



New Choba DPO Seeks UniPort Support

The new Divisional Police Officer (DPO) deployed to the Choba Divisional Police Headquarters, Mrs Philo Dan-Azubiike, a Superintendent of Police (SP) has solicited support from authorities of the University towards curbing crime and insecurity in the area, reports *Ethel Timi-Johnson*.

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Side Bar

Stakeholders performed Top-Up Ceremony for the ongoing CBN Centre for Excellence Building in UniPort last Thursday. Details next week.

~Editor



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Prof Onyebuchi Chukwu
Health Minister



The Ebola Virus

Steps To Prevent Ebola In UniPort

By Williams Wodi

Following the death of Mr Patrick Sawyer, a Liberian Diplomat of the deadly Ebola virus on July 25, the fear of the dreaded Ebola virus has gripped the entire country. People who flew with the late Liberian citizen in the Lagos-bound flight and Doctors who treated him in a private hospital in Lagos are now on the watch list of disease survey experts.

Already, the Federal Ministry of Health has confirmed that a female Doctor, among eight caregivers, who treated Mr. Sawyer, has tested positive to the deadly virus, while eight others who had "primary"

contact with the late Diplomat are all showing signs of fever—which is an early warning signal about the prevalence of Ebola in humans. The sheer scale of the Ebola scourge was finally brought home last Tuesday, when a Nurse became the first Nigerian to die of the disease in Lagos, sparking off heightened fears of a rising death toll from the pandemic.

So far, the World Health Organization (WHO), has confirmed 887 deaths arising from the virus, which has no known cure so far. The emergence of a second case of an Ebola victim has raised serious concerns about the infection control measures that were used in the treatment of Mr.

Sawyer at that private hospital. There is palpable fear that more cases of the pandemic may emerge to exert a high toll on Nigerian citizens.

It could take up to 21 days after exposure for symptoms to show in infected persons. Such symptoms include fever, weakness, vomiting, diarrhoea, bleeding, sore throat, muscle pains and headache. In most patients, more debilitating symptoms appear as the ailment progresses through the body, impairing kidney and liver functions. According to experts, the disease causes viral hemorrhagic fever, which refers to a group of viruses that affect

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Revisiting Second Strategic Plan Document

By Obinna Nwodin

A 154th Meeting held penultimate Wednesday, Senate of the University of Port Harcourt adopted the 2014-2019 Strategic Plan document presented to it by the Committee set up for that purpose. The Report which was presented by Chairman of the Committee and Acting Executive Director of the University of Port Harcourt Foundation, Dr. Ngezi Odu, consolidates the pathway for the development of the University in the next five years. This is a welcome development taking a cue from the first Strategic Plan developed in 2004 by the administration of Professor Nimi Briggs, as he then was.

When the Committee was set up, it was saddled with the responsibility of developing a Strategic Plan for the University for the next five years; formulating a vision statement incorporating objectives and strategies for actualizing that vision; conceptualizing a future for the University in a continually changing environment; determining the stakeholders and how their interest, support and commitment can be enlisted and retained. Months after the Committee was set up, the University now has a working medium-term document to guide its development direction in the next five years.

There is no gainsaying the fact that in the present competitive environment where the quest for knowledge has become a priority, particularly with the emergent changes in the environment and the realities of globalization, the development of a Strategic Plan to provide the University with a functional road-map for achieving the vision set for its accelerated development cannot be overemphasized. A Strategic Plan as this is indicative that the Institution knows what it wants, where it should be and how it can get there and so when an institution such as the University of Port Harcourt envisions to be ranked among the best universities in the world renowned for its teaching, research, innovation, creativity, productivity, entrepreneurship and scholarship, the Strategic Plan that was recently unfolded before Senate, provides the institutional framework to achieve such an ambitious vision.

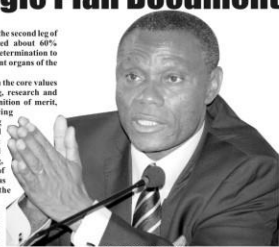
The success of the First Strategic Plan of the University gives an impetus that would drive the University to the

attainment of its vision in implementing the second leg of the Plan. That the First Plan recorded about 60% implementation rate, shows a marked determination to achieve the items documented by relevant organs of the University.

The 2nd Strategic Plan which is hinged on the core values of sustenance of excellence in teaching, research and public engagement; reward and recognition of merit, creativity and innovation; embracing differences and diversity; promoting cross-cultural and cross-national understanding has four broad goals, viz: university governance/financial management; excellence in teaching, learning and research; upgrading of infrastructure and utilities, as well as strengthening the engagement of the University with stakeholders.

