



CORNU Retreat

Wike Calls For Commitment To Develop Education

Minister of State for Education, Chief Nyesom Wike, has called on stakeholders in the educational system to remain committed to the collective aspiration of transforming the sector for accelerated national development, reports **Otikor Samuel**.

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Side Bar

School of Graduate Studies holds its 47th Doctoral Seminar this Thursday at the Seminar Room. Details next week -Editor



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Senate Empanels C'ttee On Murder Of UNIPORT Students

V-C Removes HOD Philosophy

By Williams Wodi

Senate of the University rose from an Emergency Meeting last Wednesday to set up a Panel of Enquiry into the circumstances surrounding the horrendous murder of four students of the University of Port Harcourt at Omuokiri village in Aluu Clan penultimate last Friday. The four-member Committee is headed by the Director of Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QAQC) in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Tony Arinze. Other members of the Committee are the Dean of Student Affairs Department, Professor Henry Bell-Gam, the Director of College of Continuing Education, Professor Steve Okodudu and Chief Security Officer of the University, Lt Col Reginald Isiguzo (rtd). Also, the Vice-Chancellor announced the immediate removal of

the Acting Head of Department of Philosophy, Dr Andrew Efemini, on account of his objectionable activities during the occupation of the East/West Road by some students from

other universities, who identified themselves as members of the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS). Condemning the support reportedly given to the agitators by Dr Efemini, the Vice-chancellor regretted that his action was quite unbecoming of a Lecturer in the University system, warning that activism could be carried to a destructive end if not practised with a measure of self-restraint and respect for law and order.

The Committee's Terms of Reference included ascertaining the level of information available to Management of the University on the mayhem that took place at Omuokiri, Aluu, determining what actually led to the mob lynching of the students, the role of students resident in the area during the unfortunate incident and identification of the actual culprits in the murder. The Committee is also to ascertain the relationship between students of the University and the host communities and recommend measures aimed at forestalling the recurrence of similar incidents in future.

Briefing Senate on the

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Moseley, Ex-UNIPORT Lecturer, Dies In USA

A former Lecturer in the University of Port Harcourt, Professor Kay Moseley, died last Friday in Southern Vermont, United States of America from brain-related medical complications. She was aged 72 years.

The deceased, who was an American and a former Senior Lecturer in the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, reportedly died of brain aneurysm close to her apartment in Vermont. Information made available to *UNIPORT Weekly*, disclosed that a funeral service would hold in Professor Moseley's honour next Saturday, 27th October, 2012 in Vermont.

According to information made available to *UNIPORT Weekly* by Dr Steve Onyeiwu, who taught in the Department of Economics of the University at the time Professor Moseley lectured in the Department of Sociology in the early 1980s, her contract with the University ended in 1989 following which she returned to her home country. Professor Moseley was a next door neighbour of the late language theorist and philanthropist, Professor Kay Williamson, who was widely regarded as the mother of Linguistics, Indigenous Languages and ethnography in Nigeria. The two intellectual icons lived at the Delta Park residential area of the University.

By Williams Wodi

It is on record that some of the current senior Faculty members in the Department of Sociology were Moseley's students in the early 1980s and she also contributed immensely to the development of the postgraduate programme of the Department. Professor Moseley was a contemporary of such intellectual giants as Professor Ikenna Nzimiro, William Ogiegwu of blessed memory, including Professors Inyang Eteng, Steven Ekpenyong and Mark Anikpo. She also served the US State Department in various capacities before she retired from formal academic engagements.

Professor Moseley was known for her undiluted love for the University of Port Harcourt, the City of Port Harcourt and its inhabitants. Dr Onyeiwu, who described Moseley as a big fan of African culture, disclosed that she was planning to visit the University before her sudden demise last Friday. Moseley's trademark trait while she was at the University of Port Harcourt, according to Onyeiwu, included her penchant for the African dress code, music and support for her students and low-income people in the Port Harcourt area while she was here.

Reacting to the demise of the great Sociologist, Dr

Onyeiwu, an Associate Professor of Economics in the United States, who once shared an office with her at UNIPORT, described Professor Moseley as "a very kind and loving person; a budding intellectual and voracious reader, who was committed to the highest levels of scholarship", adding that she made many remarkable contributions to the University and the academia for which she would be surely missed.

It would be recalled that the late Professor Moseley obtained her Doctoral degree in Sociology from Columbia University in the early 1970s and also taught at Fourah Bay College in Sierra Leone before joining the services of University of Port Harcourt.



Late Prof Moseley

Ways of preventing disabilities in pregnancy and ensure welfare of children with communication disorders were the main thrust of a training and treatment workshop organized by the Centre for Children Developmental and Communication Disorders (CCDCD) in collaboration with the O.B. Lulu Briggs Health Centre, tute for Maternal and Child Health, The

Ibru Chair in Children Communication Disorders and the Children Developmental Centre (CDC), Lagos. The five-day therapeutic workshop, which took place at the International Students' and Lulu Briggs Health Centres between Monday and Friday last week, drew participants from the Departments of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Paediatrics and Child Health, Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling and the Health Centre.

Welcoming guests to the event, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, said that CCDCD was established to tackle the challenge of developmental and communication disorders in society, commending the Centre for being alive to its responsibilities. The Vice-Chancellor, who spoke through the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, canvassed support for the Centre to enable it tackle the challenges of communication disorders amongst children.

