Duties, Mr. Uduak Ekhaba, had appealed to the authorities to place matters concerning student welfare on the front burner to forestall reoccurrence of a similar incident.
GUIDEPOST

APPOINTMENT
Professor Dhanushka Akurana, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Faculty of Humanities, appointed Director, Exchange and Linkage Programmes Unit (ELPU). The two-year appointment which took effect from August 28, 2015 terminates on August 27, 2017.

Professor Pasindu Pushpawita, Department of Pediatrics and Child Health, Faculty of Medical Sciences, appointed Associate Dean of the Faculty. The two-year appointment which took immediate effect terminates on August 27, 2017.

Dr. Peter Kipande, Acting Director of the Academic Planning, Research and Control Unit, Office of the Vice-Chancellor, appointed Coordinator of the GTTP funded activities, including Institutions Based Research (IBR) and Academic Staff Training and Development (AST&D). The appointment takes immediate effect.

Mrs. Philomena Ehe, Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, granted Regularization of Appointment as Assistant Lecturer, effective January 23, 2014.

Mr. Chaminda Jayasuriya, Department of Petroleum Engineering, granted Regularization of Appointment as Lecturer II, effective February 25, 2014.

SABBATICAL LEAVE
Professor Ekapage Amarasooriya, Department of Microbiology, resumed duty for Sabbatical Leave which took effect from August 1, 2014 to July 31, 2015.

Mrs. Niluka Aparajita, Department of Mechanical Engineering, resumed duty for Sabbatical Leave which took effect from August 1, 2014 to July 31, 2015.

STUDY LEAVE
Mrs. Milan Agatha, Department of Mechanical Engineering, proceeded on a 4-Year Study Leave with Pay to enable her undertake a Doctoral degree programme in Mechanical Engineering at the Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, Scotland, UK, effective October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2019.

Mr. Orut Nanda, Energetics Institute, proceeded on a 36-month Study Leave with Pay to enable him undertake a Doctoral degree programme in Investment Appraisal for Sustainable and Gas Industry at the University of Dundee, Scotland, UK, effective September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2017.

Dr. Uduligiti Abadhi, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Faculty of Dentistry, College of Health Sciences, proceeded on a 24-month Study Leave with Pay to enable him undertake a Doctoral degree programme in Leadership and Management at the University of Texas Health Centre, Houston, United States of America, effective July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017.

Ms. Chinthulatige Dige, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, granted a 3-week Extension of Study Leave with Pay to enable him conclude his programme at the University of Colorado, USA, effective August 3 to August 21, 2015.

CERTIFICATE OF STATUS
Dr. Erupa Ekanayake, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, elevated from Assistant Lecturer to Lecturer II, effective February 25, 2015.

CHANGE OF NAME
MRS. AGATHA EBICEALAR OJIMELEKULWE. Former Miss Agatha Ebicealar Sum-Oduma of the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, is now Mrs. Agatha Ebicealar Ojimelekulwe. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

BRIEFS FROM OTHER VARIETIES

SAU VARSITY GRADUATES PIONEER STUDENTS
A total of 58 pioneer students of Samuel Adegbuyega University, Ogun State, were graduated at the maiden Convocation Ceremony of the University last Friday.

In a pre-Convocation Press Briefing, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ben Aigbokhan, disclosed that four of the students obtained first class honours, 23 received Second Class (Upper), while 27 graduated with Second Class (Lower Division). Professor Aigbokhan further revealed that the institution had a total population of 850 students with all its programmes duly accredited by the National Universities Commission (NUC).

ASUU WANTS KILLER OF MEMBER ARRESTED
The Obafemi Awolowo University Branch of the Academic Staff Union of Universities, has described as worrisome the inability of security operatives to track down the killers of one of its members, Dr. Deji Adejobi of the Department of Agricultural Economics, Chairman of the Branch, Dr. Caleb Aborisade, who lamented that law enforcement agencies were yet to apprehend the killers of Dr. Adejobi five weeks after the incident, called on government and security agencies to properly investigate the murder and bring the perpetrators to book.

