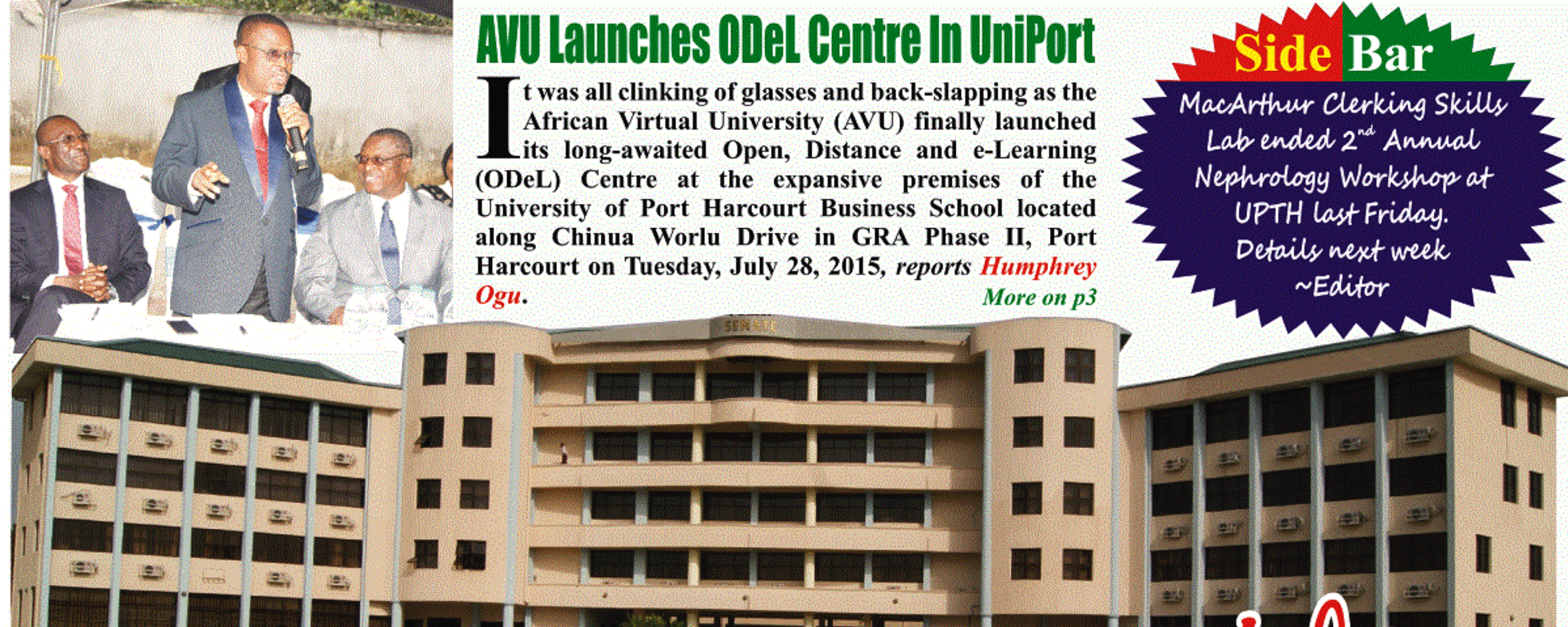


AVU Launches ODeL Centre In UniPort

It was all clinking of glasses and back-slapping as the African Virtual University (AVU) finally launched its long-awaited Open, Distance and e-Learning (ODEL) Centre at the expansive premises of the University of Port Harcourt Business School located along Chinua Wolewu Drive in GRA Phase II, Port Harcourt on Tuesday, July 28, 2015, reports **Humphrey Ogu**. *More on p3*

Side Bar

MacArthur Clerking Skills Lab ended 2nd Annual Nephrology Workshop at UPTH last Friday. Details next week ~Editor



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122nd Inaugural Agu Lists Pathways To High Animal Production In Nigeria

By Humphrey Ogu

Professor Gabriel Agu of the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology in the Faculty of Biological Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, has suggested ways of boosting animal production and attracting young people to agriculture in Nigeria. Delivering the 122nd Inaugural Lecture

of the University at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium last Thursday, Agu, whose lecture was entitled, *A Tribute to the Corpus Luteum: An Ephemeral Organ of Mammalian Reproduction*, explained that "the Corpus Luteum may be regarded not only as a reproductive organ, but as a tool for agricultural advancement and nutritional benefit of man because it is a driving force in animal husbandry."