Presenting the Keynote address in his own capacity, Professor Joe, who noted that developmental disorders such as Autism, Cerebral Palsy and Down Syndrome are incurable, said: they are, however, preventable before and during pregnancy and could also be managed

Stakeholders End W'Shop On Child Disorders

By Humphrey Ogu

afterwards, regretting the dearth of statistics on the sufferers and caregivers in the country. "Because of non-availability of reliable statistics, intervention measures become difficult to draw up. We, therefore, need to network to enable us have the necessary information to work with," he said.

Professor Joe, who stressed the importance of caring for children with disabilities, cited the 2012 Olympics in which Nigerian athletes could not win any medal, while the Nigerian contingent to the Paralympics brought home a lot of medals, adding that there is need for research to determine the causes, the prevalence and best intervention measures for the disorders.

Also speaking, Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Professor Ozo-mekuri Ndimole, observed that apart from the Emmanuel Egbogah Chair in the University, the Alex Ibru Chair in Children Communication/Development Disorders is the most active, stating that "we were here for a national workshop sometime this year and later the Alex Ibru Legacy Lecture and today again, we are here to participate in another event organized by the Chair."

The Dean, who disclosed that the Chair featured three times in a progress report in one year, commended the Chair Occupant, Professor Shirley Yul-Ifole, for her commitment towards bettering the lots of children with communication disorders, adding that "the theme of the

Workshop: 'Who Cares?' is a question that requires answers from all of us."

On his part, Director of Lulu Briggs' Health Centre, Dr Ken Anugweje, who noted that the theme of the workshop was thought-provoking, said that "the journey to achieving remarkable success starts with attitudes that show that government at all levels, Non-Governmental Organizations, professionals in the field, individuals, philanthropists and parents are really

interested in alleviating the plight of such very relevant population of our society. "Developmental and communication disorder in children and pregnant women are mostly secondary to medically preventable scenarios like proper antenatal care, availability of medical facilities and professionals. It is not out of place to say that the precarious situation in which these children find themselves, were not of their making, but a sign of inadequacy of our healthcare delivery system," he stated.

In her address, Professor Yul-Ifole expressed gratitude to the University, various Departments, corporate bodies and individuals, who have been very supportive of CCDCD in its cause to cater for children with developmental and communication disorders, recalling how she met the leader of CDC, Lagos, Dr Yinka Akindayomi, about six years ago, with whom she shared a common passion—caring for children with such challenges.

In her contribution, Dr Akindayomi, urged all participants to support children with communication disorders, stating that "you may think that caring for these children is none of your business, but it is actually everyone's business. If you look after people with special needs, you are also looking after yourself. We need to care and take responsibility for these children."

On her part, notable paediatrician, Professor Alice Nte, emphasized the need for mothers to care for babies through medication and nutrition, right from conception through birth to checkmate some of the avoidable childhood complications in later life.



L.R: Drs Sunday Mbazie, Akindayomi, Prof Yul-Ifole and others at the workshop

Workshop: 'Who Cares?' is a question that requires answers from all of us."

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CORNU Retreat

Wike Calls For Commitment To Develop Education ...As V-C Stresses Total Quality Mgt



V-C, Prof Ajenka, (arrowed), representative of Chief Wike, Dr Ayewoh, Chairman of the event, Dr Amadi, CORNU Chairman, Mr Ogunraku and other participants

Cont'd from p1

The Minister made the call at the opening ceremony of the 7th Annual Retreat and 53rd Business Meeting of the Committee of Registrars of Nigerian Universities (CORNU), at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, last Wednesday.

Wike, who spoke through his Special Assistant, Dr Olu Ayewoh, emphasized the need to adhere strictly to standards and ensure quality control right from the basic level to address the perennial problems in the educational sector, urging participants at the Retreat to work with government to leave good legacies for future generations.

"We better fix the problems in the educational sector and be happy in the country, rather than joining to kill it and go down with it. The present administration is turning things around with bold steps anchored on education at the basic level. Education is a socio-economic liberator. We need to use available resources judiciously. What should make the difference may not be remuneration, but the legacies we can leave for future generations", Wike admonished the Registrars.

In his Welcome Address, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, who described Registrars as strategic conveyor-belts of conventional tertiary educational administration, commended them for choosing the University for the Retreat, noting that "As interpreters of the extant policies enacted by university proprietors – be they private, state and federal, Registrars constitute the central nervous system of university administrations".

"As Secretaries to Governing Councils and key advisers to Vice-Chancellors and interpreters of extant rules enacted by government and private proprietors, Registrars in the Nigerian university system have contributed immensely to the overall advancement of their various institutions and to the stability of the system, to the admiration of stakeholders", Professor Ajenka said, pointing out that Registrars commit themselves to institutional growth of their universities even under enormous pressures and personal sacrifices that can not be denominated in monetary terms or written commendations.

According to him, in the 21st century knowledge economy, the workforce must fully embrace total quality management to get it right with little or no mentorship, stating that it was in recognition of the need for efficiency in the workforce to contribute to institutional growth that the administration is driving an Entrepreneurial University, where traditional scholarship meets business opportunities in a Technology Park.

Chairman of the ceremony, Dr Elechi Amadi, who advised the Registrars to make good use of their strategic positions to advance the growth of their various universities, observed that the Office of Registrar is instrumental to the growth of any institution, commending the organizers for giving him the opportunity to chair the event.

