



## CENTECS Engages Stakeholders On Rising Insecurity

Ways of stemming the rising wave of insecurity in Rivers State formed the main thrust of the Conflict Analysis Dialogue of the Centre for Ethnic and Conflict Studies (CENTECS) of the Nigerian Institute of Management (NIM) Lounge, Ebitimi Banjo Auditorium, University Park, last Monday, attracted knowledgeable security personnel, experts and stakeholders from communities ravaged by criminality, cultism and general insecurity, civil society organizations, social and professional organizations, reports *Obinna Nwadin*.

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## Side Bar

Professor Michael Momanu of the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Chemical Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences delivers the 124<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Lecture this Thursday. Debate next week.  
~Editor



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Oxford Scholar To Deliver Lecture In UniPort Sept 29



Straw Art Can Boost Tourism In Nigeria - Ezenajor



PJC-GWDS Honours Rivers First Lady, Aguma



V-C Meets NANS On Student's Demise



## Police Warns Miscreants Against Hijacking Students' Protest

By Othkor 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 Ndulagwa. 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

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# Stakeholders Advocate Better Media Coverage Of Rural Areas

By Humphrey Ogu

Kingdom, adding that the National Universities Commission (NEC) 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

thus become 'Third Worlds' in Nigeria, with the national media performing like the international news media." The first and second lead papers were presented by Drs. Vincent Ekwerike and Godwin Okon, respectively.

On his part, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor John Eneugwogu, who recounted the history of journalism, eulogised 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

Issues bordering an 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 Amatu Braide Lecture Hall from Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> to Friday, August 28, 2015. Welcoming guests to the conference, which had Making the Unreached Heard; Reporting Development Strides in Rural Nigeria as its theme, Chairman of the UniPort Chapel of NUJ, Dr. Aniefiok Udouo, 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 practising journalists to respond to emergent 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 conference, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, 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



Chairman, NUJ UniPort Chapel, Dr. Udoaka, Director, QAQC, Prof. Arinze (2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> right), Acting HoB, LCS, Dr. Virginia Ononuju and Prof. Ozo-mekur Ndimele (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> left) and others unveiling the Chapel's maiden journal.

Control Unit, Professor Tony Arinze, 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 thick. 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 very important that you continue to hold periodic workshops to brainstorm on modalities for improved service delivery to your target audiences," he told the participants.

Earlier in his opening speech, chairman of the occasion, Mr. Ditoye Abiorde, 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 way of ensuring that rural dwellers get deserving media attention which would make them have a sense of belonging.

Delivering a keynote address on the theme of the conference, Professor Nkereuwem Udoaka 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.

Udoaka, 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

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. Omoni Ayo-Iamuna, who commended the UniPort Chapel for organising the conference, described the

event as a welcome development that would certainly enrich the practice of journalism in Nigeria. Represented by the Vice-Chairman of the Council, Uche Agbam, 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. Jonas Eneuchie, who was represented by the Head of News, Gina Daka-Osika, 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, Soib Max-Alaliba.



Keynote Speaker, Prof. Ndowa Lale

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# CENTECS Engages Stakeholders On Rising Insecurity

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Delivering the keynote address on behalf of the immediate past Commissioner of Police in Rivers State, Mr. Chris Eziye, former Public Relations Officer of the Rivers State Police Command, Dr. Rita Inama-Abhey, 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 motif for past wrong doings, attraction of membership of a cult group, fears 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/collusion with security agents, family/community protection, political sponsorship, inadequate security manpower and eroded value system, as some of the major challenges militating against efforts aimed at curbing the menace of cultism. Dr. Inama-Abhey, who identified the role of government, business organisations, civil society, religious groups, communities, as well as individuals in the fight against rising criminal tendencies, noted that the offer of amnesty, family pressure, changing spiritual values, personal gains, 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 criminality in impacted communities.

In his address, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, who was represented by Dean of the Faculty of



Ag. Director, CENTECS, Dr. Allen (arrowed) and participants after the monthly dialogue

Social Sciences, Professor Henry Mapiki, 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 frontally 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 directions that would promote peace and development in the area.