Agu who noted that "the knowledge of the Corpus Luteum functions to improve farm animal production, especially dairy and beef cow production, said: "We need to apply reproductive technology to improve our dairy output," explaining that "reproductive technology involves the application of human technology to reproduction that aims at improving the

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V-C Pledges To Carry Unions Along

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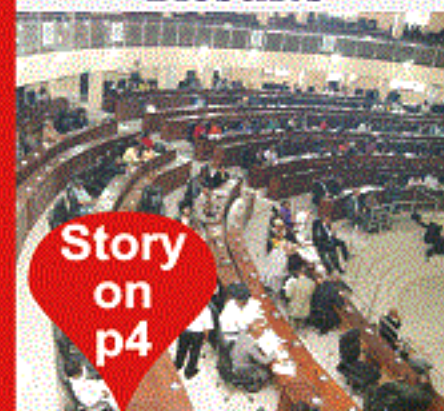


ACGG Appoints UniPort Staff Coordinator



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Senate Approves Results



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ADB Pledges More Support For UniPort



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V-C Calls For Support, Pledges To Carry Unions Along

By Obinna Nwodin

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, has expressed the willingness of his administration to cooperate with the Unions on Campus to improve the fortunes of the University.

Professor Lale made the pledge when he received a delegation of the University of Port Harcourt Branch of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) led by the Chairman, Professor Anthonia Okerengwo in his office, last Monday.

Lale, who assured them that of prudent use of funds accruing to the University, said that as a unionist himself, he would continue to be union-friendly as Vice-Chancellor. "I have always been a unionist and union-friendly and I will continue to remain union-friendly, even as Vice-Chancellor," he told the delegation, adding that while contesting for the position, he had a wonderful reception from the Unions, which was indicative of his favourable disposition towards the interest of staff at all levels. He said that his greatest desire was to accelerate the growth of the University through best operational practices.

Professor Lale also advised union leaders to always verify all information, particularly when they have to do with finances before making demands, regretting that most times, staff peddled unfounded rumours about emoluments that were yet to be received by the University without properly confirming the accuracy of such information. He assured the Union that his administration would not hesitate to promptly pay whatever

monies that were due staff once such allocations were received. Professor Lale who stated that he looked forward to a wonderful working relationship with ASUU, assured the delegation that he would abide strictly to due process as he seeks to enhance the rating of the University.

Earlier in her speech, Chairman of the UniPort Branch of ASUU, Professor Okerengwo, had told the Vice-Chancellor that the visit was a routine exercise aimed at welcoming him into office, adding that that it was important because Professor Lale had been ASUU-friendly as an active member of the Union. She advised him to continue his friendly disposition, promising that the Union would stand by his administration at all times to move the University to greater heights. "ASUU would do everything possible

to cooperate with you to move the University forward. If there is anything we can do to ensure that the University attains greater heights, please do not hesitate to let us know. We are very happy to have an ASUU-friendly Vice-Chancellor on the saddle and you can count on us to give you all the necessary support you would need in the execution of your vision." She also promised that the Union would advise its members to adopt a positive attitude that would ensure that the University continued on its upward trajectory.

Also present at the visit were Dr. Gospel Kpee, Vice-Chairman, Dr. Tochukwu Okonkwo, Assistant Secretary, Dr. Lesi Kaegon, Financial Secretary, Dr. Adedamola Onyeano, Investment Secretary, as well as Dr. Faith Ken-Aminikpo, Internal Auditor.



V-C, Prof Lale (centre, front row) flanked by DV-C (Academic) Prof Igho Joe (right), ASUU Chairman, Prof Okerengwo, Univ. Librarian, Dr. Obiageli Nwodo (left) and other ASUU members and Senior Officers of the University

Investing In Peer Review To Strengthen African Science

By Muhammad Mehmood-Ul-Hassan
and Jan De Leeuw

Capacity in science has two key dimensions: the competency to undertake credible research, and the skill to review and assess research for its scientific merit and authenticity.

The latter—peer review—is at the heart of the scientific enterprise because it can increase both the salience and legitimacy of research.

But many scientists, and this is especially true in Africa, lack the capacity to conduct credible peer review. This is a critical skills gap that needs to be addressed. Roots of the problem: It is easy to identify the roots of the problem: students and scientists receive little, if any, formal training in peer review, and donors have paid no attention to the issue.