The renowned novelist, who welcomed the enormous explosion in the number of universities in the country, recalled that it was just the University of Ibadan (UI) that existed during his days, stating that about six secondary schools existed in the Old Rivers State before the Civil War which later exploded to 400 when he was Commissioner of Education.

"You hold the key to quality education and it is the key to the progress of Nigeria and key to the future. You have to use your positions to guarantee the standard of education",

Dr Amadi said, recounting how he declined an offer from the pioneer Vice-Chancellor, Professor Donald Ekong, to become pioneer Registrar of the University of Port Harcourt after assisting the Federal Government to locate the site for the University in 1975.

In his address, Chairman of CORNU, Mr Ayorinde Ogunraku, who condoled with the University on the gruesome murder of its students in Omuokiri village, Aluu Clan, expressed delight that the Retreat held as scheduled, restating that CORNU is committed to capacity-building of the workforce for efficiency in university administration, even as he condoled with the University on the murder of its students by an irate mob in Omuokiri, Aluu.

Mr Ogunraku praised the National Universities Commission (NUC) and Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) for their partnership aimed at advancing professionalism and capacity of administrators in the University system, calling on government and proprietors of universities to address issues of remuneration for Registrars, Librarians and Bursars to enable them discharge their functions effectively.

The Retreat featured Paper presentations on *Prudence in the Face of Dwindling Resources in our Universities: The Role of the University Administrator* by Mr Michael Ekeh, *Quality Assurance & Quality Control in the Nigerian University System* by Professor Anthony Arinze and *Records/Documents Integrity: A University Scorecard* by Mr Segun Ogunkola.

Artistes Receive Accolades, Donations At Senate Performance

By Humphrey Ogu

Impressed by their spectacular enactment of a dance drama presentation titled: "A Man of the World", by the Institute of Arts and Culture for members of Senate at the University Arts Theatre—The CRAB, penultimate Wednesday, the Director, Quality Control and Quality Assurance, Professor Tony Arinze, announced a personal token donation to the artistes as an encouragement to greater feats.

Speaking at the performance, Arinze, who disclosed that he was very delighted to experience a product of *The CRAB* and ace movie star, Francis Duru, serving as Master of Ceremony at a high profile event in Abuja, commended the artistes for their ability to thrill the audience with intrepid dance steps through which they passed vital message to the audience.

"I am so well entertained. I did not know I could have such a relaxed atmosphere, free of charge. Elsewhere, this level of entertainment would cost so much. You could pay so much, to watch this kind of performance. But here we are, watching a classic, a very professional performance free of charge. I am very appreciative of what is going on in this University under the present administration," he said.

In his contribution, Visiting Scholar, Professor Vincent Idemiyor, who also announced a donation in appreciation of the impressive performance of the Troupe, said: "it is good to watch young people perform in that form at. Reading a play and actually performing is a very difficult task. For these artistes to do it without mistakes, shows

they are very creative; it also shows that there are talents here that are waiting to be nurtured with our support.

"The play celebrates hard work. In our society today, hard work is hardly celebrated. If you look at the play closely, the man being celebrated is a true intellectual, who has done something for humanity. This fits in very well with the ideals of a university. It is good to celebrate the right people, not the wrong ones as it is often the case in our society today," he said.

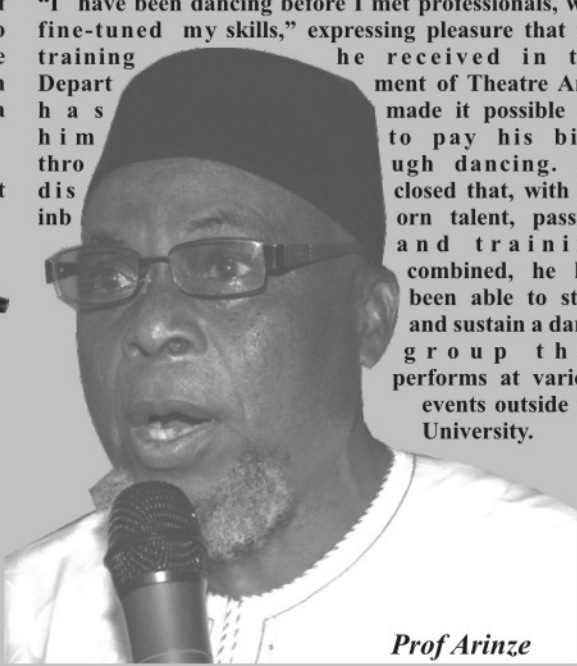
Director of the Institute, Professor Julie Okoh, who also directed the drama, said: "it was a play written to honour Dr Emmanuel Egbogah, during his 70th Birthday. It was performed at Hotel Presidential, when the University celebrated him; we modified it a bit, from a 25-minute play to one hour. The central theme of the play is that it pays to work hard. We are celebrating a great man. The message is to encourage the young people to work hard and make a name for themselves."

Head, Department of Theatre Arts, Dr Julie Umukoro, who thanked the Senators, for defying the downpour to watch the play, assured them of the Department and the Arts Village's commitment to providing entertainment for the University community.

Meanwhile, the leader of the Troupe, Alfred Ogiassa, who noted that dancing has been part of him from birth, said: "I have been dancing before I met professionals, who fine-tuned my skills," expressing pleasure that the training he received in the Department of Theatre Arts, made it possible for him to pay his bills through dancing. He closed that, with his own talent, passion and training combined, he has been able to start and sustain a dance group that performs at various events outside the University.