In a goodwill message, representative of NSRP, Wynafoed Achu, who said that the organization was pleased to support the event, stated that it was hinged on the importance of inclusive stakeholder groups. She added that the platform would proffer ideas to government on how to tackle insecurity in the State. Achu advised universities to equip activists with the knowledge and practical skills that would enable them bring solutions to societal problems.

In his contribution, Dr. Lysias Gilbert of Ignatius Ajuru University of Education recommended punitive measures against heads of educational institutions at both 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.

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 Ndowa Lale, 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

## Oxford Scholar To Deliver Lecture In UniPort Sept 29

By Humphrey Ogu

the Institution forward. I am happy to return to the University after many years when I was here to undertake research. I would like to give a public lecture at the end of the month. I would also organise a workshop on how to write good research articles for publication in international journals," he said.

"This would hopefully stimulate interest amongst young academy in publishing internationally," he noted, adding that there should be no distinction between local and international articles as knowledge is now a global project that requires multilateral initiatives across borders.

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-folks 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 Lale expressed joy about Dr. Pratten's proposal to deliver a public lecture in the University, saying that "it is always a thing of joy to receive research collaborators 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 to fashion out an institutional relationship with Oxford University."

Introducing the visiting scholar earlier, Dr. Steve Wonda of the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Science, 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 Derfaka and Professor Ben Naeen 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*.



V.C. Prof Lale (l-r) flanked by Dr. Wonda (lfr), Oxford Scholar, Dr. Pratten and Doctoral Candidate, Jackson

## Straw Art Can Boost Tourism In Nigeria ~Enenanjor

regarding that most art works were packaged by mediocre artists with the

By **Obinna Nwodin**

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 his 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 rave 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 my proposal, we shall obtain photographs of historic sites from all the 774 Local Government Areas and iconic tourist attractions in the country, which would be packaged to promote the African culture and heritage in 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 NUGA Games *Mascot* and *Logo*, 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.

Regretting that most art enthusiasts were usually put off by the high cost of acquiring artefacts for personal use, Professor Enenanjor advised 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 value, 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 elated and more inspired when people appreciate his works. In proper terms, the monetary value of an artwork 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, local nature that due to the materialistic nature of the society, most patrons no longer wished to identify with the age-old concept art for arts' sake,

primary purpose of making money. Disclosing that the hurry to put out inferior art works with an eye on the market had resulted in a situation in which most art works could be classified as unfinished, Enenanjor called for proper regulation of the art industry in such a way that only quality art works would reach the art gallery or market.



Prof Enenanjor

## 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, all stakeholders should espouse 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.

Organized 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 "Manufacturing Nigeria's Gas Value Chain through Partnerships 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 Ndaba Lale, who spoke through the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Administration, Professor Anthony Ibe, 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 Ogburne,

emphasised the need to maximise Nigeria's gas value chain, which has strong linkages to industrial development, stressing that "raw wealth for any nation is generated only by adding value to the natural resources rather than exporting them."

In his contribution, Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas Limited (NLNG), Mr. Babu Omotowa, 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. Otis Shelton and President of FracTech Energy Solution, USA, Dr. Sont Oyeokun, who spoke on the topics "Chemical Engineers as Catalysts in Maximizing Nigeria's gas value chain" and "Boosting Nigeria's Economy via Gas Monetification and Oil Refining," respectively.

On his part, Director CGRP and Executive Conference Chairman, Professor Godwin Igwe, recommended that Nigeria must move away from whole crude export to revamp oil exploration and production, oil refining, gas and petrochemicals, which he described as great revenue-earners on a global scale. Igwe, who is also the NLNG Chair of Gas Processing Engineering in UniPort, noted that "Until we acquire what all industrialized nations have in common, that is, competences for manufacturing unmeasurable products, our country will remain underdeveloped. No one or nation is born with skills to produce. All knowledge, skills and competences are acquired through learning. A nation that hopes to manufacture many products must develop the people to manufacture them."

