

Experts Brainstorm On Petroleum Exploration Challenges In Nigeria

Stakeholders in the oil and gas industry have stressed the need to address the challenges facing the sector to make provision for future socio-economic and technological development of Nigeria. They also advised the Federal Government to be proactive with policies that would enhance exploration and production if it hopes to grow the economy and attain global strategic relevance, reports *Obinna Nwodin*.

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Side Bar

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof Joseph Ajiinka, on behalf of the Governing Council wishes the University Community and all Nigerians Happy 53rd Independence Celebration. Congratulations!
-Editor



Late Briggs



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We Will Safeguard UniPort At All Costs, CP Mbu Assures V-C

By Williams Wodi

“We will not joke with the security of lives and property in the University of Port Harcourt and its environs. We will do whatever it may take to battle criminality in the University's host communities and we are going to match our words with action to send a clear signal to all undesirable elements operating in the vicinity that their time is up.” Those were the stern warning of Rivers

State Commissioner of Police, Mr Mbu Joseph Mbu, during a Courtesy Visit on him by the Vice-Chancellor of University of Port Harcourt, Professor Joseph Ajiinka at the State Police Headquarters, Moscow Road, last Wednesday. Mbu, who was flanked by his senior officers during the meeting, expressed sadness that criminal elements could boldly extend their nefarious operations to the University premises, promising them hard times in the days ahead.

“As beneficiaries of good university education, we know the difficulties associated with running such institutions, especially in the Niger Delta environment where insecurity is rife. You cannot attract foreign expertise to enrich your programmes as was the case before insecurity crept into the region. You have dedicated your lives to the propagation of knowledge and deserve special protection to enable you continue the

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Inspiring Students In A Knowledge Society

The whole art of teaching is only the art of awakening the natural curiosity of young minds for the purpose of satisfying it afterwards

JACQUES THIBAUT (1844—1924)

and knowledge, declares the German-born mathematical Physicist and

By Williams Wodi

Nigeria's educational system is wrapped up in a metaphor that elicits laughter at every turn. One thing is clear: uncertainty hangs over the sector like harmattan dust. Selective short-sightedness rules over us when we are compelled to scroll down memory lane in this winter of discontent as to what our educational sector has become. The nation-wide rot appears to manifest most in the comatose educational sector, where role models and inspirational teachers are in very short supply at the moment.

Nigeria boasts of the largest number of educational—especially tertiary institutions in West Africa—with 129 universities! Add the numerous polytechnics, monotechnics and colleges of education to the number and the picture becomes clearer. Yet, what you get is a huge basketful of feathers. We still produce students who are adjudged “unemployable”, deficient in the departments of character and learning; institutions that abysmally low in global rating and teachers that do not inspire students to new horizons of knowledge and imagination.

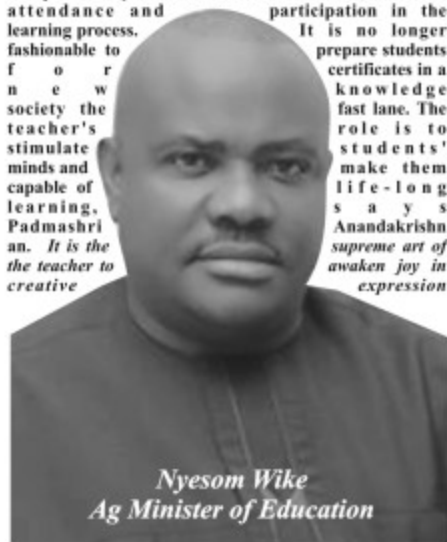
The current *Tom and Jerry* opera between the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) and the Federal Government is about allocation of billions of naira to the educational system for infrastructure and emoluments. Nobody appears to be bothered about effectiveness and efficiency of the teachers, who stand between the students and unimagined horizons as they prepare to face the challenges of a new knowledge society. Translation: we are still throwing money at education, rather than investing in the critical sector that differentiates progressive nations from those groping in the dark.

This age demands teachers, who must undergo regular training that would enable them, bring innovation and inspiration to the classroom and laboratory. In a country that is deficient in bandwidth, multimedia and other learning facilities, teachers are not able to prepare lessons and lecture notes outside the conventional classroom setting. The primary role of the teacher is to question,

evaluate and lead the student to think critically and develop the “can-do spirit” that leads to great adventure and discovery on the learning canvass.

In today's Nigeria, some teachers are increasingly neglecting their traditional role of inspiring students to engage in original thinking. They have, regrettably become mere transmitters of outmoded knowledge that has predictably resulted in lack of interest, low class attendance and participation in the learning process.

fashionable to prepare students certificates in a knowledge fast lane. The role is to students' make them life-long learners. Anandakrishn supreme art of awaken joy in expression



Nyesom Wike
Ag Minister of Education

father of the atomic bomb, Albert Einstein.

Again, teachers must be very passionate about their vacation because teaching is a deliberate choice, not a chance encounter. Certification of teachers would go a long way in stemming the rot that has overrun the hallowed corridors of the academia. Teachers were once hired for their attitude, in addition to a good foundational knowledge. Continuous learning should be made mandatory if we hope to get the best from our teachers, some of who regard the profession as a stopover point to a better career.

