

Mitee Mulls Pillaging Of Nigeria's Resources At Social Sciences Roundtable

Despite the inability to account for the overall production of crude oil in the country, over N98.3 billion was lost between 2009 and 2011 from the 20% crude oil allocation to the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) for local refineries, which were not exported or utilized for offshore processing reports *Obinna Nwodin*.

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Side Bar

Professor Obi Kemjika of the Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, delivers the 103rd Inaugural Lecture this Thursday. Details next week -Editor

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4,380 Take Oath At 34th Matriculation Ceremony

By Obinna Nwodin

A total of 4,380 students took the Matriculation Oath for the 2012/2013 Academic Session during the 34th Matriculation Ceremony held at the Convocation Arena, University Park, last Friday. Speaking at the Ceremony, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who congratulated the students for scaling through the rigorous selection process for

...CNAS Tops List With 1,027

admission into the University, which he said is one of the most subscribed tertiary institutions in the country, pointed out that "it is due to our well-established culture of academic excellence since the inception of the University in 1975". He expressed hope that the students "would imbibe this widely-acknowledged tradition of

academic and sporting excellence that has brought us immense recognition both at home and abroad", adding that the significance of the Matriculation Ceremony should guide their conduct through out their stay in the Institution.

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V-C Receives Report On Staff Remuneration

In a move to review remuneration for staff from the Non-National Universities Commission funded programmes, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, last January inaugurated a 14-member Committee headed by the Director of the Centre for Ethnic and Conflict Studies (CENTECS), Professor Mark Anikpo. The Committee was set up to address the administration's concern over what was generally viewed as the arbitrary sharing formula of funds accruing from the University's internally-generated revenue.

With a five-point Terms of Reference which include review of policy of remuneration to staff from income from all Non-NUC funded programmes, evaluate income, expenditure and



Seated L-R: University Librarian, Dr Obiageli Nwodo, Bursar, Mr Vitalis Aliet, V-C, Prof Ajienka, Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim, other Principal Officers and members of the Committee

remunerations to teaching and non-teaching staff

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

from 2010-2013, recommend payment of appropriate remunerations to staff directly involved in Faculty activities, amongst others, the Committee finally handed over a detailed Report to the Vice-Chancellor at the Committee Room, last Wednesday.

Speaking shortly before handing over the Report, Professor Anikpo who explained that there was no comprehensive policy guideline for the remunerations, said that whereas remuneration accounts were fixed at a constant rate, incomes from where they were drawn usually fluctuated. "In some programmes, amounts accruing to the University are low, while some beneficiaries have no direct or indirect connection with the programmes", he stated.

Detailing appropriate guidelines for disbursement of funds, the Chairman noted that "specified percentages of the total income from any programme would be

appropriated for that purpose alone. If income increases, the appropriate percentage fund increases and vice-versa", he explained, stressing that the University would save funds for other developmental purposes following proper a disbursement formula.

"payment of remuneration to staff must not be allowed to stifle the establishment of a reserve fund; available funds to be allocated in percentages to stakeholders in groups, multiple payments must be abolished, while those who do not contribute in any way to the generation of funds should not partake in the remuneration", the Committee said, recommending percentage budgetary allocation guideline, payment of funds into budgetary subheads and restriction of expenditures to budgetary allocations alone.

Responding, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, thanked the Committee for the remuneration review which he described as a tedious and difficult assignment. "What you have done for the University is a

milestone achievement that would be written in the annals of the University", he said, adding that the Report when fully implemented would enable the University save resources for other developmental projects.

Commending the Vice-Chancellor for the opportunity to serve the University, Chairman of the University of Port Harcourt branch of the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities, Mr Bikume Syder described to the Committee's function as an essential task that would ensure growth and development of the University.

Members of the Committee are Professor Steve Okodudu, Mr Abel Ejiofor, Dr Andrew Efemini, Dr Solomon Egbe, Mr Bikume Syder, Mrs Nkechi Barinua, Mr Benson Young, Mr Nsagha Sampson, Mr Ambrose Ogebebe, Mrs Felicia Osakuade and Secretary, Mrs Charity Ajie.

STUDENT WORLD

Hardwork Is The Only Way To Success ~Omoniyi

BABATUNDE OMONIYI, is a Fourth Year Student of the Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, who spoke to our Intern, ADEOLA OJO, on the need for hard work amongst students as the only way to attain success. He also spoke on other issues

Great intellectuals attain success through hard work, but today, most youths roam the streets, expecting *manana* to fall from above, rather than embrace hard work as an article of faith. The need to become a master of his own fate inspired Babatunde Omoniyi to study hard to make a difference, no matter the challenges ahead of him.

The hard working Omoniyi said, "I gained admission into the University of Port Harcourt through the Basic Studies Programme to study Pharmacy and that has been my choice of career, even though this University was not my first choice until my father advised me to come here due to the excellent performance of the students. Now, I am so proud being a student of Unique UNIPORT that I won't exchange it with any other university in Nigeria".

On his study habit, Omoniyi, who resides off-Campus said, he reads in his room, because of the time schedule of his lectures. He makes use of the Internet almost every day to chat with friends and does most of his assignment and personal reading with materials sourced online. He loves appearing in corporate wears for lectures. Oh yes, our man loves any course that has to do with calculations, something that keeps other students awake! Different strokes for different folks, you might say?

On his hobbies, Omoniyi said he loves traveling, reading and listening to music, which he describes as is second nature. But he dislikes pretence and pride. On the development strides of UNIPORT, Omoniyi said, "Amongst the Universities I have visited, UNIPORT stands out in terms of infrastructural development. I think it is the best university in the core Niger Delta. Yet, I wish to appeal to the authorities to build more classrooms and hostel accommodation to create a good

atmosphere for students to study and bring out their best".