In the midst of dwindling resources to run the system, the Plan recommends that every unit of the University should be structured to generate revenue, broaden the funding sources for the University through investments, improvement in the quality of teaching, learning and research, improvement in the international outlook of the University; expanding the facilities in teaching and research to meet global best practices; provision of uninterrupted power and water supply; improvement in the road network and access to all units; building an enabling environment/partnership; increasing participation of stakeholders, engaging national and international standards organizations to attain ISO Certification, encouraging alumni association by developing relevant programmes, amongst others.

The Strategic Plan charts the future for the University in making it a Centre of Excellence with quality research and innovations. It comes at an important time than now when the current administration led by Professor Joseph Ajenka is consolidating on its entrepreneurial vision and seeking increased partnership with industry, agencies and organizations. Nobody or organization would want to do anything with any institution that does



Prof Ajenka, V-C

not have clear-cut objectives and focus. The Strategic Plan document keeps the University in focus. Already, members of Senate have been advised to go through the document and make their inputs on how to strengthen the new document before the final blueprint is produced.

As 5th Vice-Chancellor of the University and initiator of the Strategic Plan, Professor Briggs, remarked at the presentation, the ultimate aim of putting the document together was to secure the future of the University. It shows that our University has a future, irrespective of which administration is on the saddle at any point in time. It is in this regard that we call on all stakeholders to support the realization of this plan.

There is no doubt that the five-year medium term plan, if carefully implemented, would give the University of Port Harcourt a huge leap forward in its quest to be ranked as one of the best in the comity of universities in Nigeria and the world.

Law Faculty To Commence Sept 2015

Known for its uniqueness, the University of Port Harcourt and the emergent Law Faculty is poised to rebrand the legal profession in Nigeria by producing unique graduates who will compete favourably with their counterparts within and outside the country. In this Interview with Dean of the Faculty, Professor Kanije Ebeku, Correspondent, ETHEL TIMI-JOHNSON highlights the unique features of the new Faculty.



Prof Ebeku, Dean

With an initial take-off staff strength of 15 academics, including two Professors, the new Law Faculty of the University of Port Harcourt, which will hopefully resume Postgraduate and Undergraduate academic activities in the 2015/2016 academic year according to the Dean, Professor Kanije Ebeku, is only awaiting formal approval by the National Universities Commission (NUC) and the Council for Legal Education (CLE) to commence full academic activities.

While it is currently partnering the College of

Continuing Education (CCE) to run a Diploma programme, as a test case, the new Faculty of Law will also make provision for direct entry option to interested applicants when it becomes fully operational in September next year. The Dean disclosed plans to distinguish the Law Faculty through provision of quality legal training for students that would stand them out in legal practice and in the larger society. "We propose to distinguish ourselves from other Law Faculties in the country by seeking to specialize in Oil and Gas Law and Environmental/Energy Law. Where as these options are considered as Elective Courses in other universities, they will be major Law Courses and a prerequisite for graduation in the University of Port Harcourt Law Faculty," Professor Ebeku said.

He pointed out that the proposal is based on the priority attached to the University as a Centre of Excellence in Oil, Gas and Environmental Studies in the Niger Delta and Nigeria at large. As part of his innovative ideas, Professor Ebeku hopes to partner outstanding legal practitioners, related industries and relevant organizations, both local and international to achieve his lofty dreams for the emergent Law Faculty. On staff development, the Dean disclosed that staff would be encouraged to pursue continued legal education as a policy, promising exchange and linkage programmes for students. He added that the Faculty was considering a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of Dundee, United Kingdom, on exchange of students and staff on a semester basis.

Just like the famous Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS UniPort), the Dean has disclosed that he is determined to carve a niche for the emergent Law School. "It will be known for academic excellence as we hope to provide the right training and produce the right graduates for the country. We are poised to train students, who are well-groomed for the legal profession and who can distinguish themselves from others on graduation," he promised.

In accordance with NUC rules on Law programmes, candidates who come through the University Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) will spend five years in School before proceeding to the Law School for the mandatory one-year professional training, while Direct Entry candidates will spend a maximum of four years on the programme.

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DPO Seeks UniPort Support

Dan-Azubiike who made the plea during a courtesy visit to the Vice-Chancellor in the Committee Room, penultimate Friday, described the fight against criminal activities as a collective effort. She observed that the visit was aimed at strategizing measures to tackle security challenges within the University and its environs. "I wish to solicit help from the University to make police patrol effective so that we can eradicate crime. Whatever affects the University affects me too. So I have come to

rub minds with the University on how to achieve a crime-free environment," she added. Reassuring the new DPO of the University's commitment and willingness to partner the Choba Police Station, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Ndaka who informed her of the University's cordial relationship with her predecessors since 2003, expressed the Institution's desire to improve the level of the institutional relationship. He stressed the need for enhanced collaborative

efforts between the University and the Nigeria Police in view of recent security concerns within the Institution and the country at large. "A good number of our students and staff live within Choba and other neighbouring communities, so we are willing to work with you to ensure safety of lives and property," Professor Ndaka remarked.