Prof Okoh, Director, Artsville



Prof Arinze

Capital Campaign Donors Get Appreciation Letters

University Advancement Centre (UAC), has commenced the publication of names of staff, who made generous donations to the University's Capital Campaign which was launched in June, 2006. This token of appreciation is to encourage staff, who are yet to make contributions to imbibe the spirit of philanthropy.

94	Mr. Ngozi. E. Lilo	Dept of EDP, Guidance & Counseling, Faculty of Education
95	Prof. I. Aminigo	Dept of EDF, Faculty of Education
96	Mrs. Beatrice. M. Affiah	Dept of Edu Technology & Curriculum, Faculty of Education
97	Mr. Emmanuel Amadi	Dept of Edu Technology & Curriculum, Faculty of Education
98	Mrs. Victoria C. Agi-Otto	Dept of Petroleum Engineering, Faculty of Engineering
99	Mrs. Monica. O. Odoemena	Dept of EDP, Guidance & Counseling, Faculty of Education
100	Mpi Ayadike	Dean's Office, Faculty of Engineering
101	Cecilia Johnson	Dean's Office, Faculty of Engineering
102	Mrs. Darling Marcus	Dean's Office, Faculty of Engineering
103	Mrs. Ijeoma Wali	Dean's Office, Faculty of Engineering
104	Donatus S. Chukwunda	Dept of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering
105	Mrs. Priscilla Onwume	Dept of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering
106	Mr. Wilfred Gonee	Dept of Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering
107	Mr. Vincent Ahunanya	Dept of Elect/Elect Engineering, Faculty of Engineering
108	Dr. Joel Biebuma	Dept of Elect/Elect Engineering, Faculty of Engineering
109	Mrs. Blessing Igwe	Dept of Elect/Elect Engineering, Faculty of Engineering
110	Salihu Lamidi, Owuda	Dept of Elect/Elect Engineering, Faculty of Engineering
111	M. Obioma. Eseonu	Dept of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering
112	Mrs. C.N. Gladys Nwachukwu	Dept of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering
113	Mr. Roland Ogwuelli	Dept of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering
114	Dr. C.C Opara	Dept of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering
115	Mr. Sampson Winah	Dept of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering
116	Mr. R.E.J Kadana	Dept of Petroleum Engineering, Faculty of Engineering
117	Dr. (Mrs.) Francis Amieye	Dept of Animal Science & Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture
118	Dr. Opuda Alioma, Ekine	Dept of Animal Science & Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture
119	Mr. Hope. C. Anele	Provost's Office, College of Health Sciences
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129	Prof. J.M Adotey	Dept of Surgery, Faculty of Clinical Sciences
130	Leticia. O. Egeonu	Dept of Surgery, Faculty of Clinical Sciences
131	Dr. M. K Saphira	Dept of Surgery, Faculty of Clinical Sciences

To be cont'd next week



Dr Odu

As the University Advancement Centre continues to canvass the need for more Alumni support, Acting Director of the Centre, Dr Ngozi Odu, has called on the pioneer graduating Class of the Master of Science (M.Sc) Geosciences programme of the Centre for Petroleum Geosciences (CPG), Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) to contribute their quota to on-going developmental strides in the University as part of efforts aimed at transforming it into a world-class institution. Odu, who spoke on "Building a Synergy: UAC and the Alumni Association", during an interactive session with the

UAC Holds Interactive Session For Pioneer CPG Class

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

pioneer students last Tuesday at the Education Trust Fund Building, noted that the Centre was committed to building a vibrant Alumni Association with potentials to give back to their Alma Mater. "As you add value to the University, you are adding value to your degree", she remarked, adding that the University was in dire need of passionate Alumni that would harness ideas, partnerships and resources to make a difference. "I want you to be the category of Alumni referred to as Champions. Champions have a strong zeal to advance the cause of their Alma Mater", Odu stressed, urging them to continuously maintain a relationship with the UAC, CPG and the University even after graduation. She expressed willingness of the UAC to designate them into a proper Alumni group to enable them participate in the activities of the parent body.

Also Speaking, Director of the Centre, Professor John Ete-Efeto and Deputy Director, Dr Francis Beka, respectively, who expressed delight at the successful completion of academic work by the students, tasked them on the need to form an Alumni group as the pioneer set from the Centre. "Part of your pride in life are the Universities you attended", the duo said, citing the examples of renowned universities such as Harvard, Oxford and Yale, where Alumni donate generously to upgrade facilities and infrastructure on a regular basis. Responding on behalf of the Class, Miss Dami Obusola, commended the UAC for initiating an interactive session for the graduating Class, promising that the pioneer students would contribute positively to earn global recognition for the Centre, in addition to making it a centre of excellence in petroleum geosciences in Africa and beyond.



V-C, Prof Ajenka (arrowed) flanked by AIG Ibrahim (left), DCP Habila Joshak (right), other Senior Officers of the University and members of the AIG's entourage

Aluu Killings

Choba Chiefs, AIG, Condole UNIPORT

By Obinna Nwodin

The Traditional Ruler and Chiefs of Choba Community have commiserated with authorities of the University of Port Harcourt over the gruesome murder of four of their students, describing the act as barbaric and totally unacceptable in the 21st Century Nigeria.

Paramount Ruler of Choba community, Eze Raymond Okocha, made the condemnation when he paid a condolence visit on the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, alongside his Council of Chiefs, last Wednesday.