"Dr. Alegala and Mr. Okonkwo, are my favourite lecturers in terms of conception and delivery of knowledge", he said, pointing out that their method of teaching is good because some lecturers give you their best, while others do not communicate clearly when lecturing. "Some of our lecturers just read notes as though they were newscasters and that has been the major challenge of some students," he lamented.

His perception about Nigeria is that the so-called giant of Africa is blessed with natural resources and human resources, "but these resources have been mismanaged by politicians, who now regard our commonwealth as a national cake meant for plundering by only a few lucky ones. I believe that through



hard work, the youths, who are leaders of tomorrow, can make this country a better place. It now our turn to take over and run the affairs of this country, but we need to be properly equipped through quality education to play our role", he said.

On his opinion of the dress code on Campus; Omoniyi said, "The dress mode of our students has caused a lot of havoc because some students do not seem to differentiate between party wears and classroom dress code." He appealed to Management of the University to rigorously enforce a dress code for each Faculty to infuse sanity in the manner in which students dress on Campus.

As part of his career plans, Omoniyi said he intends to be a Pharmacist and a researcher to boost Nigeria's health sector, stating that hard work has placed him where he is today, despite the daunting challenges in his Faculty. "My advice to UNIPORT Students is that they should be focused and avoid whatever will destroy their career and always put God first in everything they do".

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Mitee Mulls Wastage Of Nigeria's Natural Resources



L-R: Dr Ekekwé, Associate Dean, Prof Lawrence Ohale, Dean, Prof Alapiki, Mr Mitee, Dr Lucky Akaruse and Faculty Officer, Mrs Flora Iyagba

Chairman, National Stakeholders Working Group of the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI), Mr Ledum Mitee, made the disclosure as Guest Speaker at the 2nd Faculty of Social Sciences Roundtable held at the School of Basic Studies Auditorium, last Thursday.

Mr Mitee, whose Lecture was titled, "From Resource Curse to Resource Blessing: The Role of NEITI", said that his organization has been able to provide and publicize comprehensive and reliable data on revenues received from the extractive sector, pointing out that, "the 2009-2011 audits, for instance, shows total payments of \$143.52 billion as revenue to the Federal Government and states, as well as Joint Venture Funds, while the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), received \$3.2 billion between 2009 and 2011 and 2.5 billion in 2006-2008". He also disclosed that dividends of \$4.84 billion and \$3.996 billion were received by the NNPC, which have neither been remitted to the Federation Account nor accounted for by the relevant government agencies.

Mr Mitee, who is also a noted human rights activist,

stated that the audit report of the NEITI revealed poor institutional linkages between the technical and financial aspects of the industry, poor information gathering and storing system which were mainly paper-based, inefficient system of financial management, poor metering infrastructure for crude oil production accounting and lack of capacity of relevant regulatory agencies to verify royalty and petroleum profit tax computations", adding that through NEITI reports and establishment of the Inter-Ministerial Task Team (IMTT), considerable improvement has been recorded in the revenue flow into the Federation Account. "About \$1 billion was recovered between 1999 and 2004, \$550 million in 2005, whilst additional assessments were raised on PPT from 2006-2008 audit report. In addition, the sum of \$9.8 billion has been reported as outstanding recoverable over a ten-year period arising from underpayments, differences between what was paid and what was received, poor record keeping and other leakages in the system" he disclosed.

Mr Mitee, who was also Chairman of the Niger Delta Technical Committee, said that NEITI conducts

independent audits and publishes the results to enable the legislature, civil society and the larger society to use the information and data to hold both government and companies to account, adding that "since 2004, NEITI has conducted four cycles of audit covering thirteen years in the oil and gas sector that is 1999-2004; 2005, 2006-2008 and 2009-2011".

The Guest Lecturer, who traced the origin of the economic impact of crude oil, stated that, "our national fixation with oil to the detriment of all other sectors of the economy also explains the collapse of the most crucial driver of any economic development", stressing that "our senses have been dulled from this by decades of government whose expectation is that it shall bring to each state and local government a share of the national cake".

Mr Mitee said that the country's quest to become one of the top 20 industrialized countries of the world by 2020 will be a mere day-dream if education is not given the needed attention. Said he, "with the collapse of the educational sector, where even the children of the poorest of the poor need to attend private schools in order to stand a fighting chance of acquiring the rudiments of education, whatever hopes we have of aspiring towards being among the top 20 economies in the world by the year 2020 risks becoming a political fantasy".

Also speaking, Acting Head, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Dr Eme Ekekwé, said that there was need to re-construct the Nigerian state, if the issue of resource curse is to be addressed. He argued against the concept of resource curse, but rather blamed the problem on the mismanagement of resources, citing the case of oil-rich Middle East countries that have utilized their resources to the benefit of their citizens.

Earlier in his welcome remark, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Henry Alapiki, expressed delight that the Faculty was returning to the days of late Professor Claude Ake, when topical national and international issues were ventilated through robust intellectual discourses that pointed a new direction to staff and students of the Faculty.

Expert Lists Measures To Tackle Unemployment At N'Delta History Week

By Otiokor Samuel

To tackle the scourge of unemployment, particularly in the Niger Delta, which has remained underdeveloped despite producing the wealth of the country, an expert in Social Development Services and Project Coordinator, Central Bank of Nigeria Entrepreneurship Development Centre, Lagos, Dr Olumide Ajayi, has listed the creation of abundant micro, small and medium-scale businesses through well-articulated development programmes with appropriate skills to translate ideas into tangible products and services as a means of ameliorating poverty among youths.