Also speaking, Assistant Chief Security Officer, Johnny Ogbonnaya who commended the new DPO for her zeal towards crime control, promised that the Security Department would work closely with her team to ensure adequate security. The new DPO was accompanied to the University by the Divisional Crime Officer II, Godwin Onyemucheyia, Administrative Officer, Beinmozi Kpe and Corporal, Gloria Georgewill.



5th from right, New DPO, SP Dan-Azubiike, DVC (Admin) Prof Ndaka (3rd right), some Police Officers and staff of the University

CGS Introduces New NUC Courses

...Tasks Depts On Prompt Completion Of Programmes

The College of Graduate Studies (CGS) has introduced two new Courses for students on the Masters Degree programme. The new Courses which commenced from the present academic session are in compliance with the directive of the National Universities Commission (NUC). The Courses are *CGS 801.1-ICT & Research Method* and *CGS 802.1-Management & Entrepreneurship*.

Also, worried by cases of delay in completion of programmes, the College has sounded its loud and clear that its policy regulating duration of programmes would take effect from the next academic session.

Provost of the College, Professor Roseline Konya, who made the disclosure to *UniPort Weekly* in her office last Monday, said the decision to commence full implementation of the policy regulating overstay on programme was part of the resolutions taken at the 210th Meeting of the Board of the College. She conveyed these resolutions to Departments running Graduate Programmes in a meeting with Heads of Department at the Seminar Room of the College on Wednesday, 23rd July, 2014.

"Heads of Department were informed that the *Overstay Policy* which took effect in the 2011/2012 academic session was considered expedient in order to allow students who have overstayed their residency to complete their programmes. In essence, two extra years were added to the approved duration of programmes. However, extensions have been made twice on compassionate grounds," Professor Konya said, adding that "The Board of the

By Otikor Samuel

College at its 208th Meeting held on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 approved the last extension which will terminate at the end of the First Semester of 2013/2014 session in September."

The Provost frowned at complaints that Graduate Students in some Departments spend more than four years for Postgraduate Diploma and Master Degree programmes, which ordinarily should have taken not more than two years to complete, advising affected Departments to comply with the new policy by ensuring that diligent students complete their programmes within the stipulated period of study.

Senate of the University and making them public for the students to know their academic status at the right time, adding that henceforth, soft copies of Theses/Dissertations should accompany the hard copies during submission at the College to ease the process of monitoring plagiarism.

Professor Konya also disclosed that the sale of application form for the 2014/2015 which is being processed would start this August, requesting prospective candidates to visit the website of the College at www.uniport.edu.ng for detailed information about programmes available and application procedures.

She also emphasized the need for Heads of

Department to promptly submit their Semester results for approval by



Provost, CGS, Prof Konya (2nd right front row) flanked by some Deans of College of Graduate Studies and College Secretary, Dr Agatha Ataga (1st right) and other participants at the meeting

Petro-Drill Sensitises UniPort Students On Career

By Humphrey Ogu

In a bid to curb the challenges facing young Nigerian graduates in securing jobs, Petro-Drill Global Concepts, recently mounted a sensitization workshop for Students of the University on the need to acquire professional qualifications to enhance their chances of securing employment in the oil and gas industry.

Presenting a seminar on career in the oil and gas industry at Ebitimi Banjo Auditorium last Tuesday, Senior Instructor, Petro-Drill Global Concepts, Mr Frank Abade, described his firm as an International Oil and Gas Consulting firm, which was in the University to bridge the gap that existed between Nigerian graduates and securing employment in the hydrocarbon industry.

"In the Oil and Gas industry, we have a lot of certifications. University degrees alone are not enough to guarantee you job opportunities in certain parts of the industry these days. You need professional certifications. Petro-Drill is affiliated to some of the international certification bodies in Oil and Gas, including International Well Control Forum (IWCF) and International Association of Drilling Contractors (IADC) accredited courses," he pointed out, urging students to look beyond their degrees for answers to the unemployment problem in Nigeria today.

Abade, who is an alumnus of the University, also enlightened the audience on the organizational structure of and different aspects of oil and gas



Prof Ogali (arrowed), representatives of Petro-Drill Global Concepts & UniPort students

drilling processes in the industry, disclosing that opportunities abounded for graduates of Engineering and Sciences who had the right competence.

In his contribution, Co-ordinator of Petro-Drill Nigeria/US, Mr Stanley Samuel, listed different professional courses available at Petro-Drill, stressing the need for students to seek professional certifications to enable them secure jobs with ease on graduation.