Eze Okocha, who said that the host communities had enjoyed a peaceful and cordial relationship with the University since 1976, wondered why such an ugly incident would happen at a time when such a cordial relationship had taken root.

"We have taken the University community as our own and they have also taken us as theirs. We have been living together in harmony. This incident is least expected, particularly as it relates to Aluu community. Aluu is one of the most peaceful communities in Ikwerre land, blessed with illustrious sons and daughters, who are peace-loving. It is important to place it on record that the incident did not involve the entire Aluu community, rather Omuokiri village in Aluu", he stated.

Commending the efforts of the Nigerian Police in containing the situation and promptly arresting some of the perpetrators of the dastardly act, the royal father condoled the

parents of the deceased students and the University, praying God to grant them the fortitude to bear the great losses they had suffered.

In his response the Vice-Chancellor thanked the Chiefs for the visit, saying that the University was deeply grieved over the incident that took every body by surprise.

In a related development, Assistant Inspector-General of Police (AIG) Zone 6, Mr. Mukhari Ibrahim, also condoled the authorities of the University over the murder of four of their students by an irate mob.

Mr. Mukhari, said that he had visited the scene of the incident and also received briefs from his men, assuring the public that the Police would do their best to bring the perpetrators of the wicked act to book. He appealed to members of the public with useful information on how to get to the root of the matter to furnish the Police with same to facilitate the ongoing investigations. Mr. Ibrahim also commended the authorities for the security measures so far taken since the incident to maintain law and order on Campus and areas around the University.

Responding, Professor Ajenka, who thanked the AIG for the visit, expressed hope that those behind the gory incident would be speedily brought to book, adding that it is the only way that Nigerians would be satisfied that justice had been done. He also appealed to the Police authorities to ensure heavy security presence around Nigerian universities to forestall reoccurrence of such acts, adding that it was important to ensure that students were protected at all times from molestation and murder by callous groups that have no respect for the sanctity of human life.



Clockwise: V-C, Prof Ajenka sitting opposite the Nye Nwe-Ali Choba, Eze Okocha and some members of his Council and Senior Officers of the University

Executive members of the Rivers State Branch of the

Rivers ANAN Meets Bursar On Ethical Conduct Of Members

Association of National Accountants of Nigeria (ANAN) have stressed the need for Certified Accountants to build a fraud and corruption-free society by adhering strictly to ethical conduct in the practice of their profession. On a courtesy visit to the Acting Bursar, Mr Vitalis Alijezi, penultimate Thursday in his Office, the Executive led by its Chairman, Mr Grant Alobari, noted that in line with its mandate, the Association holds regular capacity-

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

building programmes in the areas of financial regulation and international financial reporting standards. "This is to ensure that members are knowledgeable in basic skills that would enhance service delivery", he added. Alobari, who disclosed that the visit also afforded a platform for the Association to interact with members,

who are also staff of the University, revealed plans by the Association to hold regular interactive sessions with students in the Department of Accounting as a way of exposing them to new ideas in the profession with emphasis on industry practice. "This idea encompasses good corporate governance, transparent reporting, prevention of fraud, rather than fraud detection", the Chairman explained.

Responding, Mr Alijezi, who assured the Executive of the commitment of members of the Association in the University, promised to work out modalities with the group to ensure regular attendance to meetings by members and participation in the activities of the Association. "In our little way, we will support the Branch to ensure that it achieves its set goals and objectives for the good of the profession", the Acting Bursar said.

In their goodwill messages, Council Member, Chief Napoleon Adda, Vice-Chairman, Sir Daniel Nitonye and Secretary-General, Emeka Ikechi, called for regular interactions between the Association and the University Management with a proposal to integrate Accounting graduates into the Association. The trio also tasked members of the Association on regular attendance of meetings, stressing the need for team spirit to move the Association to greater heights.

Highpoint of the meeting which had in attendance the Deputy Bursar (Budget) Mrs Helen Owuonda-Wopara and Chief Accountant (Stores), Mr Sokiepirim Bob-Manuel, was presentation of the quarterly Newsletter of the State Branch of the Association to the Acting Bursar.



Chairman, ANAN, Mr Alobari (4th from left), Ag Bursar, Mr Alijezi, Council Member, Chief Adda (right) and other members of the Association

V-C Canvasses Land Compensation To UNI-PORT Host Communities

By Obinna Nwodin

In a bid to ensure that the University gains unfettered access to the 4,000 hectares landmass allocated to it for development of infrastructure in 1975, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, has made a passionate appeal to the Federal and Rivers State Governments and other stakeholders in the affairs of the University to urgently tackle the issue of land compensation to the host communities to reduce tension.

Addressing journalists to mark his Second Year in office last Monday at the Governing Council Chambers, University Park, Professor Ajienka warned that the current state of affairs in which the University is able to access only 48 per cent of the entire land mass allocated to it is highly detrimental to the infrastructural development of the Institution and peaceful co-existence with the host communities.

Professor Ajienka said that the issue was a major problem facing the University in its determination to improve the infrastructural needs of the Institution, adding that "the University is in a serious bind as a result of its inability to have unfettered access to the seemingly expansive parcel of land earmarked, surveyed and handed over to the Federal Government by the Rivers State Government for the establishment of the University of Port Harcourt in 1975".

The Vice-Chancellor said that "when the land was acquired, our host communities welcomed establishment of the new institution with open arms and great merry-making in anticipation of some end-benefits that are unarguably evident every where in these communities today.