This is in fact a global problem, but the situation is particularly acute in Africa. The continent's capacity in peer review resembles a typical developing country age

pyramid, with many inexperienced researchers at the bottom and a few experienced scientists who are capable of reviewing at the top.

There is no single textbook aimed at guiding the novice on how to perform peer review, although some guidelines on how to deal with reviews do exist.

A systematic review of peer review (Jefferson *et al* 2002) concluded that the current "practice of peer review is based on faith in its effects, rather than on facts." *Sense About Science* (2009) found that 56% of surveyed peer reviewers felt that there was a general lack of guidance on peer review, and 68% thought that formal training would help improve their reviewing skills.

Tackling the lacuna: A group of scientists at the World Agroforestry Centre recently discussed the issue of how to address this lacuna in high quality peer review in African climate sciences.

The group concluded that capacity development in peer review deserves as much attention as skills training for conducting and reporting research.

Short trainings have little impact on improving the quality of peer review, which is not surprising given the various competencies required to distinguish excellent from mediocre science.

Formal teaching, embedded in established curricula, is critical. One approach would be to design, test and adapt curricula that aim to develop competency in peer review for the staff and students of tertiary education institutions.

Once successfully tested and adapted, these courses could be institutionalised in higher education curricula in the developing world, including Africa, through tertiary education networks.

Ideally, education in peer review should become mandatory for doctoral students and optional for masters students. The African Academy of Sciences, and its funders, are best placed to develop and disseminate such educational programmes to enhance peer review capacity on the continent.

The advantages of accreditation: A complementary approach would be to develop a global accreditation system that registers researchers who are skilled in peer review. Such a system could include facilities to (self) assess aspirants' reviewing capabilities, advise on and make available training, and offer a certification test. National or supranational science organisations, such as the International Foundation for Science, or

national or regional academies of science such as the African Academy of Sciences, are best placed to develop and house such an accreditation system. If accreditation were obligatory for those seeking a career in science, then it might be possible to run the system commercially.

Accreditation in peer review has many advantages. Researchers would benefit from developing their capacity and gaining recognition for their competency, with possible spin-offs for greater personal research efficiency. Employers in research would benefit from the assessment of a core competency among their staff and could consider using it in selection procedures and performance evaluations.

Scientific journals would benefit from better peer review through certified peer reviewers; indeed, having a higher proportion of certified reviewers could also enhance a journal's reputation.

Strengthening African scientists' capacity to conduct credible peer review is just one small step to improving the quality of the continent's science and building the skills of the continent's scientists.

But both of those things are key to helping the continent develop its own climate research agenda – and ultimately helping African farmers prepare to meet the many climate-related challenges that lie ahead.

* Muhammad Mehmood-Ul-Hassan and Jan De Leeuw work at the World Agroforestry Centre, or ICRAF, in Nairobi, Kenya.

* This article by Muhammad Mehmood-Ul-Hassan and Jan De Leeuw, titled "Investing in peer review to strengthen science in Africa", was published in the July 2015 edition of *Science*Policy*Africa*, the newsletter of the *African Academy of Sciences*. It is republished with permission. The article is based on an article submitted to the Global Sustainable Development Report.



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AVU Launches ODeL Centre In UniPort



V-C, Prof Lale after cutting the tape to commission the ODeL centre

Welcoming guests to the historic commissioning of the impressive facility housed in a semi-detached part of the complex, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, who commended his predecessor for the brilliant idea of going into the ODeL partnership with the Nairobi-based AVU, noted that "one of the greatest ideals we are currently striving to achieve is to internationalise the University to compete favourably with its peers around the world," adding that "there cannot be a better occasion than the one we are participating in today as part of the drive to be a world-class University."

The Vice-Chancellor, who later commissioned the facility, expressed delight that the University was accorded platinum membership of AVU, saying that "we are very grateful to AVU for this partnership and the up-scale benefits that would certainly accrue from being designated as a platinum member of AVU. We hope that this relationship will go on for a long time to enable us properly position ourselves along the lines envisaged by our partners."

"The normal programmes we run in the University require the traditional contact hours between lecturers and students, which has obvious limitations in a new learning environment. For instance, there are limitations as to how many students we can actually admit from the huge number that subscribe to our programmes each year. We would require expanded facilities in terms of classrooms, lecturers and instructional materials to meet such rising demand for places in our system. Under such a situation, we can no longer guarantee direct contact hours between all students and lecturers in the normal

classroom setting. That is the beauty of the emergent ODeL programme which is expected to serve as a major platform to provide accessible, affordable and inclusive education for lifelong learning, which can have a great impact in Africa's educational development," he said.