Also speaking at the event which featured an interactive session, Director of Students-in-Work-Experience Scheme (SIWES) in the University, Professor Regina Ogali, thanked the representatives

of Petro-Drill for mounting the Workshop in UniPort, stating that the company's objective of providing industrial experience is in line with the vision of SIWES, which was established to provide students with hands-on experience.

An aptitude test, which was administered on the students drawn from Third, Fourth and Fifth Year Students of the Colleges of Engineering and Natural and Applied Sciences by Petro-Drill, selected two best candidates for full scholarships on the firm's Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) I, II, and III, while others who performed well would enjoy 25 per cent discount in courses run by Petro-Drill.

Ekpenyong Emerges New SSC President

By Mercy Adeniji

Senior Lecturer in the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Dr Otu Ekpenyong, has emerged as new President of the Senior Staff Club (SSC) in a keenly-contested election held at the Club premises in Delta Park, last Tuesday.

Dr Ekpenyong polled 225 votes out of a total of 376 eligible votes cast for the

Presidential Candidates, to defeat his closest rival, Mr Ekanem Ekanem. Also Mrs. Ngozi Igwe, was elected as Vice-President with 221 votes, beating her two co-contestants, who got 107 and 47 votes respectively, while Ogha Amabebe was returned unopposed as Secretary. Other members who were elected are Mr Eleazar Ogbegbe, Assistant Secretary, Mr. Ovunda Ihunwo, Social Secretary, Mr. Peter Edozien, Sports Secretary, Mrs. Nkechi Bature-Uzor, Treasurer, while Financial Secretary Mr. Godpower Nwile and Bar Secretary Mr Gbaramwe Waribor were also returned unopposed.

Speaking to UniPort Weekly after the election, the new President, Dr. Ekpenyong, disclosed that he felt highly elated and honoured with his victory to lead the Club as President. "This is an environment where people do not take things for granted. I respect this environment very much as all Teaching and Senior Non-Teaching Staff are members of the Club and deserve their due respect and commensurate services.

As a matter of fact, everybody has his or her own pattern of administration, so I will marshal out my own style of administration to ensure that everyone comes together to achieve the purpose for which the Club was established by its founding fathers. My main focus in the Club will be to upgrade standards in terms of facilities and other social activities, so as to meet up with the standard of other International Clubs," he noted, expressing gratitude to members of the Club for the confidence reposed

in him and members of his team to lead them.

He assured them that he would deliver on his campaign promises to take the Club to greater heights, appealing to his fellow contestant to feel free to come around to discuss with him on how to move the Club forward, rather than abandoning everything to him to run because he defeated them at the polls.

Also speaking, immediate past President of the Club, Professor Tamunobelema Orunaboka said he was the happiest person to have served nearly five years in that capacity, congratulating Dr Ekpenyong for emerging as President to take over the mantle of leadership of the Club from him.

Professor Orunaboka described the election as free and fair, noting that if Nigerians can conduct such an election as the one done at the Club; the country would be a better place. He expressed gratitude to members of the Club and everyone for giving him and his team all the support they needed throughout his tenure, urging them to extend the same support to his successor.

"My advice to my successor and his new Executive is that they need to be patient with the people here. The Club is not managed like other places; we have elders and other senior colleagues, who need to be treated with some measure of reverence to retain their patronage and wise counsel.

In his contribution, Chairman of the Electoral Committee, Professor Frank Ugimoh, described the election as a free and fair exercise, expressing delight with the outcome of the election. He thanked his Electoral Committee for working hand-in-hand to achieve a result that was not disputed by any contestant.



Dr Ekpenyong, New SSC President

New Dean Outlines Vision For Humanities

By Mercy Adeniji

New Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor John Enemugwem, has promised to take the Faculty to loftier heights during his tenure. The newly-elected Dean recently took over from Professor Ozo-mekuri Ndimole, who successfully ran the Faculty for two tenures.

Speaking with *UniPort Weekly* in his office on his own vision for the Faculty, penultimate Thursday, Professor Enemugwem promised to give his best to take the Faculty to the next level of accelerated development. "I want to create a vibrant academic environment and culture for the Faculty, integrate my wealth of experience nationally and internationally in the administration of the Faculty, effect positive changes in running its affairs and also unite all members of the Faculty into a harmonious academic family for the attainment of our core mandate of research, teaching and community engagement."

The new dean, who was a former Chairman, Faculty Research and Publications Committee, further revealed that following his electioneering promises, he would use his position as Dean to mentor the younger academics in the Faculty, promote fairness and justice in matters of appointments and promotions, create peaceful co-existence amongst staff and students, promote integrity and honesty in the administration of the Faculty, as well as reward staff for positive and outstanding performances.