Dr Ajayi, who was Keynote Speaker at the 2nd Niger Delta History Week organized by the Institute of Niger Delta Studies in collaboration with the Professor Bassey Andah Foundation, penultimate Thursday, further stressed the need to incorporate entrepreneurship training into the Nigerian educational system and curriculum in a manner that would enable graduates set up business enterprises upon completion of their studies.

Presenting a paper titled, "Entrepreneurship Development: The Key to Economic Growth and Freedom," Dr Ajayi noted that small and medium-scale enterprises drive economies through development and acquisition of technical and vocational skills, recommending the creation of law and policy on National Entrepreneurship Development to regulate provision of credit facilities to business operators who undergo entrepreneurship training.

Speaking on the activities of his Centre, the Keynote Speaker stated that the Entrepreneurship Development Centre (EDC) which is a Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) project funded by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and managed by implementing agencies is aimed at promoting economic growth through provision of employment-generation and micro-enterprise development services, disclosing further that the project utilizes entrepreneurship development as key employment generation and poverty alleviation tool.

"The project seeks to transform unemployed and underemployed youths from job seekers into employers of labour through person-centred enterprise and creation

of business development training," Dr Ajayi further stated, advising Niger Delta youths to translate opportunities available in the region to create wealth.

In his address, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, expressed hope that the Lecture and Workshop would identify the problems associated with unemployment in the region with a view to proffering solutions to them. The Vice-Chancellor commended organizers of the event for convening stakeholders to brainstorm on the problems of unemployment and restiveness in the Niger Delta region.

"The abundant natural and cultural heritages of the peoples of the Niger Delta suggest that the region is well endowed with the necessary resources for its sustainable development. The obstacles to the harnessing of the region's abundant potentials are also well-known and the means of ameliorating them should form the major template of this workshop," Professor Ajenka observed, pledging his administration's commitment to sustainable development of the region through availability of

requisite expertise.

The Vice-Chancellor praised the Board of Trustees of Bassey Andah and O. B. Lulu-Briggs Foundations for collaborating with the University to organise the annual event, expressing delight with an *Alumnus*, King A. J. Turner for endowing a Chair in the University in honour of Emeritus Professor Ebegberi Alagoa, who is one of Africa's foremost historians and Director, Institute of Niger Delta Studies, Professor Abi Derefaka for the successful organization of the 2nd Niger Delta History Week.

Goodwill messages were presented by the Executive Director of Bassey Andah Foundation, Mr Olu Andah and Chief Seinye O. B. Lulu-Briggs on behalf of O. B. Lulu-Briggs Foundation, who pledged sponsorship of every edition of the *Journal of Niger Delta Studies*. Highlights of the event included presentation of a new book on the study of African Archeology co-authored by Emeritus Professor Alagoa and Professor Derefaka.



Dr Ajayi handing over a copy of the Lecture to V-C, Prof Ajenka

JCIN To Train Student Leaders Saturday



L-R: Ini Ifiokobong, Dir Sponsorship, Wisdom Omoni, President JCIN, Akpan (arrowed) and VP, Asechemie

As part of its mission statement to empower young people to create positive change, Junior Chamber International Nigeria (JCIN), has disclosed plans to hold a leadership forum where student leaders and their Executives would be trained this Saturday at the International Students' Centre. New President of the University of Port Harcourt Chapter of JCI, Miss Otobong Akpan, who made the disclosure to *UNIPORT Weekly*, last Tuesday, said the training is strictly for student leaders. She noted that "JCI offers members a rare opportunity to build strong leadership qualities, encourage entrepreneurship among young people

and organize skills acquisition for indigenes of our immediate host communities", stating that prospective members need to know the principles, mission and vision of the organization. Miss Akpan said: "In our 2013 Plan of Action (POA), we intend to run an Officers and Leaders Training School, Project Name my Terrain, create awareness on indiscriminate posting of bills, Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Workshop, Roll-Back Malaria, HIV awareness programme and provision of Information Boards. She appealed to staff and students to support the group

By Mercy Adeniji

Emenanjo Links Dev To Language, Culture At Valedictory Lecture

If Nigerians are really serious about transforming their country from a pre-industrial to a post-industrial one, they must shift their paradigms to Asian and Brazilian models, where the culture of development is integrated with the development of culture.

Foremost Linguist, Professor 'Nolue Emenanjo, who made the observation while delivering the 4th Valedictory Lecture of the University last Thursday, at the Ebitimi Banjo Auditorium, added that "If we are really serious about transforming Nigeria from a third-and-last-world to a first, achieving the MDGs by 2015 and producing and sustaining capital: human, industrial, social, and enduring structures, our only choice is to dispense fundamental education through literacy in Nigerian Languages."

Emenanjo, whose Lecture was titled, "About Language: Can Confucius Be Right", noted that "development is first, about people and then, about capital and structures. It involves a change for the better in human, cultural, socio-economic and political conditions of the individual, and consequently, the society."

Describing Confucius as a 5th-6th century Chinese Philosopher, who embodied the quintessence of Chinese philosophy, culture, knowledge, education, religious beliefs and practices, Emenanjo disclosed that the Chinese philosopher once said that if given the opportunity to become the president of China his priority would be to: "correct language, if language is not correct, what is said is not what is meant. If what is said is not what is meant; what ought to be done remains undone and the people will stand in confusion."

Emenanjo, who stated that "About Language: Confucius is right," said: culture is central to human capital, leadership, entrepreneurship, policy choice, institutions, regretting that "With the collapse of culture, condemnable vices have become commendable virtues. Condemned, certified and proven sinners have become the confirmed and canonized saints, in all domains. The area boys and girls have become the beatified national saints, the grandmasters, and beautiful brides of national politics and recipients of Nigeria's national honours, recognitions and medals."