A competent teacher must be meticulous in planning, passionate and curious about new knowledge and be ready to prepare students for a voyage of self-discovery through acquisition of modern skills that meet minimum global benchmarks. Teachers must be capable of discharging their sacred mandate, exemplary in conduct, with the right attitude, motivational and display visible leadership qualities that can inspire students, who look up to them.

Learning in today's classroom setting must be by demonstration and examples through real-life situations that involve students at every stop. Administrators must appreciate the fact that great teachers constitute the template of great institutions. Teachers learn as they teach students and relearn when they attend training sessions outside their natural habitats. Teacher assessment is a major motivation for them to train and be effective in and outside the classroom.

To achieve the feat in this critical sector, a university degree should be the minimum qualification for anyone aspiring to read Education. Teachers ought to know more than the rest of us if they hope give leadership and to give of their very best. They also require better incentive to perform the wonders expected of them! Nation-building rests squarely on their shoulders! Teachers must bring back the power of education to the classroom through inspirational instructions.

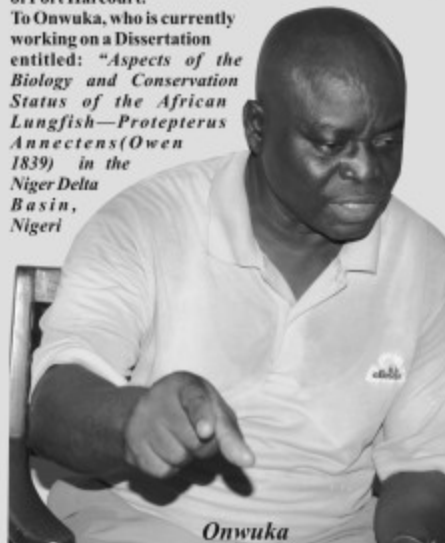
STUDENT WORLD

Onwuka Focuses On Fish Species Conservation

Ways of preventing the African Lungfish (*Protepterus Annectens*) from total extinction is the major concern of Christopher Onwuka, a Doctorate Degree Candidate in the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Faculty of Biological Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences. HUMPHREY OGU spoke to him on his research focus.

The African Lungfish is an endangered species even in its natural habitat. It is the only survivor of the rare and fragile *Lepidoptera* family. This very important source of protein for human beings risks total extinction if nothing is done to ensure its survival and conservation in the increasingly polluted Nigerian waters. Christopher Onwuka, who obtained his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Zoology from the premier University of Ibadan, has risen to the challenge of preserving it in his doctoral research in the University of Port Harcourt.

To Onwuka, who is currently working on a Dissertation entitled: “Aspects of the Biology and Conservation Status of the African Lungfish—*Protepterus Annectens* (Owen 1839) in the Niger Delta Basin, Nigeri



Onwuka

a”, survival of the African Lungfish is a task that must be accomplished. This, according to him, is because “the flesh of the fish is not only very tasty and edible; it is also generally accepted as a protein food source for many consumers.

“Available fish species is not sufficient for consumption in Nigeria, given our increasing population. There is, therefore, an urgent need for accelerated production to meet the protein requirements of the populace and ensure actualization of the Federal Government's food security agenda,” the researcher submitted, adding that the International Commission for the Conservation of Nature (ICCN), has identified the African Lungfish as one of the rare species that is gradually going into extinction.

“Because the species is a very important source of protein, my Dissertation Supervisors, Professor Francis Sikoki of the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Drs Amiye Francis and Silvanus Nwafili of the Department of Animal Science and Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture and my humble self, are jointly working on this important research aimed at understanding the biology of this rare species of fish,” he explained.

“The ultimate focus of the research is to determine the aspects of the biology of the species, namely: food, feeding habits, age and growth, reproductive biology and conservation status. This study is expected to give us a better understanding of how to culture the fish and ensure its availability for consumption,” he pointed out.

Onwuka, who disclosed that he had gone beyond the theoretical aspects of the research, said he is currently gathering vital samples, listing the water basin within the Mbama and Zarama axis and adjoining flood plains in the Niger Delta

region—including Orashi and Sombro Rivers.

Citing lack of funds as a major challenge he encountered in the course of his research, Onwuka regretted that doctoral candidates are no longer given financial support for research purposes as was the case in the past, stating that “research is not a selfish endeavour, but a serious and selfless effort aimed at solving societal problems and advancing the ever-expanding frontiers of human knowledge. The outcome of every research is for the benefit of the University and the country at large.”

He, however, expressed gratitude to Management of the College of Graduate Studies for instituting a scholarship scheme for indigent graduate students, disclosing that he is one of the beneficiaries of the grant. The researcher stressed the need for a scheme to fund researches carried out by doctoral candidates.

According to him, the Fisher Folks he encountered in the field were not willing to cooperate with him, because they believed he would make money from the research and, therefore, asked for their share of the anticipated booty before giving him information.