STOP PRESS
Nte Heads New CREM

The Centre for Research Management presently headed by Professor Alhassan Nte of the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Faculty of Medical Sciences, in the College of Health Sciences, as Director is now renamed Centre for Research in Education, Entertainment and Development (CEREDIM). A statement dated August 21, 2015 and signed by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndewa Lale, disclosed that the scope of work of the former Centre has now been expanded to cover all the activities on research and development in the University under the new Centre.

“I write to inform you that your office has been merged with the Office of the Chairman, Research and Development Board, Office of the Vice-Chancellor until further notice. This is to ensure effective coordination of research activities in the University. You are hereby known as and called Centre for Research Management and Development (CEREDIM). By this merger, your scope of work is, therefore, expanded to cover all the activities on Research and Development in the University,” part of the statement read.

SGS Commences Sale Of Form

The School of Graduate Studies (CGS) has commenced sale of application forms for admission into the Graduate programmes of the University for the 2015/2016 academic session. A statement issued by the Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodi and obtained by this publication, disclosed that the form costs Fifteen Thousand Naira only and covers charges for the issuance of prospectus, commercial Tuesday and would end on Monday, November 30, 2015.

This is to inform suitably qualified candidates that the School has commenced sale of application forms for admission into the Graduate programmes of the University for the 2015/2016 academic session commenced on Monday, September 7, 2015, part of the statement read, advising prospective candidates to comply with all the procedures specified by Management of the School for obtaining, filling and submitting the forms.

The Registrar directed interested applicants to visit the University of Port Harcourt website at www.uniport.edu.ng or the School website at www.gs.uniport.edu.ng for further details of the programmes on offer, entry requirements, purchase, filling and submission of the online forms.

STOP PRESS
UniPort Parents’ Forum

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndewa Lale, on behalf of the Governing Council, Senate, Staff and Students of the University invites Parents, Guardians, Sponsors and other stakeholders to a crucial meeting of the University of Port Harcourt Parents’ Forum slated to hold on Wednesday, September 16, 2015 at the Ebithimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park.

A statement issued by the Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodi, disclosed that the Vice-Chancellor’s report on the state of the University, formal inauguration of the Forum and election of an Interim Executive body for the Forum will form major highlights of the meeting. The Registrar appealed to all those concerned to endeavour to attend the meeting to deliberate on the way forward for the University.

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FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 06 – SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TEMPERATURE</th>
<th>HUMIDITY</th>
<th>WIND DIRECTION</th>
<th>RAIN (mm)</th>
<th>SUNRISE AND SUNSET</th>
<th>SUMMARY</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>SUNDAY, 06</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>24.0</td>
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<td>11.1</td>
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<td>Strong thunder storm expected. Mostly cloudy day forecasted.</td>
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<td>22.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>09 SEPTEMBER</td>
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WEATHER OBSERVATORY

AG, Director, CDMRD
The University of Port Harcourt Business School organised a three-day Workshop between Wednesday, August 12 and Friday 14, 2015 at the premises of the Business School located at Chinua Wuruk Drive, Off Sani Abacha Road, GRA, Port Harcourt. Our Cameraman, HEADMAN ALU captured highlights of the event as shown below:

Director, UniPort Business School, Prof. Clifford Ofurum welcoming participants to the Workshop

Prof. Ofurum (left) and Workshop Facilitator, Prof. Chris Enyinda

DVC (Admin), Prof. Anthony Ibe reading V-C's address

A cross-section of participants at the opening ceremony

Prof. Ibe (5th left), Prof Ofurum (5th right), some Senior Officers of the University and Resource Persons

L-R: Dr. Aunton Sado, Prof. Okoroze, DVC, Prof Ibe and others

RA: Former V-C, Delta State University, Alaruz, Prof Ogbeke Essubu (right) and two Resource Persons

Prof. Ibe (middle) and some of the Resource Persons

Prof. Ibe (6th left), some Senior Officers of the University and Resource Persons

A group photograph of V-Cs representative, some Senior Officers, Resource Persons and some participants