"From all measurable indices, it is beyond debate that the University has impacted positively on its host communities in many respects", regretting however that "most of the land has been encroached upon by some persons from the host communities, who now sell some parcels of the same land at commercial rate without reference to authorities of the University, the Rivers State or Federal Governments."

Professor Ajienka stated that "this unsavoury development has adversely affected the capacity of successive University administrations to site development projects even within the central areas, stressing that at the centre of the controversy is the issue of compensation to the host communities for the land acquired by the Federal Government for the purpose of establishing the University in 1975", pointing out that successive Managements of the University have been grappling with the issue of paying compensation to land owners as stipulated in the Official Gazette to enable the University get on with infrastructural development. "The stark reality facing us today is that the University does not currently have access to the land to execute vital infrastructural projects as envisaged by our founding fathers in 1975".

The Vice-Chancellor stated that the original Master-plan of the University has been grossly distorted as a result of forceful encroachment and resale of some portions of the said land to property developers and land speculators by the landowners under the guise of non-payment of compensation, while authorities of the University look on rather helplessly" adding that "If the critical issue of compensation is allowed to linger on, then our determined effort to build a new Entrepreneurial University will be hindered by increasing agitations from our host communities".

On the state of the University,

Professor Ajienka said that "on assumption of office, the administration was determined to change the way the University conducted its business and to achieve this vision, it launched the concept of an Entrepreneurial University, where business meets research in a Technology Park, while still retaining the traditional academic content for which universities are known", disclosing that the administration set up several Committees to review aspects of programmes that required urgent restructuring in line with prevailing realities in a contemporary knowledge economy".

The Vice-Chancellor said that the administration was the first University in Nigeria to appoint a Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Research and Development, with the responsibility of driving quality research, creativity and innovation, adding that a Strategic Research Plan with measurable Key Performers Indicators was drawn up to enhance productivity and quality assurance. He also disclosed that the University has signed Memoranda of Understanding with some companies to boost research and innovation, disclosing that the Shell-Aret Chair in Petroleum Engineering recorded a major breakthrough with the development of the celebrated OPTIWELL software for well drilling which has saved the industry millions of dollars in drilling cost and time.

Professor Ajienka further added that there are other completed and ongoing research projects aimed at repositioning the Institution as a truly research-intensive Entrepreneurial University that has the capacity to capitalize knowledge.



V-C, Prof. Ajienka, DV-C (Admin), Prof. Ethelbert Nduka (middle), DV-C (Acad), Prof. Igbo Joe, Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim, Ag Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Alijezi and some Senior Officers of the University (left) and Gentlemen of the Press (right) during Media Briefing last Monday

Cont'd from p1

Senate Empanels C'ttee On Murder Of UNIPORT Students



Senate members at an emergency session

unfortunate murder of the four students, a visibly emotion-laden Vice-Chancellor again condemned the barbaric action of the Omuokiri mob, wondering how reasonable people can perpetrate such a heinous crime in 21st Century Nigeria. Professor Ajenka said that the suspects should have been handed over to law enforcement agencies if they were adjudged to have committed any crime, regretting that the callous action of the mob had portrayed the Community, University of Port Harcourt and Nigeria in a very bad light. "The advent of social media made the story instantaneously available to a global audience that found

it very difficult to understand how human beings could inflict such stone-age cruelty on people suspected of offences that were yet to be proved by law. Everybody is understandably upset and depressed by the incident that drew global condemnation", he said. Disclosing that the University Management had painstakingly managed the sordid situation until it boiled over when some hoodlums attempted to hijack the crisis to advance their pecuniary interests, Professor Ajenka said that Management had no alternative, but to order closure of the University to diffuse the combustible situation that was capable of threatening law and order. The Vice-Chancellor confirmed the identity of the fourth victim, Tekena Erikena, as a Certificate Programme

student in the Faculty of Education. Regretting that nobody in the University had a forewarning of the gory incident, he told Senate that relevant security agencies were activated while the appropriate organs of the University were also notified of the incident, including the Federal Ministry of Education, National Universities Commission and the Rivers State Government. He also disclosed that Management held several meetings with security agencies and other stakeholders in the affairs of the University to chart a way forward, adding that the 2012 Student Union Week which was to have commenced last Monday was put off indefinitely in honour of the dead students, while flags were flown at half mast.

"We have requested more security presence in and around the University to forestall further security breaches, and also briefed the Mass Media on the incident that has the potential of damaging the good image of the University in the country and the rest of the world. Some elements of NANS aggravated the situation through heightened agitations that resulted in the occupation of the busy East/West Road axis," Professor Ajenka informed Senate, adding that some unidentified persons thereafter marched to Omuokiri village to burn down houses and cars.

The Vice-Chancellor also notified Senate about the difficulties associated with gaining access to land for infrastructural development in the University, stressing that part of the Media Briefing he held last Monday addressed the issue of land encumbrance and measures being initiated by Management to persuade the Federal Government to pay compensation to the host communities as a final solution to the problem. Professor Ajenka warned that the lingering issue of compensation to the host communities for their land acquired for purposes of establishing the University in 1975 was capable of igniting another round of crisis if not promptly redressed by the Federal Government.

The authorities of University of Port Harcourt have received raving reviews for making significant improvements in academic and research facilities in the Faculties of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Basic Medical Sciences and Department of Nursing Science in the Faculty of Clinical Sciences.