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This was the main thrust of a *Round Table on Petroleum Exploration, Development and Production*, organized by the O. B. Lulu-Briggs Professorial Chair of Petroleum Geosciences, University of Port Harcourt, held last Tuesday at Hotel Presidential, Port Harcourt.

Participants were in agreement on the importance of passing the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB), currently under legislative scrutiny, into law, noting that the Nigerian Petroleum Industry was facing real threats, which may lead to its total collapse, if the negative indicators were not urgently addressed.

The *Round Table* also identified the alarming level of crude oil theft and pipeline vandalism, as well as depletion of oil and gas reserves, with no major oil discoveries or investments in exploration, as major concerns the national economy, especially against the backdrop of huge oil finds in Ghana, Sierra Leone and the return of Iranian oil to Nigeria's traditional markets in America and Europe.

In a Keynote Address entitled: "Sustaining Investments and Reserves in the Face of Growing Challenges," Executive Director, Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR), Mr George Osahon, stressed the need to urgently grow indigenous capacity to boost oil reserves, assuring all stakeholders that DPR would continue to encourage the growth of indigenous capacities to improve resources.

Mr. Osahon, who was represented by the Head of Strategy and Value Management, Engineer Alfred Ohiani, declared: "Our regulatory framework in the Petroleum Industry needs to be reversed. The current regulation of Nigeria's oil and gas reserves is a major concern to its development and no longer acceptable," stressing the need for a robust regulatory framework for the oil and gas industry in Nigeria to place it at par with what obtains in other oil-producing countries. He identified insecurity in the Niger Delta as a major challenge, commending the efforts of the Federal Government in curtailing the problem through the Amnesty programme.

In his address, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph

Experts Brainstorm On Petroleum Exploration Challenges In Nigeria



Executive Vice-President, Moni Pulo Ltd, Chief (Mrs) Seinye Lulu-Briggs (middle) flanked by V-C, Prof Ajenka, Emeritus Prof Nimi Briggs (right) and other participants

Ajenka, who noted the importance of addressing the challenges facing the Industry, pointed out that, "If we don't discover new reserves, there will be nothing to produce in future". He said that the passage of the PIB is the only way to stimulate the growth of the economy, stressing the need to invest in by-products of the Industry in order to provide employment for the teeming youths in the labour market.

According to him, intellectual resources abound in the universities that could guide policy-makers, stressing that there was need for industry players to collaborate with universities to reap the mutual benefits of such partnerships.

Also speaking, Chairman/Chief Executive, Moni Pulo Limited, High Chief (Dr) Olu Benson Lulu-Briggs, said that the endowment of the Chair was a reflection of the premium the company attached to education and continuous learning, as well as creating lasting synergies between academic research and practical solutions that would enhance the operations of Nigeria and the global Oil and Gas Industry.

Represented by his wife, Chief Seinye Lulu-Briggs, the Chairman said that "the event brought together

constellation of stars in the industry and the academia; each one sharing concepts and perspectives that would hopefully shake up preconceived notions and help proffer new solutions that would open up fresh vistas of sustainability and succession of our industries."

The event also featured plenary session with presentations by the President International Association of Energy Economists and Director, Energy Information Division, Centre for Energy Studies, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, United States, Professor Wunmi Iledare, and President, GWEST, Washington DC, Dr Paul Wihbey, on "Growing Nigerian's Oil Reserves in Challenging Times" and "Security, Oil Theft, Lost Reserves and the New World Energy Order", respectively.

In his remarks, Chair Occupant, Professor Minapuye Odigi, who said that the theme of the *Round Table* provided an opportunity to discuss issues relating to the Oil and Gas industry, said that it focused on contemporary issues in the sector. He said that the outcome of the *Round Table* would go a long way to help Government and other stakeholders address the challenges facing the Industry.

Otaigbe Commissions UDSS Multipurpose Hall, Bows Out In Style

By Otokor Samuel

It was a mixed feeling of nostalgia and a sense of achievement, when Professor John Otaigbe performed his last official function as Chairman, Board of Governors of the University Demonstration Secondary School (UDSS) with the commissioning of a new Multipurpose Hall penultimate Friday.

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony, the outgoing Chairman, who disclosed that he was leaving in high spirit after serving the University as a Council Member representing Congregation, thanked staff and students of the School for their understanding which resulted in the success of his tenure as Board Chairman, promising to continue to identify with the leadership of the School to enable it consolidate on its achievements. He expressed

satisfaction with the total cooperation he received from all stakeholders in the affairs of the Flagship School, declaring: "We came, we saw and we have performed."

In his speech, Director, Personnel Affairs, Mr Roland Wabali, who represented the Registrar on the Board, lauded the leadership style of the outgoing Board Chairman, stating that Professor Otaigbe had distinguished himself through quality and selfless services to the School. "It is one thing to be a Board Chairman and quite another to have leadership qualities needed to successfully execute the mandate in the line of duty. Every good leader knows that it is extremely difficult to reflect the interest of all stakeholders in the system. To strike the right balance is what makes the difference between successful and mediocre leaders. As Chairman, Professor Otaigbe was not interested in the award of contracts and dispensation of favours, but totally committed himself to deliver on his assignment to the admiration of everybody.