In his speech, the Rector of AVU, Dr. Bakary Diallo, expressed gratitude to the University for showing total commitment to the full implementation of the ODeL platform in the University and the warm reception accorded his delegation. He also paid glowing tribute to the African Development Bank and the National Universities Commission (NUC) for their support for the AVU. Dr. Diallo singled out the AVU team for working very hard to install 29 functional centres in 27 universities from 21 African countries, despite the obvious challenges involved in running such a novel project in multiple locations on the continent.

"Universities in Africa are currently overwhelmed by increasing student numbers, and they have been unable to increase physical infrastructure to meet the growing demand," Diallo observed, adding that "At the AVU, we believe using ICTs in education allows institutions to save on items such as physical school infrastructure, textbooks and number of teachers per classroom, while contributing to quality education."

The Rector, who described AVU as a Pan-African Intergovernmental Organisation aimed at significantly increasing access to quality higher education and training through the innovative use of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs), added that "AVU has established the widest e-Learning network of 56

tertiary institutions beyond language barriers in Anglophone, Francophone, and Lusophone Africa." He added that the University of Port Harcourt was already benefitting from the infrastructure made available to the whole country by the organisation.

On his part, Director of the ADB, Dr. Ousmane Dore, noted that ADP was pleased to participate in the launch of ODeL in UniPort, adding that "the establishment of the Centre was being supported under the Bank-financed Multinational African Virtual University Project, Phase II. The project aims to enhance access to quality higher education through the application of ICT-assisted education," disclosing that the Bank was also supporting postgraduate students to pursue their Master's degree programme at the Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainability (INRES) in UniPort.

Earlier in his address, Acting Director of the UniPort ODeL Centre, Dr. Baribor Vikoo, noted that "one of the benefits of UniPort's platinum membership of AVU is that equipment, including a 15 KVA power-generating set and a dedicated server in the ODeL Centre have already been donated by AVU and installed here," adding that in addition to a very fruitful relationship with the Kenyan-based body, the University has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with an indigenous firm, *BytePlus Nigeria Limited* to facilitate content development for some courses. With the assistance received from these two sources, the ODeL Centre will soon advertise for applications to its academic programmes.

In his contribution, pioneer Director of the Centre, Professor Hyacinth Dike, who expressed delight that ODeL UniPort had finally become a reality after several postponements, commended AVU for the state-of-the-art facilities made available at the Centre to facilitate its distance learning programmes.

Also speaking, Director of the UniPort Business School, Professor Clifford Ofurum, who earlier conducted the Vice-Chancellor and guests on a facility tour of the School, expressed gratitude to all those who made valuable contributions at various stages towards the successful establishment and commissioning of the ODeL Centre in the University. He pledged continued support by the Business School for the Centre to enable it achieve the purpose for which it was set up.

The AVU delegation later paid a courtesy visit on the Vice-Chancellor, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Igoh Joe. The AVU team also made presentations on its e-learning platform to a cross-section of trainees and students at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium. The delegation rounded off its itinerary in the University with a closed-door meeting with major stakeholders of the ODeL project before returning to Nairobi.

ACGG Appoints UniPort Staff Coordinator

By Williams Wodi

Dr. Folashade Ajayi of the Department of Animal Science in the Faculty of Agriculture has been appointed one of the five sub-Coordinators for the Nigeria Project Team of the African Chicken Genetic Gains (ACGG) programme.

As sub-National Coordinator, Dr. Ajayi is charged with the responsibility of facilitating, coordinating and implementing the activities of the project in the South-South Zone of the country comprising Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Delta, Edo and Bayelsa States.

A letter signed by the National Project Coordinator of ACGG, Dr. Bamidele Oladeji from Obafemi Awolowo University, disclosed that it found Dr. Ajayi "a suitable candidate to facilitate, coordinate and implement the activities of the project in your sub-zonal and agro-ecological area," expressing hope that she would deploy her experience and skills to bear in ensuring that the vision and objectives of the ACGG programme are accomplished in the target areas.

The African Chicken Genetic Gains project comprises Ethiopia, Tanzania and Nigeria with a vision to catalyze public-private partnerships for increasing smallholder chicken production and productivity growth as a

pathway out of poverty in sub-Saharan Africa.

Other participating institutions include Landmark University, Omu-Aran, Kwara State, Federal University of Technology, Owerri, Nasarawa State University, Keffi, Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta and Usmanu Dan Fodio University, Sokoto State.