On his contributions to language development, Emenanjo, who was a one-time Provost, College of

Education, Warri said: "I set up the Department of Nigerian Languages for teaching and producing teachers in the languages of the immediate environment—Itsekiri, Urhobo, Isoko and Izon. That Department still survives there. Indeed, I made time to teach some of the linguistic and practical courses at Warri".

He disclosed that as Executive Director of the National Institute for Nigerian Languages (NINL), Aba, "I had the whole of Nigeria and her languages to practise as a language engineer. Working with native speakers, we developed or systematized the orthographies of many Nigerian languages and got native speakers to write structured and graded school texts in their languages. We also developed curricula and trained manpower for quite a good number of Nigerian languages."

He noted that mentoring, counselling and shepherding

in its bid to keep the Campus environment clean.

"We are currently into partnership with the Campus Environment Beautification and Sanitation Unit (CEBAS) and the Centre for Malaria Research and Phytomedicine. We have sent partnership proposals to some corporate firms such as Quantum Business School at Rumuola, Port Harcourt, student organizations within the School, such as Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) now ENATUS, Rotary Club and Association Internationale des Étudiants Économiques et Commerciales (AIESEC), to enable us collaborate to stop indiscriminate posting of bills that deface our Campus", she disclosed.

In his contribution, Vice-President, Vincent Asechemie, recalled that the organization held its annual convention tagged: *The Conquest 2013*, last month. "The theme of the Convention was, "Youth Entrepreneurship: A Key To National Development" at which delegates from other Chapters accessed the growth and impact of the Chapter on its operational environment", adding that the occasion witnessed the investiture of the 2013 JCI UNIPORT President and the swearing-in of the Board of Directors.

Asechemie said the Convention attracted the National President of JCI, Ambassador Oyebanjo Okunuga, including some patrons of the body such as: Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, Dean, Graduate School of Arts, Education and Social Sciences (GSAESS), Professor Martin Ifeancha and former Associate Dean, Student Affairs Department, Dr Otu Ekepeyong. Highlight of the Convention was the induction of its new members, namely: Tessa Okoro, Ngulube William, Ifiokobong Akpan, Onyedikachi Okoro, Ngulube Enyi, Amarachi Nwoke and Helen Tamunoriari.

constitute an academic trinity which ensures the continuity and survival of academic legacy, stating that "Any senior academic who is not interested in this and is not doing it, is in the wrong place."

Reacting to the Lecture, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka who observed that a Valedictory Lecture offers the Valedictorian an opportunity to speak his mind on a number of issues, said: "Any society that has a linguist like Professor Emenanjo, who can develop language and give it depth has something great that it must cherish."

In his contribution, Dean Faculty of Humanities, Professor Ozo-mekuri Ndimele, who described the Valedictory Lecturer as his Supervisor and academic father, disclosed that he also had a mother in the late Professor Kay Williamsons. The Dean said that he would sorely miss Professor Emenanjo, as would the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, the Faculty of Humanities and the entire University.



Prof Emenanjo handing over a copy of the Lecture to V-C, Prof Ajenka

Artsville Marks World Theatre Day With Rotimi's Play

...As Theatre Arts Honours Benefactors

It was laughter galore at the University Arts Theatre, the CRAB penultimate Wednesday, as the Institute of Arts and Culture joined the rest of the world to mark *World Theatre Day* with a stage performance of *Gripam*, a gripping and hilarious comedy written by ace playwright, Ola Rotimi.

Speaking after the performance, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who commended the management of the Institute, pledged his administration's support for the theatre, stating that the theatre was of critical importance to the University. Earlier, the Director of the Institute, Professor Julie Okoh, had noted that the *World Theatre Day*, celebrated on 27th March every year, was established in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute to reflect on the theme of theatre and promote a culture of peace, disclosing that the message of the 2013 edition of *World Theatre Day* was to deliver the message of peace.

By Humphrey Ogu

Red by Dairo Fo, an Italian satirist, playwright, theatre director, actor, composer and recipient of the 1997 Nobel Prize in Literature.

The message was read to the animated audience at the capacity-filled theatre by Professor Emmanuel Emesalu. The play, which was directed by Friday Nwafor, featured notable actors and actresses, including Ovunda Ihunwo and Edward Imo, amongst others.



A scene at the performance

Reacting to the performance, Professor Omolara Ogundipe of the Department English said: "The performance was very good; the play itself was a great comedy and the cast comprised experienced actors and actresses," a view, Director, Centre for Malaria Research and Phytomedicine, Professor Omatayo Ebong corroborated in her favourable reaction to the play.

In another development, Professors Vincent Idemiyor, Owunari Georgewill, Michael Horsfall (Jnr), Ace Nollywood star, Sam Dede, Trend TV, its Chief Executive Officer, Engr Uzo Udemba, immediate past Mayor of Yenagoa, Mike Ogholosingha, popular comedian, Mike Ogolo, were among benefactors honoured by the Department of Theatre Arts at its maiden *Donor's Day* event, penultimate Tuesday.

Other donors honoured at the event, which had in attendance stakeholders in theatre arts, including distinguished Alumna, Hilda Dokubo, were former Director, Rivers State Council for Arts and Culture, Arthur Willie-Pepple, Executive Secretary, National Institute of Cultural Orientation, Dr Barclays Ayakoroma, Lecturer, Isaac Boro College of Education, Bayelsa State, Mr Nicholas Caesar.

In her address, Acting Head, Department of Theatre Arts, Dr Julie Umukoro, who commended the Vice-Chancellor for making available a new building for the Department, said: "We have a steadily growing group of donors, who are so determined to contribute to the creation of a robust arts culture by always giving support in cash and kind to our Department."