A communiqué issued at the end of the conference and

signed by Engr. Ogburne and Professor Igwe, observed that "Nigeria's gas reserves (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 budget planning should not be based only on oil, but must clearly recognise the contribution of gas. Annual revenue contribution 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 Amiesofor, MD/CEO, Mid-western Oil & Gas, Engr. Charles Odita, and the Vice-Chancellor of Federal University, Otuoke, Bayelsa State, Professor Mobolaji Aluko, harvested 23 technical papers with about 300 participants drawn from the industry, academia, government agencies, oil producing communities, civil society and the media in attendance. Former Special Adviser to the President on Petroleum Matters, Dr. Emmanuel Egbogah, the Acting Director-General, National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP), Dr. Danuzim Ibrahim, Engr. Babajide Soyode, Technical Consultant to the President/Chief Executive of Baungie Industries Ltd., Mr. Manish Singhvi, General Manager in charge of Strategic Planning, Dangote Oil Refining Company Ltd., Dr. L. Fatona, Managing Director, Niger Delta E&P Plc., Executive Secretary, NCC (represented by Prof. P. Onwualu), Mr. Bode Agagu, Group Head of Projects, NOTORE Chemical Industries, and President of the Nigerian Society of Chemical Engineers, Prof. Emmanuel Wank, were among dignitaries that graced the Conference.



U-C's Representative, Prof Ibe and other oil and gas experts on the high table



## AEB Staff Gets STEM Award

**A** Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Mrs. Nwanaka Akpodiete, has received an award for young women leaders in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in the United Kingdom.

Exchanging views with a Correspondent of *UniPort Weekly* on the award, Mrs. Akpodiete disclosed that the 2015/16 Schlumberger Foundation Faculty for the Future award for young Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics was highly competitive.

"Schlumberger Foundation is a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) that also funds the doctoral studies of women in STEM disciplines. The focus is on underdeveloped and emerging countries and the idea is to encourage young women who have proven leadership qualities to further their doctoral and post-doctoral studies in developed countries, following which they can come back to strengthen the faculties in their home universities," she told our Correspondent.

Spoken on her area of specialization which is Medical Entomology, Mrs. Akpodiete said: "When you spray insecticides in the past, the mosquitoes and other insects died instantly, but now, insecticides are no longer effective. So, I want to know what causes the resistance and why those insecticides can no longer kill mosquitoes. This is what my doctoral thesis is all about. It is possible that if these insects are previously exposed to these chemicals, it could help their internal mechanisms to develop the means to resist insecticide."

Speaking on the process of selection for the award, Mrs. Akpodiete described it as rigorous, stating that it came out of divine provision. "I was in my office when my Head of Department gave me a link; I went to the

Library and followed up all the processes. The awarding body subjected my proposal to technical review, following which it also came under the scrutiny of a panel that ensured that it met the stipulated criteria," Akpodiete disclosed.

Out of 155 candidates from 46 developed countries, 76 African countries were given, out of which Nigeria got the highest with 27 slots. The final selection of candidates is usually made at the Schlumberger Foundation Board in March of the following year," she said.

In her contribution, a visibly delighted Head of Department, Professor Florence Nduka, stated that Mrs. Akpodiete's award was based on hard work and dedication. "Mrs. Akpodiete was the Best Graduating Student of this University in the 2007/2008 graduating year, which formed the basis for her appointment as a Lecturer in the Department. When you have younger academics who are disciplined, dedicated and enthusiastic, you are left with no other choice than to ensure that they excel. As a Department, we are proud of her and we know she would always do us proud. "As a Professor, you are an academic leader and part of your responsibility is to guide the young ones around you, mentor them, and point them to directions of growth that would help them become better academics. Forward-looking mentor wants to leave the system to those they are sure would hold onto the baton when they are no more in service."



Mrs. Akpodiete displaying her award

## PJC-GWDS Honours Rivers First Lady, Dame Aguma At National W'shop

By Othman Samuel

**W**ife of Rivers State Governor, Justice Eherachi Nyesom-Wike and long-time gender activist, Dame Hannah Aguma, here two distinguished advocates of women rights decorated as Patron 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 Nsofin in recognition of their advocacy for women's rights.

Director of the Centre, Professor Elizabeth Okeke, who read brief profiles of the award recipients at the opening ceremony of a two-day workshop held between Thursday, 27 and Friday, 28 August, 2015 at the Centre's Auditorium, University Park, said that Justice Nyesom-Wike was decorated as a Patron for her wealth of experience and activities which fall within the scope and objectives of the Centre, while Dame Aguma was recognized for her many years of commitment and exposure to women's rights spanning over six decades.