Under the partnership, participating universities are expected to build capacity and have on-line access to the Animal Breeding and Genomic Centre in Washington University for Undergraduate Students. Participation in Summer Training Programmes in data analysis and cross-discipline learning would be anchored by Washington University, The Netherlands, for both Lecturers and Graduate Students; including increased opportunities for women and youth empowerment in the host communities of the University through distribution of well-adapted local chickens to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life.

In addition, the project is expected to forge strong collaborative ties with researchers in institutions, both at the national and international levels. According to Dr. Ajayi, the University of Port Harcourt stands to benefit from the project as one of the innovation platforms to proffer solutions across the chicken value chain in Nigeria, including the University's host communities.



Dr. Ajayi

The Senate of the University at its 410th Meeting (Extra-ordinary) held last Wednesday approved various categories of results and academic requests from the Colleges and Faculties, as presented by the respective Provosts and Deans. Senate also set up an Ad-Hoc Committee to look into the implications of the recent abolition of the Pass Degree by the National Universities Commission (NUC).

The Committee was set up to guide Senate on the controversy surrounding the appropriate computation point for student graduation. The raging controversy centred on whether 40—44 per cent still constituted the Pass Grade, as well as the consideration of either 1.00 or 1.50 as the actual requirement for student continuation in an academic programme. The five-man Committee which is to be chaired by Professor Owunari Georgewill of the College of Health Sciences, has the Dean, Faculty of Education, Professor Lawrence Igwe, Professor Gideon Abu, as well as the Acting Director of Academic Planning, Dr Peter Kpolovie, as members. The Committee has up till the next Senate meeting in August to turn in its report for consideration.

The Meeting which was chaired by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, also stepped down a request for accelerated approval of new academic programmes presented on behalf of the Provost of the College of Graduate Studies by Dean of the Graduate School of Arts, Education and Social Sciences, Professor Martin Ifeancha to the next sitting of Senate.

Results were approved from the Faculties of Humanities, Social Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, Faculty of Education, College of Engineering, Faculties of Management Sciences, Agriculture, Pharmaceutical Sciences, as well as Colleges of Health Sciences and Graduate Studies. Senate also ratified the appointment of External Examiners for the Departments of Music, Economics, Electrical/Electronics Engineering, Accounting, Agricultural Economics and Extension,

Senate Approves Results, Sets Up Ad-Hoc Committee On Abolition Of Pass Degree

By Obinna Nwodin

Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry, Clinical Pharmacy and Management, Restorative Dentistry, as well as Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

Other approvals made by Senate were applications for temporary withdrawal from studies, application to write examinations as first attempt, as well as notification of resumption of studies as presented by Dean of the Faculty of Humanities. The august body also considered applications for temporary withdrawal

from studies and correction of results as presented by Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences; as well as an application for temporary withdrawal from studies in the School of Science Laboratory Technology as presented by Provost of the College of Natural and Applied Sciences.

Yet another application for reinstatement to academic programme in the Department of Environmental Engineering presented by Provost of the College of Engineering, amongst others, was also considered and approved by Senate.



Senate in Session

UDPS Graduates 21 Pupils For 2014/2015 Session

By Mercy Adeniji

Graduating pupils of the University Demonstration Primary School (UDPS) have been advised to exhibit the good qualities inculcated into them by their teachers during their study period in the School.

Declaring open the 2014/2015 End-of-Year Graduation/Prize Giving Ceremony held at the Convocation Arena on Thursday, July 23, 2015, Chairman of the occasion, Professor Obiozor Ayalogu, congratulated the pupils for exhibiting outstanding qualities while in School, urging them to go all out and prove themselves worthy Alumni of UDPS at the next phase of their education.

"We congratulate you for getting to this height and urge you to work hard to continue to excel in all your future endeavours. You must always remember your *Alma Mater* in whatever you do and wherever you may find yourself as you prepare to commence the next phase of their educational career," Professor Ayalogu told the former pupils, expressing gratitude to God for guiding and protecting them all through their stay in the School. The Chairman commended the teachers for building confidence in the pupils and also congratulated their parents for encouraging them to succeed in the

foundational phase of their study. "We are very hopeful that the 21 pupils that are passing out today would turn out to become high academic fliers that can bring honour to their families and the UDPS. They will still need our guidance to progress on the academic ladder and it is our collective responsibility to direct them on the right part to success in a society where many people believe in cutting corners to succeed in life," Professor Ayalogu said.