She added: "We have, therefore, carved out this day to register our appreciation and to publicly acknowledge the Vice-Chancellor and other donors for identifying with us. We are indeed proud and happy to be associated with you all," calling on public-spirited individuals and groups to emulate the donors and help in promoting Theatre Arts.

In their separate responses, recipients of the honour pledged support for the Department. Meanwhile, sister of the late Amatu Braide and Chief Magistrate in the Rivers State Judiciary, Kariba Alali Braide, has announced plans to donate copies of books being produced on her late sister abroad to the Department.

She also instituted prizes for the best graduand in choreography and dance in memory of the theatre artist, who Department demise.

The event also featured presentation of dramatised certificates and poetry, titled *Care Giving*, directed by Ovunda Ihunwo.



Mr Ogholosingha speaking at the event

NEWS BRIEFS

Global Encomiums Greet Adesope's Journal Article

Positive reactions from all over the world have trailed a Paper by Dr Olufemi Adesope titled: "Effect of Socio-economic Characteristics of Farmers on their Adoption of Organic Farming Practices." The Paper which was published in January, 2012 in the book, "Crop Production Technologies," and edited by Peeyush Sharma and Vikas Abrol, was widely accessed over 2000 times in and outside Nigeria within the period it was published by *InTech-open science*.

A statement from the publishers dated 25th March, 2013 and made available to *UNIPOINT Weekly* disclosed that, "We are pleased to inform you that your Paper, "Effect of Socio-Economic Characteristics of Farmers on their Adoption of Organic Farming Practices," has achieved impressive results. The Chapter you have published with *InTech* in the book, "Crop Production Technologies," has so far been accessed 2000 times. Congratulations on the significant impact that your work has achieved to date," revealing further that the United States of America recorded the highest number of access followed by China, Nigeria, India and Iran in that order.

Dr Adesope, who was immediate past Acting Head of Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, is the Platform Administrator of *Research Professional Africa* in the University of Port Harcourt.

UNIPOINT, UK Varsity, Plan Collaborative Research

In continuation of its drive to transfer first-rate knowledge to students through collaborative programmes with reputable foreign institutions, the University of Port Harcourt has initiated a partnership with the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom in various research areas. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is presently being processed for signing by the two institutions.

Speaking during a visit on the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, the Country Officer of the

University, Mr Enweazu Ajiduah, said that the partnership would be mutually beneficial to both parties. The University of Birmingham is expected to explore opportunities in the oil and gas sector and its attendant devastating effect on oil-bearing communities and other areas, while the University of Port Harcourt would collaborate with the foreign institution on relevant research areas.

Mr Ajiduah commended the Provost of College of Graduate Studies, Professor Roseline Konya for proposing the partnership, regretting that clearance to access the Niger Delta was denied the delegation from his University due to security reasons which was why he was mandated to fine-tune the arrangement. Assuring the commitment on the part of University of Birmingham, the Country Officer expressed optimism that funding agencies would be approached to provide grant for some of the proposed collaborative research.

Certificate Verification Commences Next Monday

Provosts of Colleges and Deans of Faculty are informed of the 9th Schedule for Certificate Verification for Regular and Part-Time Students admitted into the University up to 2008/2009 session. They are also requested to mobilize their students according to the dates scheduled for the respective Departments.

A statement signed by Mrs Dorcas Otto and made available to *UNIPOINT Weekly* revealed that Full-Time Students admitted up to 2006/2007 for the emerging College of Engineering, School of Science Laboratory Technology (SSLT) up to 2007/2008 session, while Full-Time students from other Faculties up to 2008/2009 are eligible to appear before the Committee from Monday, 15th April, 2013.

Heads or Ag Heads of Department are also advised to make personal files of their students available to the Committee latest 12:00 noon on their scheduled date. Students are expected to appear before the Committee with original copies of their Senior School Certificate, JAMB Slip, Success Letter and Marriage and Birth Certificates, where applicable.

4,380 Take Matriculation Oath

Cont'd from p1

Professor Ajenka stated that "the Matriculation Ceremony marks your formal admission as *bona fide* members of a specialized community of Scholars, who are united in their search for higher knowledge that would serve the greater interest of society", adding that the event marks their formal integration into the University system that is dedicated to the advancement of the frontiers of knowledge for the benefit of mankind and self-improvement.

"The Matriculation Oath spells out certain ethos and rules of intellectual engagement that must guide your behaviour in and outside the classroom at all times" the Vice-Chancellor told the Fresh Students, stressing that they were expected to obey the rules and regulations of the University and also exhibit a high degree of personal discipline as a precondition to success in their studies and future career.

The Vice-Chancellor advised them "to shun unethical tendencies such as cultism and examination malpractice", warning that Senate of the University will not hesitate to invoke relevant sections of the law against any student caught engaging in acts that are adjudged inconsistent with the terms of his or her admission into the University.

Professor Ajenka also disclosed that "we have reintroduced the Dean's List and Scholarship for the best candidates in the Unified Tertiary Matriculations Examination (UTME) and Post-Unified Tertiary Matriculations Examination (PUTME). "Candidates, who score a Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 4.5, will be awarded University Scholarship, while those that score 4.00 CGPA and above will be placed on the Dean's List. We are, therefore, encouraging you to work very hard to be eligible for either the Scholarship scheme or Dean's List", he advised. He also charged the students to apply themselves to their studies with uncommon dedication if they hope to excel in their chosen career lines, reiterating the commitment of the authorities to



A cross-section of students taking the Matriculation Oath

make them better, responsible and refined human beings, who live in the fear of God and have respect for their teachers and fellow students.