Declaring open the workshop which had Gender, Women and Sustainable Human Development as its theme, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndaba Lale, expressed delight that the Centre was striving towards the objectives for which it was established by the University.

"The Patience Jonathan Centre for Gender and Women Development Studies was established by the University Senate to promote quality research and studies on gender and development-related issues in Nigeria. Within few years of its existence, the Centre has covered so much

space in gender studies and advocacy of women's rights on an unprecedented scale to the admiration of stakeholders in its affairs. In our considered opinion, the Centre is creditably discharging its statutory mandate and I wish to commend the Director and her support staff for what has been achieved so far," the Vice-Chancellor said in an address read on his behalf by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Administration, Professor Anthony Ibe.

The Vice-Chancellor further commended the Director of PJC-GWDS, Professor Okeke for what he described as her unflinching commitment towards the growth of the Centre. Professor Lale also heaped praises on Dr. Patricia Ogbonnaya for chairing the opening ceremony, Professor Mildred Amakiri for delivering the keynote address and other resource persons and participants for gracing the event, pledging continued support from Management of the University to ensure steady growth of the Centre.

Professor Okeke in her address stressed the need for joint effort to tackle issues confronting both males and females in society. "Presently, human resource development occupies a strategic position in national development. Consequently, there is need for collaboration, without any discrimination of the entire male and female populations to achieve this purpose. Our Centre for Gender and Women Development Studies is, therefore, poised both formally and informally to equip the Nigerian male and female populations, particularly the women, with all-round relevant knowledge and skills required to overcome their limited opportunities to fully participate in national development imposed by patriarchy," the Director said.

On programmes run by the Centre, Professor Okeke said that: "Every individual admitted undergoes a well-structured and executed academic and non-academic programme of activities, at the end of which the graduating student becomes self-reliant and is ready to contribute effectively towards the social, economic and political development of his or her environment." She added that the pioneer batch of Master of Arts and Postgraduate Diploma students completed their programmes in record time; the second batch is still in session, while admission is in progress for the third batch. Earlier, Dr. Ogbonnaya, who presided over the opening ceremony, said the workshop was not a platform to agitate for equal opportunity with men, stating that: "We recognize men as our heads; our agitation is not a competition for equal opportunity with men, but that women equally possess some sterling qualities that can positively affect society. We only seek opportunity to fully participate in the development of our country and should not be denied such a platform to exercise our God-given potentials just because of our gender."

In a goodwill message to the Centre, the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Dr. Ezekiel Oyeemami, praised the Director of the Centre for convening a national workshop to focus on the development and utilization of the innate potentials of women and men for sustainable national development.

"The importance of this workshop cannot be over-emphasized as the carefully chosen theme: Gender, Women and Sustainable Human Development is apt and timely, considering the current global focus on gender sensitivity, responsiveness and women participation as equal partners in all spheres of life for sustainable development. To this end, I would like to commend the organizers for this brilliant initiative, which I believe will provide a platform for participants to share experiences, best practices and review the role of women and their immense contributions to nation-building," read part of the goodwill message.



Chairperson of the opening ceremony, Dr. Ogbonnaya (left) and other dignitaries

## Police Warns Miscreants Against Hijacking Students' Protest

Cont'd from p1

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

"What happened at the UPTH is very unfortunate and it is our hope that the Management of the hospital would engage in soul-searching to prevent a reoccurrence of the incident, but it is still not enough for anybody or group to us 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 wherever they may be under threat; so we have stationed our patrol vehicles in strategic places and we are intensifying patrols around the University's host communities to ensure that no one cashes in on the unfortunate event to cause disorder in the University and its environs," the Assistant Commissioner of Police promised in an inviolated meeting with 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 Alau 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 that 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 in charge of Administration, Professor Anthony Ibe, who regretted the unfortunate incident, expressed gratitude to security operatives for handling the protesting students in a professional manner that was devoid of casualties on all sides.