In his address, new Headmaster of the School, Mr. Simeon Ewaoche, congratulated the graduating pupils, charging them to continue to represent their *Alma Mater* well wherever they may be. "Our gathering today in your honour is a testimony that you have been found worthy in character and learning to pass out from UDPS to the next level. You owe your parents and this University a duty to do the right thing at the right time always in line with the *UDPS Prayer*. You must put in your best, be confident and remain focused in whatever you do.

"We are commending the 21 pupils who have proved themselves worthy of this honour today. UDPS is a well-known breeding ground for academic excellence. In the academic year under review, many of our pupils in Primaries Five and Six classes sat for the National Common Entrance Examination and passed into

various Federal Government Colleges, and over 90 per cent of the pupils in lower classes earned their promotion to new classes for the 2015/2016 session," the Headmaster told the gathering.

Mr. Ewaoche expressed gratitude to the Management of the University for the recent developmental strides in UDPS, appealing for a listening ear to enable the School tackle some observed deficiencies.

Also speaking, Chaplain of the *Chapel of The Annunciation*, Reverend (Fr) Dr. Bartholomew Akpan, charged the pupils to always imbibe the values passed on to them by their teachers and parents, stressing the need for them to pursue success through hard work and continue to make their families proud.

"As parents, no matter what we do, our civic duty is to spare quality time for the children. Do not forget to teach them what it means to have the fear of God and always try to introduce to them what is good so that they would not depart from it. It is also our duty to be interested in what they are doing in and outside the classroom," he advised the parents.

Presenting his *Valedictory Speech*, the Best Graduating Student (BGS) for the 2014/2015 academic session, Master Chidubem Asadu, expressed satisfaction with the quality of teaching they received while in School. "Our hearts are filled with joy because we have successfully concluded our primary education. We the graduands are grateful to God for granting us good health and for making it possible for us to have all that we needed throughout the period we were in the School" he said, expressing gratitude to their parents, teachers and Management of the University of Port Harcourt for providing them with the necessary materials needed for quality learning. He also paid glowing tribute to the immediate past Administrator of UDPS, Dr. Ibironke Kosemani, for her hard work, promising that they would continue to remain good ambassadors wherever they may find themselves.

The event featured launching of the fifth edition of the School's *Year Book*, cultural displays, choreography, and drama entitled: *Can a Fool be Wise*, written by Romanus Ugoh and presentation of prizes to deserving pupils. A total of 21 pupils passed out from the School.

Other dignitaries that graced the impressive occasion included Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, Wife of the Vice-Chancellor, Mrs. Joy Lale, former Chairman of the Board of Governors, Dr. Ofonime Ndioho and former Headmistress of the School, Mrs. Georgina Umeogu, amongst others.



Some of the graduating pupils receiving farewell prayer from Chaplain, Rev. Fr Akpan

Impressed with the performance of the University in the study of natural resources and environmental sustainability, the African Development Bank has expressed a desire to strengthen the already existing partnership with the Institute of Natural Resources and Sustainability (INRES).

Country Director of the Bank, Dr. Ousmane Dore, gave the assurance when he paid a courtesy visit on the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale in his office, to reassure him of the Bank's continued support in efforts aimed at harnessing environmental resources by INRES, last Monday.

Dr. Dore, who said that "the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the University had opened an avenue for the African development Bank to partner with the University of Port Harcourt on critical areas of institutional collaboration," said that the Bank has been partnering with the Directorate for Technical Cooperation in Africa (DTCA) in the provision of grant support for the Institute of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability. He assured the Vice-Chancellor that the ADB would continue to support the partnership into the next phase. In his response, Professor Lale, who said that the collaboration with the African Development Bank has given the University a big hype through hosting students from other African countries, noted that the programme has helped internationalize programmes offered by INRES. The Vice-Chancellor stated that his administration looked

ADB Pledges More Support For UniPort

By Obinna Nwodin

forward to continued support from the ADB, calling on the Bank to sustain the collaboration by continuing grants that would enable more students from other African countries to participate in the laudable programme.

"It is a rare privilege for the ADB programme to berth in the University of Port Harcourt and I am particularly grateful for the grants that have so far been made to our institution in this respect. We look forward to continued institutional partnership with the Bank in the years ahead and it is my hope that you would generously extend the sponsorship duration of this important programme that would

enable us train more students from other Africa countries."