To ensure that a vibrant academic environment and culture is maintained, the Dean promised to ensure that all the Departments in the Faculty hold regular Departmental Seminar Series, pledging that academic staff of the Faculty would be encouraged to write papers and present same to the Departmental

Seminar Committee before they would be sent out for publication to avoid any form of plagiarism, stressing that before the Departmental Seminar commences, "I would call on the Information and Communication Technology Centre (ICTC) to conduct a workshop for the Faculty on the *Turn-it-in Software* of the University in line with global best practices. When Departments are solid on scholarship, their reputation would also be well-known around the world," he said.

Professor Enemugwem who was also a one-time Head of Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, expressed optimism that while in office, he intended to ensure that each Department would establish a Departmental Scholarly Journal. "Since we already have a Faculty Journal known as *Kiabara*, I would ensure that all the Departments in the Faculty publish their own journals as a way of disseminating their research findings," he said, recalling that "At the moment, there are some Departments that already have such journals, but I would encourage other Departments to also publish, then we would strengthen these journals."

"I am also setting up a Committee to look into areas of international conferences; research and publication, to enable us eradicate fake publications. I want to ensure that most academic staff in the Faculty publish in flagship journals within and outside Nigeria to attract attention to the University," Professor Enemugwem noted.

Speaking on the new collegiate status of the Faculty, Professor Enemugwem stated it as a welcome development, stating that when the Faculty becomes a College, it would have two Faculties: Faculty of Creative Arts and Faculty of Arts, which is a way of advancing academic activities in the emergent College of Humanities.

The new Dean expressed gratitude to his predecessor, Professor Ndimole for what he described as his numerous achievements, describing him as a highly



Prof Enemugwem, Dean, Faculty of Humanities

focused academic and administrator, who had taken the Faculty to another level. "My predecessor was focused and his greatest achievement was attracting a new Faculty building for us through the benevolence of his Excellency, Rt. Honourable Rotimi Amaechi. As the building is almost attaining ninety per cent completion rate, we would use it to remember him for his goodwill and hard work," he noted, promising that he would continue from where his predecessor stopped by ensuring that all he promised in his campaign manifesto is fully implemented to justify the confidence reposed in him by his colleagues who voted for him at the last Deanship election.

Visiting Scholar Blames Criminality On Poor Social Justice System

By Obinna Nwodin

Lecturer in Criminology and Socio-Legal Studies in the University of Alberta, Canada, Nigerian-born Dr Temitope Oriola, has blamed the rising cases of criminality in the Nigerian society on the absence of a functional social justice system in the country.

Dr Oriola made the assertion while speaking as Guest Lecturer at a Public Lecture organised by the Institute of Niger Delta Studies, University of Port Harcourt, which held at the International Students' Centre Conference Hall, last Wednesday.

The Guest Lecturer, whose paper was titled, "*Criminal Resistance and Police Violence in an Age of Protest: Implications for Sociology of Crime*," said that the responsibility was on the State to evolve programmes and policies that would make life comfortable for the citizenry, noting that crime and protest were closely

related.

He also stressed the need for experts to refrain from dwelling on historical analysis of criminology, adding that it was important to embed analysis of crime in its wider socio-economic and political contexts.

Dr Oriola also said that widening social inequality produced similar consequences in the global South that is characterized by acute poverty and North that is characterized by affluence, advising nation-states to justify their relevance to the lives of the citizenry by providing them the enabling environment to lead a good life and become law-abiding.

The Guest Lecturer, who gave an overview of his research activities, drew an analogy from the Canadian Police, drew an analogy from the Canadian Police and the legitimization of the Conducted Energy Device (CEDs) method in fighting crime. He said that over seventy per cent of Canadians had confidence in any action taken by the Police in tackling crime, stressing that "new policing

technologies are believed to represent progress mitigating risks."

In his speech, Chairman of the occasion, Emeritus Professor Ebhegheri Alagosa, said that it was necessary for scholars in the Diaspora, who have the resources to take a bold step in coming back home to share their knowledge with scholars and policy-makers with a view to building a better society. He described the Guest Lecturer as a knowledgeable expert, who has done so much to study issues that are related to the Niger Delta.

In his welcome address, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, who was represented by the Director of Special Projects, Professor Matthew Wegwu, described the title of the Lecture as apt, pointing out that the world is currently characterized by crises and that the best way to solve a problem was to tackle it from its source. Wegwu, who is also the Head of Department of Biochemistry in the Faculty of Chemical Sciences, also stressed the need to pay close attention to the plight of law enforcement agencies in order to get the best out of their services to the nation.