Prof Otaigbe cutting the tape, while other Board members clap admiration

He came, got everybody united as one family and the School is doing well as a result. Service delivery has already been initiated in UDSS and things are done with precision," he said.

Also speaking, Principal of the School, Mr Anelo Ogechi, who thanked the outgoing Chairman for his commitment to the growth of the School, showered praises on him for operating an open door policy throughout his tenure as Chairman, adding that his leadership ingenuity brought about peace and good interpersonal relationship among staff, which had a positive impact on teaching and learning.

"We cannot sufficiently describe the good working relationship we had with Professor Otaigbe. He is excellent in his public relations approach; he is so humble and concerned about the welfare and progress of the School. Let me publicly reveal that he invested his entire sitting allowance package on the purchase of four brand new computers for the School. He exhibited exceptional leadership and human relations qualities, I must confess. It is our hearts' desire that he continues to identify with us, even after his glorious tenure as Chairman" Mr Ogechi said.

The Principal, who also commended the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, for his unflinching support, revealed that the School again made a 100 per cent credit pass in the last Senior School Certificate Examination (SSCE). "At the last SSCE, we fielded 108 candidates out of which four had their results withheld. The remaining 104 results had a minimum of five credits, including English Language and Mathematics, while for the JSS3 examination which is now Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE), 210 candidates were fielded, out of which two were referred leaving the School with 99.5 per cent pass rate, which qualifies them for Senior Secondary School One (SSS1) placement," Mr Ogechi, explained, appealing to Management of the University and successful Alumni of the School to assist put up new structures for administrative and residential uses as almost all the structures are now obsolete.

Professor Greg Kemjika, Dr Ben Egbomwan, Messrs Wabali, Jones Ayuwu and Mrs Helen Owbona-Wopara and Fidelis Welerla, were some of the outgoing Board Members present during the commissioning of the Hall.

Stakeholders Propose Climate Change In Curriculum



National President, CON, Prof. Azu (arrowed) flanked by DV-Cs (Academic), Prof. Igbo Joe (right), (Admin), Prof. Nduka, Univ Librarian, Dr. Nwodo (right) and other participants

By Mercy Adeniji

Stakeholders in the educational sector have made a strong case for the inclusion of climate change in Nigeria's school curricula, as a way of keeping students abreast of prevailing environmental realities. This was the main focus of Scholars, who converged in the University for the 26th Annual Conference of the Curriculum Organisation of Nigeria (CON), penultimate Thursday.

Declaring open the event, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiienka, expressed gratitude to the organizers and the founding fathers for their effort in establishing such an important organization, stating that the importance of the event could be measured by the raging debate about the quality of education available to Nigerian students today.

Professor Ajiienka, who was represented by the University Librarian, Dr. Obiageli Nwodo, said the yearning for quality education is a part of the goal to attain global benchmarks in education, announcing that "the University of Port Harcourt is a research-oriented institution with a mandate to be among the top in Africa universities providing ingenious solution to the myriad of problems bedevilling our educational system."

Professor Ajiienka called on all stakeholders involved in curriculum development to include curriculum experts in determining appropriate content for school syllabus to bring Nigerian

students at par with their foreign counterparts.

Delivering the Keynote Address, titled: "Teacher Preparation and Climate Change Curriculum in Nigeria", Professor of Science Education, Mike Maduabum, also commended the organizers of the Conference, stating that the choice of the theme was timely, calling on teachers to make more impact in their classrooms, even as he urged them to strive to research more into the issue of climate change to be in a position to pass it on to their students.

Professor Maduabum noted that "the issue of teacher preparation and climate change curriculum in Nigeria is of contemporary public concern and importance when considered against the background of the fact that teacher education is the foundation of effectiveness and quality in the school system", adding that grasping the environmental phenomenon of climate change was very crucial to human existence and survival. The Keynote Speaker emphasized the need for students to be sensitized on environmental factors such as flood, erosion, pollution and drought among other factors that are so closely linked with human existence and survival. He disclosed that "climate change is a global phenomenon of our time which constitutes serious hazards to lives and property, as well as a retarding factor to infrastructural development and the environment".

Professor Maduabum, who was a one-time Head of Curriculum Studies in Abia State University,

Uturu, noted that "A review of the curricula on climate change and environment shows that the current curricula have failed in equipping students with the necessary values and skills needed to solve environmental problems," disclosing that to address issue of teacher preparation to effectively formulate climate change curriculum in Nigeria, it is necessary to provide a conceptual clarity of the terms at the Conference.

Delivering her welcome address, National President, CON, Professor Akon Esu, said the theme of the event was apt and appropriate in the face of global challenges, stressing the need to address the problem of climate change which has become very persistent globally. "It is important for teachers to be well prepared to educate people young and the old to meet these climate challenges", Professor Esu advocated.