Earlier in his address, Director of INRES, Professor Enuvie Akpokodje, who said that the visit of the Country Director was part of the evaluation and monitoring process of the Institute's activities, disclosed that INRES was currently developing a research programme for the movement and management of spillages African. He expressed gratitude to ADB for extending institutional support to INRES that has enabled it to expand its scope of activities on the continent, promising that the Institute would continue to deliver quality programmes that can attract both sponsorship and talented students from all over the world.



V-C, Prof Lale (3rd left) flanked by Country Director, AfDB, Dr. Dore, INRES Director, Prof Akpokodje (3rd and 2nd right), DV-C (Academic), Prof Igho Joe, Univ. Librarian, Dr. Obiageli Nwodo (2nd and 1st left) and others

Ezirim Gets Rave Review At US Confab, As WINS Inducts Kuye

By Otikor Samuel

Two papers presented by Dean of the Graduate School of Management, Business and Trade (GSMBT), Professor Chinedu Ezirim at an annual Spring Conference organized by the International Educators Group and International Academy of Business were adjudged the best and given the *Outstanding Research Award* by the International Academy of Business and Public Administration Disciplines.

Conveying the news to the Vice-Chancellor in a letter dated May 21, 2015, Professor Ezirim disclosed that the International Conferences held separately at the Double Tree Hotel, Dallas with over 500 Professors from 30 countries in attendance and Crystal Courtyard Hotel, Washington D.C., where he presented the two papers, respectively.

"The Spring Conference of the International

Academy of Business and Public Administration Disciplines held at the Double Tree Hotel, Galaria, Dallas. Over five hundred Professors from thirty (30) countries participated in the Meeting and I am happy to inform you that my two papers received the best papers awards," part of the letter read, adding that he "also presented two papers at the Spring Conference of the International Academy of Business/International Educators Group, which held at Crystal Courtyard Hotel, Washington D.C." The presentations were entitled: *Exchange Rate Policies and Macroeconomic Performance: Post Structural Adjustment Analysis of the Nigerian Experience* and *Do Insurance Intermediation Operations cause Economic Growth in an Emerging African Economy? Analysis of the Nigerian Experience*.

The two separate awards dated April 23 and 26, 2015, were jointly signed by the Programme Chair,

Abdalla Hagen and Conference Chair, Raja Nassar on behalf of the International Academy of Business and Public Administration Disciplines.

"I use this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor for sponsoring me to participate in the two international conferences. I also thank the Provost of College of Graduate Studies, Professor Roseline Konya, for her encouragement and support," Professor Ezirim said in a letter notifying the Vice-Chancellor of his awards in America.

In a related development, Director of the Centre for Nuclear Energy Studies, Professor Ayoade Kuye, has been certified as a Member of the World Institute for Nuclear Security (WINS) Academy Alumni Network, following his success in the WINS Academy Certification Examinations which earned him the WINS Academy Certificate in Science and Engineering for Nuclear Security.

In a letter dated July 2, 2015 which was addressed to the Vice-Chancellor and obtained by *UniPort Weekly*, Professor Kuye disclosed that: "WINS is an international organization that promotes discussion and exchange of best security practice in a collaborative atmosphere so that security professionals can learn from one another. It has more than 1,600 members in over 85 countries. Its academy provides managers who are accountable for nuclear security with an opportunity to receive professional development and become certified in their security competence."

In a congratulatory message to Professor Kuye dated May 28, 2015, Executive Director of WINS, Dr. Roger Howsley, pointed out that, "By earning this certificate, you have shown a deep personal commitment to educational excellence and I commend you for your hard work."

Professor Kuye is pioneer Director of the Centre for Nuclear Energy Studies in the University and supervised the education of the pioneer graduate set of wholly Nigerian-trained Nuclear Engineers.



Prof Ezirim

Prof Kuye

Agu Lists Pathways To High Animal Production In Nigeria



Inaugural Lecturer, Prof Agu (arrowed) in a group photograph with some Professors before the Lecture

Cont'd from p6

natural processes already inherent in the biological system.

"This requires the intervention of man in the reproductive process so that the output per period is maximised. This has many advantages, one of which is that animal protein in the form of milk and meat can reach more people, the quality of the meat so produced can be improved, and farmers will get more returns," he added.

Agu, who is a Professor of Reproductive Physiology, described the discipline as "the study of the mechanism, factors controlling, and the application of human technology in the reproduction of mammals, both domestic and wild," explaining that the Corpus Luteum refers to "yellow body" which was introduced by Marcello Malpighi.