In his remarks, Director of the Institute, Professor Abi Derefaka, said that the Lecture was the beginning of a future partnership between the Universities of Port Harcourt and Alberta in areas of mutual benefit, encouraging other Diaspora Scholars to follow the good example of Dr Oriola by making their presence felt back home.

The event, which featured a question and answer session, included the presentation of Dr Oriola's book titled, *Criminal Resistance: The Politics of Kidnapping Oil Workers*, to enhance research at the Institute.



Emeritus Prof Alagosa (arrowed) flanked to his left by Dr Oriola, Prof Wegwu and other Officials of the University after the Lecture

Steps To Prevent Ebola

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Dr Ken Anugweje, Director, Health Services Dept

multiple organ systems in the body and are often, accompanied by external and internal bleeding.

Nigeria is the fourth country to report Ebola cases after Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone, where most of the deaths have occurred. According to the Federal Ministry of Health, 70 people, who had exposure to the dead Liberian man, have been put under surveillance, while eight have already been quarantined.

The United States Government is sending 50 health experts to help combat the outbreak in West Africa, while over \$200 billion has also been voted to fight the Ebola virus in the region.

While the epidemiology of the deadly disease remains a matter of conjecture, some clues have emerged in respect of how Nigerians can protect themselves from contracting the virus that has so far killed close to eight hundred people in the West African sub-region alone. For instance, we now know that the suspected reservoirs for Ebola are fruit bats, while transmission to humans is thought to originate from infected bats or primates that have become infected by bats.

A statement issued by the US State Department and a Non-Governmental Organization known as Septate, disclosed that underskipped infected bat and primate (bats) must transmit the virus to humans.

The statement further added that a human-to-human transmission is only achieved by physical contact with a person who is acutely and gravely ill from the Ebola virus or their bodily fluids. Transmission among humans

is almost exclusively among caregiver family members or healthcare workers tending to the very ill.

The virus is easily killed by contact with soap, bleach, sunlight, or drying. A washing machine will kill the virus in clothing saturated with infected body fluids.

A person can incubate the virus without symptoms for 2-21 days, the average being 5-8 days before becoming ill. THEY ARE NOT CONTAGIOUS until they are acutely ill.

Only when victims are ill does the viral load express itself first in the blood and then in other bodily fluids (to include vomit, faeces, urine, breast milk, semen and sweat).

People cannot contract Ebola through handling items, buying food, sharing common facilities.

The good news is that there is no medical reason to stop flights, close borders, restrict travel or close embassies, businesses or schools.

Members of the University Community are advised to always practise good hand washing techniques, stop spitting in public, and avoid overcrowded places. People will not contract Ebola if they do not touch a dying person.

Director of the US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr Tom Frieden, described the current trend as the biggest and most complex Ebola outbreak in history, pointing out that even in the best-case scenario, it could take three to six months to stem the epidemic in West Africa.

The virus has no known cure so far, except for Doctors to support organ functions of infected persons and keep up their bodily fluids such as blood and water long enough for the body to fight off the infection.

Edward Imo may not have attained the towering status of ace comedians such as Ali Baba, Yibo Koko, Michael Ogbolosinga, I Go die, Basket Mouth and Julius Agwu, but he has, nonetheless, quietly carved out a niche for himself in the entertainment industry, using the theatre as his template. Call him a dramatist, actor, comedian or *compere* and you will be addressing this multi-talented artist correctly.

As a Thespian of note, Imo, who has featured in several stage plays, also starred in such home movies as *Seven Graves for the King*, directed by Chika Onu and *Lost Focus* directed by Mike Ogunola. As a dramatist, Imo had also written a play titled *Quagmire* in addition to successfully adapting two of Elechi Amadi's novels: *The Concubine* and *The Great Ponds* to stage performances to the delight of the novelist and esthetic audiences. The famous novelist had in an interview with *UniPort Weekly* hailed Imo on the stage adaptation of his novels. Praises are not easy to come from a writer of Elechi Amadi's standing.

Imo, who currently teaches *Theatre of the Absurd*, *Comic Spirit*, and *Elements of Drama* among other courses, in the Department of Theatre and Film Studies in the University, has also produced a rib-cracking album of audio comedy titled: *Uchididi Imo* in his native language, Ekpeye, which means laughter in English.

In his doctoral research, Imo who earlier obtained his BA and MA degrees in Theatre Arts, studied contents and forms in the comic arts of some Nigerian Stand-Up Comedians, culminating in a Doctoral Dissertation titled: *A Critical Analysis of the Content and Form of the Works of Select Nigerian Stand-Up Comedians*, supervised by the Director of the Institute of Arts and Culture, Professor Julie Okoh, whom he said provided

We Need To Professionalise Stand-Up Comedy ~Imo

As Stand-Up Comedy continues to develop into a very robust enterprise in Nigeria, a Lecturer in the Department of Theatre and Film Studies, Faculty of Humanities, Edward Imo, who defended his Doctoral Dissertation recently, has called for professionalisation of the trade to standardise its practice. He spoke to HUMPHREY YOGU:

all necessary assistance, especially in the area of marketing.