Earlier at a Courtesy Visit, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiienka, told the delegates that Senate of the University has set up a Committee to review the Curriculum offered in various programmes to enable graduates of the University adequately fit into the constantly changing environment. Members of CON thanked Management for its willingness to host the Conference and for their support over the years.

Interim Student Union President, Maxwell

Nyanabo, has appealed to

Senate of the University to ensure

that when the strike action embarked upon by the Academic Staff of Nigerian Universities (ASUU) is eventually called off, the academic calendar should be adjusted to allow students sufficient time to cover their course outline before examinations are set.

Speaking with *UniPort Weekly* last Tuesday, Nyanabo, disclosed willingness of the students to resume academic work after a long stay away from their classrooms, regretting that a lot of casualties have been recorded since the commencement of the strike. "We have not benefited from the strike at all. It is delaying our graduation and mobilization for the National Youth Service Corps", he lamented, urging all interested parties to accelerate action aimed at resolving the strike now in its fourth month.

The student leader, who expressed satisfaction with the progress made towards resolving the industrial action, lauded the constitution of relevant Committees by the Federal Government and its willingness to negotiate directly with ASUU to break the deadlock. "At least, this is an indication that the nationwide protest by students over their continued stay at home is yielding some result for us".

S'Union President Appeals To Senate On Strike

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Noting that the various protests were aimed at drawing the Federal Government and ASUU to the negotiation table to resolve the strike, Nyanabo, appealed to both parties to come to a speedy understanding as the students were eager to resume academic activities, without further delay. "The plea is that while the Federal Government strives to implement the contentious 2009 Agreement that is binding on the Union and Government, ASUU should be flexible enough to shift grounds to accommodate the outcome of the negotiation, at least, for the sake of the students, whose interest they are fighting to protect", he added.

Advising the students to use the strike period to improve themselves, the Interim President noted that rather than engage in unwholesome activities that may endanger their lives, students could learn new skills and engage in businesses that would enable them live meaningful lives on resumption and even after graduation. "It is unhealthy that students should engage in crime as an excuse for idleness, especially graduating students. The protracted strike period should serve as a window of opportunity for them to fine-tune their final year work", he stressed.



Nyanabo

My Experience In UniPort Was Unique And Rewarding ~Rev Francis

By Obinna Nwodin
& Williams Wodi

unique in all respects. "UniPort is a very unique institution. The people, who work here, are really blessed. I advise that people should understand that they are here for service and not to further their personal interests, which is the easiest way to kill an organization. They should be good to one another; because one does not know where one would meet an individual he or she had done good for or evil against. The world is a small place, as they say and there is no hiding place for evil-doers, just as there is no peace for wicked."

Speaking on his memories at the Chaplaincy, Reverend Francis acknowledged that every moment was memorable to him. "Every Sunday, you discover new things about members of the Congregation and forge new relationships that are bound to endure. You also discover that people extended official activities to the Church," he said, regretting that there were persons he could not reach by way of visitation due to circumstances far beyond his ecclesiastical control in the line of duty.

On the nature of challenges encountered during his tour of duty at OSC, Reverend Francis said: "Some members of my Congregation sometimes brought problems encountered in their Units, Departments and Faculties to the Church. For instance, a student, who felt maltreated by a Lecturer, would come to Church and he or she would inexplicably extend such ill-feelings to the Lecturer. The same sad scenario also applied in the case of a Dean, who had misunderstanding with a Head of Department or Lecturer. When they come to Church, you immediately observe them exhibiting a cold attitude towards one another. Such cold war immediately gave them away as harbouring unnecessary grudges against themselves in the office. This was one of the most regrettable situations that I had to contend with as Chaplain, because it was not supposed to be so in the house of God, where we preach love, brotherhood and forgiveness as specified in the Bible. I had to devise ways and means of handling such unchristian attitudes to enable me propagate the gospel of Christ, which was the primary purpose of my being posted to OSC."

The Methodist Church of Nigeria Priest, who said that it was a rare privilege to belong to the University Community and the Chapel, advised staff and students to be dedicated in whatever they do to earn the praises of men and gain a place in heaven on the final day of judgment.

"People should understand that they are here to perform their job schedules without waiting for official commendation for their performances. Only Christ is our measure of merit and not earthly encomiums, which were ego-tripping. In the course of performing their statutory functions, they should endeavour to be polite

and honest at all times. My advice is that people should strive to be the best they can to as many people as they come across and in whatever circumstances they may find themselves, because they do not know where and in what circumstances they may meet those they do good or evil against in future." He also enjoined authorities of the University to rely more on God and endeavour to imbibe the virtues of justice and stand on the right principles to be worthy of the approval of men and the greater glory of God.

On his thoughts about the future of the University, the Chaplain said that he foresees tremendous infrastructural growth in the Institution at the rate things were going as he prepared to take his leave. "In the next five to seven years, this Institution would be a renowned brand name in research and development, including community service" Reverend Francis prophesied.