Professor Ibe stressed the need for the Police to

continue to mount expanded surveillance around the University and the Teaching Hospital to forestall renewed threats to lives and property by faceless



Dr. C. (Admin), Prof Ibe (middle), Assistant Commissioner of Police, Mr. Ali, Divisional Police Officer Choba, Mr. Joseph, Chief Security Officer, UnlPort, Lt. Col. Roginald Iloguwa (rd), his assistant, Mr. John Oghonaye (right), Registrar, Mrs. Nwodin and Deputy Registrar (Information), Williams Fodi

elements using the unfortunate demise of Miss Ndulagwa 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 UPFH 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 UPTH in future.

Registrar of the University, Mrs. Mailla Nwodin, 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 Auro Ojale, deeply commiserated with the family of the deceased student, the University of Port Harcourt and the entire students, assuring the general public that a panel has already been raised to thoroughly investigate allegations of negligence by schedule officers at the

Accident and Emergency Department of the hospital to prevent a repeat performance of such an ugly incident. He further promised that Management of the hospital would involve extant rules and professional code of conduct against any staff that may be found culpable in the build-up to the death of the student.

"Management hereby wishes to state that 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 Ojale stated that: "We have noted the insinuation and allegations of negligence leveled against our staff and the Hospital Management which may not be entirely true. We wish to state that we have standard operating procedures in all aspects of our work in the hospital and we would evaluate the events surrounding this death against such standard operating procedures," regretting that threats to the lives of staff had led to untold suffering by those who patronize the services of the 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 Kelechi Ndulagwa, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lake, 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 inflame passion over the incident that has beamed public attention on the University and the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital.

Professor Ndowa Lake, 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 facilities 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

## V-C Meets NANS On UniPort Student's Demise

By Obinna Nwodin

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 sensitization 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. Ufuma Erharhie, had appealed to the authorities to place matters concerning student welfare on the front burner to forestall recurrence of a similar incident.

Mr. Erharhie said that NANS received news of the unfortunate demise of Miss Ndulagwa 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

as the main reason universities were established in Nigeria, urging the authorities to create an enabling environment for them to achieve their full potentials 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 Ndulagwa, 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 conduced with the family of late Kelechi Ndulagwa. A letter addressed to Chief C.E. Ndulagwa and signed by the Registrar, Mrs. Mailla Nwodin, read in part: "We received with great shock and grief the sad news

of the death of your lovely daughter and our student, Kelechi Precious Ndulagwa, a Year Two female student with Matriculation Number U2013:1805030 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 you and the entire Ndulagwa family on the sad and shocking event."



V-C, Prof Lake (centre) flanked by some Principal and Senior Officers, Acting Deans, Student Affairs, Dr. Olu Ekoyungbo (2<sup>nd</sup> left) and NANS members

## GUIDEPOST

## BRIEFS FROM OTHER VARSITIES

## APPOINTMENT

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

**Professor Augusta Enoh**, Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, appointed *Associate Dean of the Faculty*. The two-year appointment which took immediate effect terminates on August 29, 2017.

**Dr. Peter Ekwolite**, Acting Director of the Academic Planning, Research and Control Unit, Office of the Vice-Chancellor, appointed *Coordinator of TETFund Activities*, including Institution-Based Research (IBR) and Academic Staff Training and Development (AST&D). The appointment takes immediate effect.

**Miss Philomena Kiki**, Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, granted *Regularisation of Appointment as Assistant Lecturer*, effective January 25, 2014.

**Mr. Chikaroke Anyanwa**, Department of Petroleum Engineering, granted *Regularisation of Appointment as Lecturer II*, effective February 25, 2014.

## SABBATHICAL LEAVE

**Professor Ebiokpo Amokoro**, Department of Microbiology, resumed duty from Sabbatical Leave which took effect from August 1, 2014 to July 31, 2015.

**Dr. Helen Inafulor**, Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, resumed duty from Sabbatical Leave which took effect from August 1, 2014 to July 31, 2015.

## STUDY LEAVE

**Mrs. Miriam Ategha**, 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, United Kingdom, effective October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2019.

**Ms. Olat Nnodim**, Fenercal Energy 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, United Kingdom, effective September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2018.

**Dr. Obaidullah Akhbari**, 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 pursue a Master of Public Health (MPH) programme at the University of Texas Health Centre, Houston, United States of America, effective July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017.