Disclosing that the idea of the research into comic tradition in Nigeria, with emphasis on Stand-Up and Clowns came from Professor Emmanuel Emeasali, Imo explained that the focus of the Dissertation was to look out for the thematic preoccupation of the jokes, which is the content and the presentation—the form. "I was motivated by the fact that Stand-Up Comedy has become a huge enterprise, because it puts food on the tables of many Nigerians and brings fame to the practitioners.

"I look at the huge economic potentials of Stand-Up Comedy, in terms of engaging youths, thereby turning them away from social vices as a result of lack of job opportunities. We have a major source of employment in Stand-Up Comedy today. I also looked at the political import of satire, which is a major ingredient in the making of Stand-Up Comedy," the dramatic scholar explained.

The practice can only be controlled if there is a properly constituted Guild to regulate activities in the industry through quality assurance and control."

He also advised parents to encourage their children who are talent and may wish to take up careers in theatre arts, Stand-Up Comedy and other forms of entertainment to do so, recalling that most of the popular artists, who received rebuke from their parents at the beginning of their career, provide financial support to their families today.

Imo noted that his main challenges on the research project, was paucity of research materials and access to some of the established Stand-Up Comedians such as Ali Baba, I Go Die, Julius Agwu, Basket Mouth, amongst others. He, however, urged younger colleagues not to be deterred by challenges associated with delving into virgin areas of research,

stating that they should be determined and focussed. "After all, the essence of research is to break new grounds," he told *UniPort Correspondent*.



Imo

THE NIGERIA POLICE

Security Tips Against Terrorism

In view of the current security and terrorist threats in some parts of our country, the Nigeria Police Force is calling on the citizens to stay vigilant and join hands with the security agencies in making Nigeria a safer place.

- Corporate citizens, high-end commercial and residential establishments, institutions, mega churches/mosques and individuals with valuable assets, including hotel and park owners are encouraged to install Closed Circuit Televisions (CCTVs) and other surveillance systems strategically on their premises to help in monitoring and capturing criminal activities.

- Draw the attention of the Police or other security agencies to vehicles parked or abandoned by unknown persons.

- Empty containers, gas cylinders, dustbins and other receptacles not in use must be properly disposed of or kept away from the reach of unauthorized persons.

- Do not allow unknown persons to drop or abandon bags, boxes, fruit barrows or trolleys, articles of trade, cartons or any wrapped or sealed containers around your premises.

Imo, whose major research interest is dramatic theory and criticism, stressed the importance of professionalising Stand-Up Comedy, stating that it should be considered as a major area of specialisation in Nigerian universities. "It should be studied as a vocation because of its contribution to the socio-economic, socio-cultural and socio-political growth of the country," he said.

The ace *Compere*, whose doctoral research in Stand-Up Comedy is the second known in Nigeria beside the one by Izu Nwankwo of the University of Ibadan, emphasised the importance of creating a Guild of Stand-Up Comedians to regulate its practice, pointing out that "the absence of such a Guild makes Stand-Up Comedy an all-comers' affair.

GUIDE POST

APPOINTMENT

Professor G.C. Obute, Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, appointed *Director, Regional Centre for Biotechnology* (Biofuel Research Laboratory), effective August 12, 2014 to August 15, 2016.

Professor O.G. Kemjika, Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, appointed Head of Department. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect, terminates on July 18, 2016.

**The initial error is highly regretted. Editor*

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Professor Alexis Monsi, Department of Animal Science and Fisheries, granted a one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective December 3, 2014 to December, 2015.

STUDY LEAVE WITH PAY

Mr Lebari Nwida, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, granted *Study Leave with Pay* to pursue a Master's Degree Programme in Rural Science and Development at the Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, effective February 3, 2014 to February 2, 2016.

Mr Rotimi Samuel Ogunsakin, Faculty of Physical Science and Information Technology, granted *Study Leave with Pay* to pursue a Master's Degree programme in Advanced Computer Science at the University of Manchester, United Kingdom, effective August 1, 2014 to December 31st, 2015.

REVIEW OF STATUS

Mr Sunday Edum, Department of Theatre Arts, granted *Review of Status from Graduate Assistant to Assistant Lecturer*, effective 28th May, 2014.

Mr Eziwoh Azunwo, Department of Theatre and Film Studies, granted *Review of Status from Graduate Assistant to Assistant Lecturer*, effective 28th May, 2014.

REVIEW OF APPOINTMENT

Mr Smart Eze Orij, Works and Services Department, granted *Review of Status from Engineer II to Engineer I*, effective June 28, 2012.