A breakdown of the figure shows that Faculty of Humanities matriculated 837 students, Faculty of Social Sciences, 343; College of Natural and

Applied Sciences, 1,027; Faculty of Education, 999; College of Engineering, 255; Faculty of Management Sciences, 450; Faculty of Agriculture, 172; Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, 105; while the College of Health Sciences matriculated 192.

STOP PRESS

PUBLIC LECTURE AND BOOK PRESENTATION

The University Community is hereby invited to a Public Lecture and Book presentation to mark the 70th Birthday of Professor Ayebeami Spiff on Wednesday, 10th April, 2013 at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium. Time is 11:00 am. Former Minister of Science and Technology and Chairman of Council/Pro-Chancellor of Niger Delta University, Bayelsa State, Professor Turner Isoun is expected to Chair the event. Amayanaowei of Okpoama, King Ebitimi Banigo is the Royal Father of the Day, while Professor Joseph Ajenka, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt is the Chief Host.

Contact: Professor Michael Horsfall, Occupant Ayebeami Spiff Chair in Environmental Chemistry.

BIOMETRIC MAN-HOUR REGISTRATION COMMENCES TODAY

Staff in the Senate Building, University Park, have been advised to thumbprint on the biometric electronic system mounted at both foyers of Senate Building with effect from Monday, 8th April, 2013. The Biometric Man-Hour and Attendance Management System (BMAMS) is aimed at gathering comprehensive data on the entry and exit times of each member of staff. A statement signed on behalf of the Registrar by the Director of Personnel Affairs, Mr Roland Waball, warned that staff, who fail to thumbprint to record their time of reporting and closing from work would be regarded as being absent from duty.

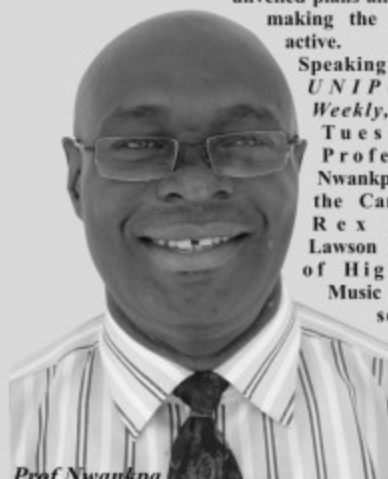
Contact: Director, Personnel Affairs.

Nwankpa Unveils Plans For Rex Lawson Chair

By Mercy Adeniji

In line with the vision of making the University a Centre of Excellence in music, as well as a repository for information and artifacts concerning the Late Highlife King Cardinal Rex Lawson, Chair Occupant, Rex Lawson Chair of Highlife Music, Professor Onyee Nwankpa, has unveiled plans aimed at making the Chair active.

Speaking with *UNI PORT Weekly*, last Tuesday, Professor Nwankpa said the Cardinal Rex Jim Lawson Chair of Highlife Music is the second end



Prof Nwankpa

owment the Department of Music has received through the goodwill of UNI PORT and the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka.

Professor Nwankpa said following the endowment of the Rex Lawson Chair by the University, his intention was to immortalize the great artist, who placed the culture of the Kalabari people on the world map. He regretted that since his sudden death, there has been no proper compilation or recording of his works. "As the Chair Occupant, I hope to embark on the compilation and serialization of Rex Lawson's evergreen music in the highlife genre," Nwankpa said.

"We hope to have a chronological documentation of his recorded music with dates, define and delineate creative periods of Rex Lawson and translation of text and lyrics in Kalabari, Igbo, Efik, Yoruba and other African Languages into the English Language for greater appreciation of the music legend's philosophy on those texts not sung in English and also annotate and put them in staff notations," he said, stating that the project would enable highlife music enthusiasts to look at the growth of Cardinal Rex Lawson's creativity from when he started as a small band boy to the time he matured and died in January, 1971.

Professor Nwankpa noted that "the Chair would help to maintain the legacies of Cardinal Rex Lawson through public lectures and symposia among other activities, establish a highlife museum

in honour of the highlife maestro, establish a website on him and also go into

partnership with government, philanthropists and other individuals to actualize our vision and goals".

Professor Nwankpa, who is also Head, Department of Music, disclosed that plans are on to hold an Annual Memorial Celebration of late Rex Lawson as part of the Chair's vision to immortalize the legacies of the music Icon. "We are planning to organize a Garden City International Festival from 11th -13th July, 2013. We hope to honour some African and Nigeria Highlife Icons such as Chief Anthony Odili, King Sunny Brown, Ace Trumpeter Zeal Onyia, Victor Uwifo and others. We would also lead participants and artists to visit the graveside of Late Cardinal Rex Lawson in Buguma.

He lauded late Lawson for his works, describing him as the undisputed King of highlife, who did not study music, but created such a highlife genre that stood out from all imitations. "Late Lawson was not so much interested in money, but in playing his music, advancing his people's culture, making people happy and also in transmitting his knowledge to people", he noted, urging students of music to key into the mindset of the late music Icon. Professor Nwankpa added that the University also stands to benefit from activities of the Chair as it would be in a position to provide adequate information to visitors who may wish to know more about the Late Rex Lawson and his music.

GUIDE POST

APPOINTMENT

Professor Obiozor Ayalogu, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Chemical Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, appointed **Head, Department of Medical Biochemistry**, effective 23rd March, 2013 to 23rd March, 2015.

Professor Onyee Nwankpa, Department of Music, Faculty of Humanities, reappointed **Head, Department of Music**, effective 4th March, 2013 to 5th March 2015.

CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Professor Bedford Fubara, granted **Contract Appointment** in the Department of Management Science, effective on Assumption of Duty.