During his three years sojourn in the Chaplaincy, the outgoing Chaplain disclosed that the Church witnessed tremendous infrastructural development. "I met the Children's Hall nearly completed, which we completed and dedicated to the service of God. I embarked on the construction of the car port, Chaplains house and service quarters which were commissioned to the glory of God, last Sunday by the Archbishop-Elect of the Methodist Diocese of Port Harcourt, Most Reverend Chimezie Nwankpa," he disclosed.

As a Poet, Song Writer and Dramatist, Reverend Francis acknowledged music and stage performance as appropriate media to pass the gospel morals across to the Congregation. "I see them as ways to pass the message across. People would want issues to be illustrated so that they can properly appreciate them. Individuals may understand a sermon better when it is demonstrated or sung than if we concentrate on preaching alone. This makes the Ministry complete in my view."

On the spiritual needs of members, Reverend Francis acknowledged that everyone needs some form of encouragement. "At every point in time, people need some level of comfort and reassurance that there was hope for the future and when you do these things, you would discover that you have solved some of the problems of the people," he said.

A graduate of Abia State University, Uturu, where he obtained the Bachelor of Science degree in Geography, the Reverend Francis, who was born in 1977 at the General Hospital, Port Harcourt, in the apt words of Jones Ayuwo, "aligns with the youth in age, while flowing with the adult in size and deeds." The Man of God, who commenced his missionary service at the Chaplaincy in December, 2010, was treated to a rousing send-forth penultimate Sunday by the Church in appreciation of his verifiable contributions to spiritual and infrastructural growth of the Chaplaincy and high impact in the wider University Community.

Rev Francis, outgoing Chaplain, OSC

After three years tour of duty that was dedicated to spiritual services in the University, out-going Chaplain of Our Saviour's Chapel, (Interdenominational), University of Port Harcourt, the Reverend Kelechi Francis, has described his stay in the University as a very rewarding experience that he would take to other places of service in the vineyard of the Lord.

Speaking exclusively to *UniPort Weekly* in his office penultimate Friday, Reverend Francis, who described the University of Port Harcourt environment as truly unique, noted that it was rewarding and challenging carrying out mission work in the Institution. "My stay in the University of Port Harcourt helped me to develop myself both intellectually and spiritually. There were enormous challenges as the process evolved, but by the grace of God, who led my path to UniPort, these seemingly daunting challenges were handled to His glory and to the credit of the team I was privileged to work with both at the Chapel and in the wider University Community," he stated.

The Chaplain explained that when he was posted to the Church, he already had the orientation that people should be seen and treated the way they are, rather than attempting to bend them to suit one's own way of perceiving things. According to him, people have basic traits and so should be handled the way they are, rather than setting one's own personal standards for them. "I believe that I was sent here for a spiritual purpose. I saw members of the Congregation as a people, who had personal challenges and we could together meet and tackle such challenges, even when they were not strictly spiritual problems" he said.

Reverend Francis observed that the Institution is



Archbishop-Elect of the Methodist Diocese of Port Harcourt, Most Rev Chimezie Nwankpa and other clergymen at a function in OSC

We Will Safeguard UniPort At All Costs, CP Mbu Assures V-C

Cont'd from p1

good work.

"We are willing to establish a new Police Division between Aluu and the University to combat crime in the area, but my men would require accommodation and functional office for maximum efficiency", the Commissioner said, promising to address what he described as the peculiar security situation in the University and its host communities. He, however, stated that the Police would not want to have misunderstanding with students of the UniPort while following the rules of engagement.

Mbu also offered to train UniPort security personnel to enhance their operational efficiency in the line of duty, assuring the University Community that his office would henceforth deal directly with the University, pending when the proposed Divisional Police Station would become fully operational. He added that he was very passionate about the University on account of its increasing visibility on the academic scale and community services.

Earlier, Professor Ajienka had commended the maturity with which the Police handled the crisis that followed the gruesome murder of four students of the University on 5th October, 2012 informing his host that the Federal Government investigated the incident through the National Universities Commission (NUC), which recommended establishment of a strong Police presence in and around the University as a permanent solution to the heightened insecurity in the area.



CP, Mr Mbu Joseph Mbu (1st left), V-C, Prof Ajienka, DV-C (R&D), Prof Bene Willie Abbey and CSO, Mr Isiguzo

"The University is ready and willing to support a new Police Division around the Institution. Daredevil robbers now operate with impunity even inside the Campus. About five of our staff have been kidnapped in recent times, while others were seriously injured by these undesirable elements, who terrorize us every night and sometimes in broad daylight," the Vice-Chancellor lamented, disclosing that he was always worried about the logistic nightmare associated with security of expatriates who frequently visit the University. He added that the resumption of academic activities would pose additional security challenges to the University.

He also offered to train suitably qualified Police personnel in advanced security studies following which they would be conferred with the Master of Business Administration (MBA) of the University to enhance their career mobility.

The Vice-Chancellor also met briefly on the sidelines with parents of the slain UniPort students, who were at the Police Headquarters to drum up support for a proposed Memorial Lecture and Foundation for their wards. Professor Ajienka was accompanied on the visit by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development), Professor Bene Willie Abbey and the Chief Security Officer, Lt. Col. Reginald Isiguzo (rtd).