The commendation was made by leaders of the National Universities Commission (NUC) Accreditation Teams to the respective programmes, Professors Cecilia Igwilo and Andrew Ugwu, during Exit Meetings with authorities of the Institution, where they praised the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka and other schedule officers for their diligence and total commitment to the success of the exercise, last Tuesday. Professor Igwilo, who said that the Team went round the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Science to assess what was on ground for the training of students in the various programmes, commended what she described as the remarkable improvements on facilities and infrastructure on ground. "We commend authorities of the University for the positive changes we have observed in the areas visited and it is our hope that more would be done to place training of students at par with what is obtainable in other parts of the world.

"We sincerely commend you for the noticeable improvements that have strengthened the University's capacity to deliver world-class training to its students and add value chain to end-users of the products of such programmes", she stated. The Team Leader advised that there should be re-phrasing of the philosophy and objectives set out in the programme, noting that the curriculum was adequate, as well as the admission requirements. Professor Igwilo, who said that students were satisfied with the standard of teaching in the Faculty, also noted that there was a good student-staff ratio in line with NUC guidelines. She also praised the mix and quality of teaching and non-teaching staff in the Faculty, urging the authorities to intensify staff development programmes to maximise their output as the teaching of Pharmaceutical Sciences matures in the University.

Professor Igwilo stated that "Your Central Instruments Laboratory provides additional advantage to researchers. Your Library is commendable and funding is also adequate, but we think it should improve for maximum benefits to end-users. She, however, stressed the need to commence work on the new Faculty building to provide space for additional classrooms and offices, as well as increase the bandwidth in the Faculty to facilitate Internet access and use of multi-media facilities.

Other members of the Team were: Professors Herbert

NUC Accreditation Teams Commend UNIPORT On Programmes, Facilities

By Obinna Nwodin

Coker, Ijeoma Ahonkhai, Hajarah Ibrahim, and Mr Audu Muhammed from the National Universities Commission, who served as Secretary.

Also the NUC Accreditation Team to the Departments of Human Anatomy, Human Physiology and Nursing Science, has expressed satisfaction with the level of infrastructure and facilities for teaching of the programmes in the Departments. Chairman of the Team, Professor Ugwu made the commendation at a joint Exit Meeting at the Governing Council Chambers, while presenting the interim report to the Vice-Chancellor, last Wednesday.

Professor Ugwu said that the philosophy and objectives of the Departments evaluated in terms of curricula, admission requirements, academic policies, course evaluation, staff-student ratio and staff mix, development programmes, laboratories and studios, library, as well as funding in the various Departments were adequate. He commended the Vice-Chancellor for putting appropriate facilities on ground to ensure quality knowledge-delivery in the Departments visited. Professor Ugwu advised the authorities to improve journal holdings in the Departments. In separate reports on each of the Departments, Professor Ugwu

advised the authorities to encourage staff to acquire, at least, a desktop or laptop to enhance their productivity, adding that although funding was adequate for now, there was still room for improvement to sustain the standards that are already in place.

In his remarks, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajenka, said that the University would benefit immensely from their vast pool of experience, disclosing that contract has already been awarded for the construction of a Faculty of Basic Medical Science building. He expressed hope that in the next two years, the problem of standard laboratories, classrooms and office accommodation for staff would be solved.

He thanked the Teams for their objective assessment and expressed the preparedness of his administration to address issues raised during the exercise. The Vice-Chancellor, who disclosed that the administration was making frantic efforts to run the University Library on a 24-hour basis, told the Teams that contract had already been awarded for the construction of a Central office complex to accommodate more offices for staff and classrooms for students.

Other members of the Team were: Professors Elizabeth Balogun, Patrick Igbigbi, Bisi Adetumo, Adenike Onibukun, Dr Ayuba Mohammed and Mr Jamaludeen Sambo, both representatives of the NUC.



V-C, Prof Ajenka (7th from right), with joint team members and some officers of the University

GUIDEPOST

GUIDEPOST

Professor Okechuku Onuchuku, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, re-appointed *Head of the Department*, effective from 24th September, 2012 to 25th September, 2014.

Dr E.E. Igbigbi, Department of Haematology, Blood Transfusion and Immunology, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, re-appointed *Coordinator of the Department*, effective from 2nd April, 2012 to 3rd April, 2013.

Dr B. Nwibere, Department of Management, Faculty of Management Sciences, appointed *Part-Time Coordinator of the University of Port Harcourt Business School Short Term Courses*, effective from 21st September, 2012 to 23rd September, 2013.

STUDY LEAVE

Mrs Helen Aburoma, Department of Nursing, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, granted a nine-month *Study Leave With Pay*, effective 22nd May, 2012 to 21st February, 2013.

Mr Charles Oseghale, Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, granted a three-year *Study Leave With Pay*, effective 1st October, 2012 to 30th September, 2015.

Mrs Chibuzo Uzoigwe, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, granted a three-year *Study Leave With Pay*, effective 1st October, 2012 to 30th September, 2015.

CHANGE OF NAME

MRS MEELUBARI, PRECIOUS LEKPEA. Former Miss Korobee, Precious Lekpea of the Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, now wishes to be known, called and addressed as Mrs Meelubari, Precious Lekpea. All documents bearing former name remain valid.