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Professor Francis Ukaigwe, Department of Geology, Faculty of Physical Science and Information Technology, granted **Renewal of Contract Appointment**, effective 5th February, 2013 to 4th February, 2014.

Dr Philip Aziagba, Library Unit, granted **Renewal of Contract Appointment**, effective 13th May, 2013 to 14th May, 2014.

PENSIONABLE APPOINTMENT

Mr Nakaima Nwipie, Department of Animal Science and Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, granted **Pensionable Appointment**, effective 28th February, 2013.

Miss Kurotunoye Jack, Department of Crop and Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, regularized granted **Pensionable Appointment** effective 28th February, 2013.

Mrs Charity Fredrick, Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management, Faculty of Agriculture, granted **Pensionable Appointment**, effective 28th February, 2013.

Mr Miebaka Ikiriko, Department of Crop and Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, granted **Pensionable Appointment**, effective 15th February, 2013.

Mr Egbe Etowa, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, granted **Pensionable Appointment**, effective 15th February, 2013.

REVIEW OF STATUS

Mrs Millie Horsfall, Library Department, granted **Review of Status** from Librarian In-Training to Librarian II, effective 26th March, 2013.

SABBATICAL APPOINTMENT

Professor J.A. Aladesanmi, granted **Sabbatical Appointment** in the Department of Pharmacognosy and Phytotherapy, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT

Dr Godwin Ndene, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, converted to **Teaching Staff**, effective 19th March, 2013.

CHANGE OF NAME

Mrs Ayingilate Olugbenga. Former Miss Ayingilate Ereso Samuel of the Library Unit now wishes to be known and addressed as **Mrs Ayingilate Olugbenga Daniel**. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

Pioneer Nurses Speak On Experiences, Induction

Ahead of their induction by the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria (NMCN), pioneer Nurses of the Department of Nursing Science, Faculty of Clinical Sciences spoke to UNI-PORT Weekly Correspondent, ETHEL TIMI-JOHNSON on their experiences and forth-coming Induction.



Fulalo

Barielanaa Fulalo (First batch)

As a pioneer in the Department, I encountered a lot of challenges, including accreditation. Through dedication and hard work, the Head of Department and University Management were able to resolve the problems, even though it took me extra years in the Department. The Induction is the hallmark

of the extensive Nursing training I received from the University of Port Harcourt.

Rosemond Iwu (First batch)

As pioneer Nursing students, we encountered varying challenges that prolonged our stay in the University. However, I am thankful for the world-class training that I received from the University. I can stand proudly anywhere with Nurses from other institutions to prove my mettle anyway. It is most fulfilling to be graduating with four Certificates at the same time, namely: Registered Nursing, Midwife, Public Health Nurse and the Bachelor of Nursing Science Degree (BNSc). On behalf of my colleagues, I am thankful to the University Administration for this rare privilege.



Iwu



Onyeubi

Ekeledirichukwu Onyeubi (Second batch)

My six-year stay in the University is full of unforgettable experiences, beginning from the Second Year, when we started our

Clinical Training. The clinical exposure bridged the gap between theory and practice. It was fun attending to patients in the hospitals. The clinical aspect expanded my knowledge in the noble profession. After the Induction, I plan to write my Midwifery and Public Health examinations later in the year.

Evans Peretomode (Second batch)

Following my choice to study Nursing in this University, I was willing to go the extra mile to achieve success. I had wonderful Lecturers and clinical sessions. Contrary to the popular belief that Nurses trained in conventional Schools of Nursing are better than university-trained Nurses, I feel fulfilled as a Graduate Nurse, because my training had a scientific background that is lacking in convention nursing training. I intend to further my studies in Nursing Science.



Peretomode

Ureh Kalu (Second batch)

It feels great to relay my six year nursing experience in the University. At the beginning, the journey seemed impossible following the challenges of accreditation that the Department faced. I am grateful that the University Management successfully cleared the hurdles that had prolonged the programme and delayed our graduation. I aspire to reach the peak of my Nursing career. I also intend to major in Nursing Administration and Management. This will enable me correct the anomalies associated with the profession in Nigeria.



Kalu

Hanson Ugbeva (Second batch)

The journey of six years is climaxing with my induction. I just can't believe that it is finally all over. It seemed like an impossible task, but I was able to overcome all odds because I am emotionally attached to the profession. I am thankful that I am successful at last, following the challenges we encountered as pioneers in the Department. After Induction, I wish to write my Midwifery and Public Health examinations.



Ugbeva

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT OBSERVATORY

FORECAST FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 7 - SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2013

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 07 APR, 2013	36.0 26.0	58	NE	1.2	6:28 6:40	Thunderstorm expected late in the day. Day expected to be mostly cloudy and very hot. Proper clothing is recommended.
MONDAY, 08 APR 2013	32.0 26.0	77		10.7	6:28 6:40	Thunderstorm expected late. Day expected to be cloudy and mostly warm. Rain is expected.
TUESDAY, 09 APR, 2013	34.0 26.0	59	NE	3.8	6:28 6:39	Light thunderstorm expected. Day predicted to be partly sunny and hot.
WEDNESDAY 10 APR, 2013	34.0 26.0	50	NE	3.6	6:27 6:39	Thunderstorm expected late. Partly sunny and warm day forecasted.
THURSDAY 11 APR, 2013	34.0 26.0	40	NE	3.6	6:27 6:39	Widely scattered thunder storms. Partly sunny and warm expected.
FRIDAY 12 APR, 2013	33.0 25.0	58	NE	4.0	6:26 6:39	Thunderstorm expected late in the day. Mostly cloudy and warm day predicted. Light rain is expected.
SATURDAY 13 APR, 2013	33.0 25.0	56	NE	5.3	6:26 6:39	Thunderstorm expected late in the day. Partly cloudy and warm day forecasted.