Flood Scare

Hydrologist Allays Fears

Despite palpable fears of another imminent flood disaster in parts of the country this, following last year's occurrence, a Hydrology and Water Resources expert in the Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Dr Clinton Ezekwe, has sounded it loud and clear that there would be no flood in Nigeria this year.

Ezekwe, who made the assertion in a chat with *UniPort Weekly*, last Tuesday, said: "What happened last year was not unique in history. A similar flood occurred in 1911. The problem we have, as a people, is that we do not have records, and where we have data, we do not use them. Everyone is talking about climate change. There may be some form of evolution in our climatic system, but the last flood is just part of a 100-year cycle. 'We have a 100-year

By Humphrey Ogu

cycle that affects this part of the world. We have a 50-year circle; we have another one of 15 years cycle. After 1911, we had another major flood in 1953. And the reason bridges in Lokoja, for instance, were unable to withstand the last flood was because they were built with the 1953 flood marks, which were lesser floods than the 100-year circle," he said.

"We are going to have this flood again in about 100 years' time. The next flood after the major flood of 1953 was another big one which occurred in 1969 and the next one similar to 1969 flood occurred in the Niger Delta in 1999. That was about 30 years later," Ezekwe pointed out, regretting that Africans prefer Western ideas to indigenous knowledge that could tackle environmental challenges.

His words: "Our elders are a repository of the bulk of the knowledge we need to solve our

problems, rather looking elsewhere for solutions." Citing a research he carried out to ascertain flood history in the Niger Delta, Ezekwe disclosed that he interviewed old men, who told him they had witnessed similar floods in the past.

"They showed me where the flood marks were and I took the marks of the recent flooding events at Abua Local Government Area of Rivers State. Among our traditional societies, floods are categorised. We have ordinary flood that occurs as a result of rainfall, for instance, in Egbema, where I come from, the minor flood is known as *ide*, while a major one from the Niger Delta system is *iju*.

"In my area, the original habitations in the villages were not affected by the 2012 flood, because the old people knew the flood plains and avoided them. Only the new layouts were affected, because the younger generation built their houses on the flood plains," Ezekwe said.

"I also asked Ijaw people how they know when a major flood would occur, an 89 year-old in Amassoma, Bayelsa State told me that they watch the nesting of the weaverbirds, which sensed the flood level long before they occurred. According to him, if the birds sense that the flood would be high, they build their nests higher on the trees. With this, they knew the level of floods that would occur," he noted.

"Even though I am a trained scientific hydrologist, I think we should incorporate traditional hydrology into our studies and investigate into our traditional system. After all, we do not have data and we do not have river-gauging system. What we need to do is to tap into this traditional knowledge and see how it can be standardised," he stated.

"The 2012 flooding has nothing to do with climate change. I wish to disagree with NIMET; I don't know the basis of its prediction and I am not saying that they are wrong. What I am saying is that based on the knowledge of flooding in the Niger Delta, there is a cyclical pattern, which means that you can only talk about climate change in terms of these kind of flooding if we have them more frequently.



Dr Ezekwe

GUIDE POST

RENEWAL OF APPOINTMENT

Dr B.A. Ainde, Department of Pharmacognosy/Phytotherapy, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted *Renewal of Appointment* as Adjunct Associate Professor, effective 27th May, 2013 to 26th May, 2014.

STUDY LEAVE

Mr Samuel Okoro, Bursary Department, granted a one-year *Study Leave with Pay* to enable him undertake a Master's degree programme in International Business Management at Manchester Metropolitan University, England, effective 10th September, 2013 to 16th September, 2014.

CHANGE OF NAME

MISS FELICIA BARIDUANEN SIBE. Former Mrs Felicia Aleema Nodu of the Graduate School of Arts, Education and Social Sciences (GSAESS), College of Graduate Studies, now wishes to be known, called and addressed as Miss Felicia Bariduanen Sibe. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

STOP PRESS

PRELIMINARY BATCH 'C' MASTER LIST

Prospective Batch 'C' Corps Members from the University of Port Harcourt are informed that the preliminary computer print-out of their Master List has been displayed on the Notice Board at the Student Affairs Department. A Memo signed by the Director, Mrs Bridget Nzimiro, directed prospective Corps Members to correct any observed error in their names before the final list is printed, warning that the Department would not entertain complaints of misspelling of names after the exercise.

"Requests for corrections should be made in writing to reach the Director, Student Affairs Department, latest Wednesday, October 2, 2013," the Memo added.

COUNCIL RATIFIES NDUKA'S APPOINTMENT AS DV-C

The Governing Council of the University has ratified the appointment of Professor Ethelbert Nduka as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration). A Letter dated 30th August, 2013 and signed by the Registrar and Secretary to Council, Mrs Matilda Nnodim, stated that the appointment took effect from 27th April, 2013.