MRS DAWUTA LONDON TAMUNOSIMEARIOGBO. Former Miss Dawuta, Elizabeth Iyoyo of Student Affairs Department now wishes to be known, called and addressed as Mrs Dawuta London Tamunosimeariogbo. All documents bearing former name remain valid.

ASSUMPTION OF DUTY

Dr O.M.G. Abu, Department of Animal Science & Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, assumed duty as *Contract Staff*, effective 27th August, 2012.

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Professor Samuel Maduagwu, Department of Educational Management, Faculty of Education, granted *Renewal Contract Appointment*, effective from 1st September, 2012 to 31st August, 2013.

DISMISSAL FROM SERVICE

Dr Fidelis Ushie, Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, dismissed from the service of the University based on recommendation of the Senior Staff Disciplinary Committee (SSDC), effective 1st November, 2011.

HIV/AIDS ALERT

HIV/AIDS is real. Protect yourself.
Avoid a reckless lifestyle that can expose you to infection.

BRIEFS FROM OTHER VARSITIES

AVCNU STOPS HONORARY AWARD TO POLITICAL OFFICE HOLDERS

The Association of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities (AVCNU), has released guidelines for the award of honorary degrees in Nigerian universities. At its 27th Conference held penultimate week in Nassarawa State University, the Association in what it termed the 'Keffi Declaration', resolved not to bestow honorary degrees on any person holding political office while still in service, with effect from January, 2013. The Secretary-General of the Association, Professor Michael Faborode, said the step is aimed at reducing the indiscriminate award of honorary degrees and restore acceptable tradition of international best practice.

UNIBEN RAISES ALARM OVER GULLY EROSION

The University of Benin (UNIBEN), has raised alarm over effects of devastating gully erosion that hit sections of the Main Campus of the Institution at Ugbowo. Deputy Registrar (Information), Harrison Osarenren, said the disaster caused panic with some Lecturers vacating their Campus residences for safer grounds.

EKSU STUDENTS PROTEST DEATH OF STUDENT

Students of Ekiti State University (EKSU), set about six vehicles ablaze, vandalized 15 others and allegedly looted the EKSU Teaching and Research Farm in protest of the killing of a Final Year Student, Abiola Yusuf, who was reportedly knocked down by a vehicle. Vice-Chancellor, Professor Oladipo Aina, decried the damage caused by the protest resulting from the unfortunate death of the student as

extensive, blaming the Police for their late response to the Institution's distress call.

REDEEMER'S VARSITY GRADUATES 490 STUDENTS AS DAVID EMERGES FIRST MALE

BGS

Of the 490 graduands that passed out during the Fourth Convocation Ceremony of the Redeemers University of Nigeria (RUN), Ogun State, last Saturday, 24 of them graduated with First Class. Vice-Chancellor, Professor Debo Adeyewa, said that 156 graduated with Second Class Upper Division, while 239 obtained Second Class Lower, Division. The remaining 71 spread across



Prof Ruqayyatu Rufa'i, Minister of Education

Third Class and Pass degrees. Professor Adeyewa expressed optimism that if provided with adequate learning facilities, Nigerian students would do well as their foreign counterparts. Meanwhile, a 20-year old Adeboye David of the Department of Transport and Tourism Studies, has emerged the first male *Best Graduating Student* of the University. He obtained a Cumulative Grade Point Average of 4.87 on a five-point scale.

STRIKE FOR HIGHER PAY CRIPPLES PUBLIC VARSITIES IN KENYA

By Maina Waruru

More than 12,000 academic and non-teaching staff at public universities in Kenya have gone on strike for better pay and conditions of service, paralysing institutions. Students took to the streets of Nairobi in solidarity with Lecturers and one university has been closed. The strike began on 6th September and has severely disrupted the admissions process and induction of new students being admitted to universities. The action has hit the University of Nairobi, the country's biggest university, particularly hard.

-Compiled by Otiakor Samuel

STOP PRESS

Following closure of the University as a result of the murder of four students at Omuokiri, Aluu, the Faculty of Agriculture has announced postponement of the Agriculture Day (World Food Day), earlier scheduled for Monday, 15th October, 2012. A new date will be communicated to the University Community in due course.

CORNU Holds Retreat In UNIPORT

University of Port Harcourt hosted the 7th Annual Retreat and 53rd Business Meeting of the Committee of Registrars of Nigerian Universities (CORNU) last week. The event attracted Registrars from federal, state and private universities in Nigeria including the Nigerian Defence Academy. Pictures below show highlights of the week-long event.

Pix: HEADMAN ALU



Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, welcoming participants at the opening ceremony



Host Registrar and CORNU Treasurer, Mrs Matilda Nnodim making a speech



CORNU Chairman, Mr Ayorinde Ogunruku presenting the welcome address



Special Assistant/Representative of Honourable Minister of State for Education, Chief Ezebanwa Nysau Wike, Dr Olu Ayeweh, addressing participants



Prof Ajienka (right), welcoming Chairman of the event, Dr Elechi Amadi



R-L: CORNU Chairman, Mr Ogunruku, Treasurer, Mrs Nnodim and Secretary, Prince Tony Dugun II



Dr Amadi making a speech



Mrs Nnodim in chat with the CORNU Chairman



Literary Icon, Dr Amadi and Vice-Chancellor, Prof Ajienka



Mrs Nnodim in tete-a-tete with her colleagues



A cross section of dignitaries on the high table



Prof Ajienka chatting with one of the participants, while Dr Amadi looks on



A group photograph of participants at the opening ceremony