RESUMPTION OF DUTY

Dr (Mrs) O. M. Adedokun, Department of Crop and Soil Science, has resumed duty after a one year *Research Leave*.

NOTIFICATION OF HIGHER DEGREE

Dr Leonard Nwoosu, Department of Physics, Faculty of Physical Science and Information Technology, has completed his Doctoral Degree in Physics (Applied Geophysics).

UniPort Student For Cameroon Peace Confab

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Since representing the University at the Seventh and Eight International Model United Nations Conference for Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria and Ghana, Raphael Undiandeye of the Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, has again been selected to participate in a similar outing in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

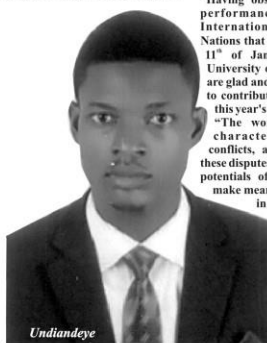
The project which is titled: *Youth Action in Conflict Prevention and*

Peace Building has its subtheme as: *Youth, Actors in Violence and Conflict; Leaders in Sustainable Peace Process*. Sponsored by the Local Youth Corner, Yaoundé, Cameroon, the programme is expected to hold from the 26th to the 29th of September, 2014.

A letter made available to *UniPort Weekly* and signed by the Commonwealth Youth Ambassador for Cameroon, Christian Acheleke stated in part, "Having observed your sterling performance at the Ghana International Model United Nations that held between 7th and 11th of January, 2014 at the University of Ghana, Legon, we are glad and excited to invite you to contribute and participate in this year's project and training."

"The world is increasingly characterized by violent conflicts, and in the midst of these disputes and conflicts lies the potentials of young Africans to make meaningful contributions

in engineering lasting peace processes across the continent. It is in this regard that we have decided to include few Nigerians in our projects and trainings," the Letter stated.



Undiandeye

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT WEATHER OBSERVATORY

FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 10-SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2014

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY 10 AUG, 2014	28.0 21.0	68	E	-	6:28 18:46	Partly sunny and warm day forecasted.
MONDAY, 11 AUG, 2014	28.0 22.0	63	E	-	6:28 18:46	More sun than cloud expected. Warm day forecasted.
TUESDAY, 12 AUG, 2014	28.0 21.0	61	E	-	6:28 18:46	More sun than cloud expected. Warm day anticipated.
WEDNESDAY 13 AUG, 2014	29.0 22.0	65	NE	-	6:28 18:45	Partly sunny and mild day anticipated. Warm day expected
THURSDAY, 14 AUG, 2014	28.0 22.0	66	NE	-	6:28 18:45	Partly sunny, and warm day predicted
FRIDAY, 15 AUG, 2014	28.0 23.0	64	NE	-	6:28 18:45	More sun than cloud expected. Warm day forecasted.
SATURDAY 16 AUG, 2014	28.0 22.0	61	E	-	6:28 18:44	More sun than cloud forecasted.

DR GLADYS EMEKITE
ACTING HOD

PROF SAMUEL AROKOYU
DIRECTOR, (CDRMS)

SERVICOM CORNER STRIVE TO ENSURE BETTER SERVICE

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2. Change to a better state or form.
3. Re-examine his/her attitude toward service in order to improve.

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5TH CCDCD CONGRESS

*The 5th Congress on Childhood Developmental and Communication Disorders took place at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Thursday, 14th May, 2014. It also featured formal inauguration of the Board of the Centre. Pictures below show highlights of the event as captured by our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU**.*



Some participants
registering for the Conference



V-C, Prof Ajenka welcoming Guest of
Honour, Architect Fifi Ejindu



V-C, Prof Joseph Ajenka welcoming Special
Guest of Honour, Alabo Tonye Graham Douglas



Immediate past Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Prof Ozo-mekari
Nimele welcoming representative of Minister of
Internal Affairs, Comrade Abba Moro, Mr. Mike Lounge



V-C making a speech



5th Vice-Chancellor and Chairman, Board of
CCDCC, Emeritus Prof Nimi Briggs, speaking



Keynote Speaker, Prof Alice Nte,
giving her Address



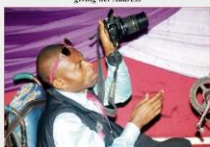
Registrar, Mrs Manilda Nnodim
giving her Address



Convener of the Congress and Director, CCDCD,
Prof Shirley Iul-Jode welcoming guests



Cross-section of participants



Popular photographer,
Mr Onyinye Amadi at the event



A drama sketch by the Arts Troupe
of the Theatre and Film Studies Dept



A group photograph of dignitaries
and other participants