Prof Nduka

"I am pleased to inform you that the Governing Council at its 104th Meeting held on Monday, 5th and Tuesday, 6th August, 2013, ratified the recommendation of Senate at its 393rd Meeting held on Wednesday, 24th April, 2013 for your re-appointment as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration)," the letter read in part.

The reappointment, according to the Secretary to Council, which is for a terminal period of two years, takes effect from 27th April, following the expiration of Professor Nduka's first tenure on 26th April, 2013.

The University of Port Harcourt Chapter of International Student Organisation, *Association Internationale des Étudiants des Sciences Économiques et Commerciales* (AIESEC), has disclosed plans to organize a three-day Career Fair in the Institution from 7th to 9th November, 2013.

Vice-President, Logistics, Security and Protocol of the body, Michael Conno, who made the disclosure during an interview with *UniPort Weekly*, last Thursday, said the event is aimed at bringing employers from different companies and prospective employees in informal interactive sessions, where the Captains of Industry would talk to students about available career options on graduation.

Conno stated that due to the on-going strike action embarked upon by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), the Association would invite students to the event through promotional strategies and publicity in the Mass Media, pointing out that most students are on Facebook and other social media through which they could be reached. The Vice-President said: "As part of AIESEC's mission statement, we learn a lot about leadership, project development and how to make events such as the coming Fair a successful one."

AIESEC To Hold Career Fair In UniPort

By Mercy Adeniji

The Association went into partnership with some companies that were willing to enlighten us on what they are doing. We are still doing our marketing and looking forward to hosting about 50 companies. The Vice-Chancellor and other experts are also expected to be on hand to give us talks", he said, adding that the Career Fair would also include an Exhibition for youths to look at what the companies can offer.

"Representatives of the companies would speak to the youths on competencies they need to develop in order to become employable on graduation. These companies are also going to be selected to suit various disciplines in the universities. The second day of the event is the Career Fair proper, during which there would be a screening contest for the best Curriculum Vitae (CV) of job seekers, such as fresh graduates and final year



Conno

Ademuyiwa

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT OBSERVATORY

FORECAST FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2013

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 29 SEPT, 2013	30.0 24.0	84	N	28.8	6:20 6:25	Heavy rain predicted. Mostly cloudy and warm day forecasted.
MONDAY, 30 SEPT, 2013	29.0 24.0	85	N	16.3	6:20 6:24	Thunderstorm forecasted. Mostly cloudy and warm day forecasted.
TUESDAY 01 Oct, 2013	29.0 23.0	77	NE	-	6:19 6:24	Partly sunny and warm day predicted.
WEDNESDAY 02 Oct, 2013	29.0 23.0	77	NE	3.0	6:19 6:23	Widely Scattered Thunder storm expected. Mostly cloudy and warm day predicted
THURSDAY 03 Oct, 2013	30.0 23.0	82	NE	14.1	6:19 6:23	Thunderstorm expected. Mostly cloudy and warm day forecasted.
FRIDAY 04 Oct, 2013	29.0 22.0	83	N	15.3	6:19 6:22	Thunderstorm expected. Mostly cloudy and warm day forecasted
SATURDAY 05 Oct, 2013	30.0 23.0	80	N	7.8	6:19 6:22	Thunderstorm expected early. Mostly cloudy and warm day predicted.

NWABUFO SANDRA
OFFICER IN CHARGE

PROF SAMUEL AROKOYU
DIRECTOR, (CDRMDS)

students, while the third day would witness a *Youth 2 Business (Y2B) Forum*, where successful entrepreneurs would talk to the youths on their business ideas, challenges they may face and how such problems would be handled," he said.

In their contributions, team member, Logistics, Security and Protocol, Ibienbo Davies and President, Organizing Committee, Badejo Ademuyiwa, revealed that the Association is partnering four Human Resource Firms to achieve the aims and objectives of the proposed Fair. They expressed gratitude to Management of the University for its immense support for AIESEC programmes in the University.

Visit To Kalabari Monarch

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiinka, led a team of Senior Officers of the University on a courtesy visit on the Amayanabo of Kalabari Kingdom, King (Professor) Theophilus Princewill in his Palace at Buguma on Tuesday, 10th September, 2013. The Monarch pledged to endow a Professional Chair in Microbiology. Pictures taken by **MITCHELL EBI-EKIYOR** capture highlights of the visit.



DV-C, (R&D), Prof Bene Willie Abbey and V-C, Prof Ajiinka



A view of members of the Amayanabo's cabinet waiting for the Monarch in his Palace



Amayanabo of Kalabari Kingdom, King (Professor) Princewill, CON

V-C, Prof Ajiinka (standing) addressing the Amayanabo-in-Council



Head, Department of Music (standing), Prof Onyee Nwankpa, reading his address



A member of the Cabinet, Chief Omba Clinton Odibo Tom Big-Harry making a speech



Dr Charles Jenewari making introductory remarks



Prof Willie Abbey (in blue) making a speech



V-C, Prof Ajiinka (4th from right), Amayanabo and members of his cabinet



Prof Ajiinka exchanging pleasantries with one of the Chiefs



Senior Officers of the University and the Monarch