**Mr. Chikmanana Nweto**, 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 Cape Coast, Ghana, effective August 3 to August 21, 2015.

## REVIEW OF STATUS

**Dr. Eke Ekwu**, 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 EBICAZLAR OJIMELUKWE**, Former Miss Agatha Ebicazlar San-Odoma of the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology now wishes to be known, called and addressed as **Mrs. Agatha Ebicazlar Ojimelukwe**. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

## SAU VARSITY GRADUATES PIONEER

## STUDENTS

A total of 58 pioneer students of Samuel Adegboye University, Owo, Edo 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 500 students with all its programmes duly accredited by the National Universities Commission (NUC).

## ASBU 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 Adejebi of the Department of Agricultural Economics. Chairman of the Branch, Dr. Caleb Abiorade, who lamented that law enforcement agencies were yet to apprehend the killers of Dr. Adejebi 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 recently headed by Professor Alice Nte of the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Faculty of Clinical Sciences in the College of Health Sciences, is now *Research Centre for Research Management and Development (CREMAD)*. A statement dated August 21, 2015 and signed by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, disclosed that the scope of work of the former CREM 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 till further notice. This is to ensure effective coordination of research activities in the University. Your new office shall be known as and called Centre for Research Management and Development (CREMAD). 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 (SGS) 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 Nnodim and obtained by this publication, disclosed that the form which costs Fifteen Thousand Naira only and covers charges for the issuance of prospectus, commenced today and would end on Monday, November 30, 2015.

"This is to inform suitably qualified candidates that the sale of Application Forms for admission into the Graduate programmes of the University of Port Harcourt 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.uphor.edu.ng](http://www.uphor.edu.ng) or the School website at [www.sgs.uphor.edu.ng](http://www.sgs.uphor.edu.ng) for further details of the programmes on offer, entry requirements, purchase, filling and submission of the online forms.

## DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT

## WEATHER OBSERVATORY

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

DATE	TEMPERATURE		HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET		SUMMARY
	HI	LO				(mm)	(mm)	
SUNDAY, 06 SEPT, 2015	30.0	24.0	86	NE	11.1	6:25	18:36	Strong thunder storms expected. Mostly cloudy day forecast.
MONDAY, 07 SEPT, 2015	28.0	24.0	87	NE	17.1	6:25	18:35	Heavy rain expected. Mostly cloudy day anticipated.
TUESDAY, 08 SEPT, 2015	28.0	24.0	89	NE	15.8	6:24	18:34	Heavy rain forecast. Mostly cloudy day expected.
WEDNESDAY, 09 SEPT, 2015	28.0	22.0	79	NE	-	6:24	18:34	Mostly cloudy day expected.
THURSDAY, 10 SEPT, 2015	27.0	22.0	81	NE	17.5	6:24	18:34	Thunder storms expected early in the day. Mostly cloudy day forecast.
FRIDAY, 11 SEPT, 2015	28.0	22.0	82	NE	18.9	6:24	18:33	Strong thunder storms expected. Mostly cloudy day forecast.
SATURDAY, 12 SEPT, 2015	28.0	22.0	82	NE	20.0	6:24	18:33	Strong thunder storms forecast. Mostly cloudy day anticipated.

Dr. Gladys Emenike  
Acting HoD

Dr. Prince Mmom  
AG, Director, (CDRMS)

## STOP PRESS

## UniPort Parents' Forum

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa 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 Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park.

A statement by the Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim, 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.

## University of Port Harcourt Business School Workshop

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 Wurlu Drive, Off Sani Abacha Road, GRA, Port Harcourt. Our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU** captured highlights of the event as shown below:



DI-C (Admin), Prof. Anthony Ibe reading I-C's address



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



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



DI-C (Admin), Prof. Ibe in a chat with Dean of Management Sciences, Prof. Eneka Oheroke



A cross-section of participants at the opening ceremony



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



L-R: Dr. Austin Sado, Prof. Oheroke, DI-C, Prof. Ibe and others



R-L: Former I-C, Delta State University, Abraka, Prof. Okpako Eneahou (right) and two Resource Persons



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



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



A group photograph of I-C's representative, some Senior Officers, Resource Persons and some participants