VREMUDIA WEKPE
OFFICER-IN-CHARGE

PROF SAMUEL AROKOYU
DIRECTOR, (CDRMS)



V-C Alerts Stakeholders On Hurdles To Public Education

“Public universities may face stiff competition from their private counterparts if proper steps are not taken immediately to address some of the critical institutional problems currently militating against their growth. The first step to addressing these problems is for the Federal Government to ensure adequate funding of public tertiary institutions to enable them discharge their core mandate to society”, warns the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, Professor Joseph Ajenka in an interview with *UNIPORT Weekly*.

Professor Ajenka, who spoke of “the mounting pressures on public institutions that operate under difficult situation in which they now find themselves”, conceded that the quality of service delivery has affected overall output from the public University system. He pointed out that quality cannot return without the right class sizes and an enabling environment for lecturers and students to give of their very best. Acknowledging the need for the establishment of more universities in Nigeria, the Vice-Chancellor, however, advised Government to ensure proper planning before such institutions are established to guarantee their sustainability and quality of graduates.

Professor Ajenka made it clear that the main policy thrust of his administration was anchored on repositioning the University to turn out quality graduates, who can compete anywhere in the world. “I am interested in raising the level of teaching and research in this University. Building impressive physical infrastructure is a desirable thing, but strengthening our capacity to deliver quality service is my main focus on the job as Vice-Chancellor. We also want to ensure that research results do not just end up on the shelves or become papers for promotion purposes only. My vision of an Entrepreneurial University is that academics and students should be able to capitalize knowledge by making it relevant to the needs of society”, the Vice-Chancellor said.

The Vice-Chancellor argued in line with the school of thought which believes that the standard of education is on the rise, contrary to widely-held opinion that standards are falling. “The standards which are documented in form of stringent entry qualifications, use of technological devices, wider content and structure of the syllabi, curricula and benchmarks for graduation are becoming higher and more demanding. It is the quality of delivering knowledge that has unfortunately been affected due to multifarious challenges”, Professor Ajenka said.

He further stressed that the decline in the educational sector was caused by systemic failure due to lack of

Barely three months away from his third year in office as 7th Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, Professor Joseph Ajenka, recently spoke on developments in the educational sector, his achievements and challenges on the job. OTIKOR SAMUEL and WILLIAMS WODI, bring you highlights of the interview.

commitment on the part of policy-makers and those charged with policy implementation, which manifests in poor harvest of graduates.

“The explosion in class size due to growing student population has piled additional pressure not only on the administrators and teachers, but also on facilities and equipment. A Lecturer can no longer effectively read through long essays of many students in his or her class. In the early 1980s, we knew all the students by name, but the class size has become so unwieldy these days, contributing to poor quality in service delivery and students who pass through the system,” the Vice-Chancellor regretted, pointing out that efforts must be made to balance access to university education with quality assurance.

“Nigerian students are known to do very well outside the country; what is lacking back home is for them to be provided with an enabling environment to unleash their latent potentials”, he said, citing the excellent performance of students of the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS), who he said give him hope about the future of the University system in Nigeria.

“Government take-over of schools from the missionary contributed in no small measure to the decline in quality of education as private schools gradually took over the sector when government was not promptly paying workers their salaries and entitlements, thereby, resulting to incessant strike actions in the system,” the Vice-Chancellor said, expressing fear that a similar scenario could repeat itself with private universities gradually taking over the role of public institutions in the country.

On his achievements and happiest moments, Professor Ajenka recalled the euphoria that greeted the numerous conquests of *Team UNIPORT* at the West Africa Universities Games (WAUG) and Nigerian Universities Games Association (NUGA) competitions, Christmas package to staff and some modest breakthroughs in research by scholars from the University.

“The text messages of commendation I received from staff after each of them received a bag of rice touched me deeply, because real happiness from the heart is the greatest gratitude we can give to the Almighty. That is the highest moment of joy in my life in this University,” the Vice-Chancellor said.

“My greatest challenge is poor electricity supply.

Public power supply is very epileptic and we spend a lot of money on diesel for the smooth administration of the University. Land is another challenge we face; we cannot develop optimally due to encroachment by land speculators from some of our host communities. Land problem had been mentioned in the reports of all the Visitation Panels to the University, yet compensation had not been paid to the owners,” Professor Ajenka regretted, adding that the killing of four students in Omuokiri-Aluu last October was his saddest moment as Vice-Chancellor. “I would have resigned if there was negligence on my part in respect of the killing of those students. I did not have knowledge of the killings on 5th October, until a day after the horrendous incident which happened outside the University. That incident was a big dent on the rising profile of the University. I remain very grateful to the Police for their admirable maturity in handling the matter in such a manner that it did not spill out of control.

On the journey so far, Professor Ajenka gave credit to the team that has assisted him to wade through the onerous task of running the University since his appointment, hoping that all stakeholders would continue to show support for the vision of the administration to build a world-class university that would become a first choice destination for the best brains.

“The University is uniquely located in the core Niger Delta, with pioneer lecturers, who had international reputation in research and teaching. Every Faculty had great names that branded it in positive light. We built a unique University through the School System that offered students broad education that cut across disciplines”, the Vice-Chancellor said, disclosing that emphasis had shifted to forging mutually beneficial partnerships with industry.

“We are privileged to work with reputable industries that are eager to tap into our abundant expertise in diverse fields. We are seeking more partnerships that would benefit all participants. We don’t just want the industry to always give to us. We want to prove to them that we too have something to give as a condition to getting what we want from them in a symbiotic relationship. Universities are catalysts for development and we are focused on developing our areas of comparative advantage”, he said.