The one-time Head of Department of Animal and Environmental Biology recommended that "animal reproduction should also be part of the Secondary School curriculum because it will arouse the interest of the young minds in Agriculture as a profession, which the country badly needs."

He stressed the need for "a course in animal production and application of reproductive technology to be included in the curriculum of Zoology and Animal Science students to be taught jointly by the two Departments. This is because the critical role of animal reproduction in Agriculture is very important for the improvement of Agriculture in Nigeria."

Pointing out the importance of studying animal reproduction, the Inaugural Lecturer said it was to raise animals for food, improve their genetic quality and preservation, many of which may be endangered, adding that with a good knowledge of animal reproduction, man would be in a position to provide food for himself without wandering about in his hunt for game. He also said that the practice would improve the genetic quality of animals through cross-breeding, provide more milk, become more prolific, turn feed into leaner meat with less fat, amongst other benefits.

On his contributions to knowledge in the area of Reproductive Physiology, Agu noted that abnormal Corpus Luteum (CL) occurs when it fails to produce the level of progesterone required to support gestation with a longer or shorter lifespan.

He further disclosed that in response to previous reports

that pre-pubertal pigs that mated after gonadotropin-induced ovulation show high incidence of abortion, he investigated the basal levels of progesterone production by CL from the animal model in vitro in the presence of steroidogenic substrates LDL and HDL, adding that he also successfully separated the two cell types in the CL of the pig and tested their progesterone-producing capacity in the process.

"I have also studied and published the effects of PGF2

on the two cell types in pigs separately and in the presence of the substrates required by the cells to produce progesterone. The role played by LH in steroidogenesis by two cell types of the pig in vitro have also been studied, presented at a conference and published," he disclosed, adding: "I was the first to report that prolactin is under tonic inhibition by the neurotransmitter dopamine in the ferret and that prolactin is required by ferret corpus luteum to synthesise and secrete progesterone."

In his remarks, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, who spoke through the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic matters, Professor Igbo Joe, thanked the Inaugural Lecturer for dedicating himself to quality research aimed at boosting animal production and providing a source of protein in the country.

"The knowledge shared by the Lecturer can be used to increase yields in animal protein. We congratulate Professor Agu for his commitment to animal science on such a scale and hope that students and younger academics would benefit from his mentorship. We hope that those in reproductive physiology will find the lecture very useful and be inspired to consult and collaborate with him to meet the protein needs of Nigeria," he said.

UN Centre Ends W'shop Against Illicit Drugs At UPTH

By Otikor Samuel

Worried by the prevalence of illicit drugs and their devastating effects on the lives of users, particularly among youths, participants at a four-day capacity training workshop organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) through the UNODC Model Drug Treatment Centre, have called for stiffer legislation, vigorous awareness campaign, community outreach and establishment of viable centres to contain rising cases of drug abuse in the country.

The participants who made the call at the closing ceremony of a training workshop at the Main Auditorium of the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH) last Friday, pointed out the dangers associated with the use of illicit drugs and their link to rising criminal activities in the South-South region and the country in general, expressing readiness to put in extra commitment to curb the menace.

In his opening remarks, National Project Officer of UNODC, Dr. Akanidomo Ibanga, who disclosed that the workshop was mounted to train more hands on preventive measures against the rise in the use of illicit drug which contributes to the pervasive criminal activities in society, praised the UPTH for being one of only two teaching hospitals in Nigeria to be designated as drug treatment centres by the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime.

Dr. Ibanga used the opportunity to express gratitude to the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), the Nigerian Prison Services (NPS) and other agencies for partnering the Office on the fight against the use of illicit drugs. He praised the European Union for providing funding for the project and UPTH for hosting one of the two UNODC Model Drug Treatment Centres in the country.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, decried the rising cases of criminal activities as a result of the consumption of illicit drugs, expressing the willingness of the University to contribute to the rehabilitation of youths who are misled into criminal activities.

The Vice-Chancellor, who spoke through the Provost, College of Health Sciences, Professor Christie Mato, promised to assist the Centre to deliver its mandate by galvanizing the contributions of specialists in the University to nurture the emergent Centre to succeed in its mission of ridding the society of illicit drugs that encourage criminal tendencies.

Chief Medical Director of the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital, Professor Aaron Ojule, who was represented by Chairman of the Medical Advisory Council (CMAC), Dr. Charles Tobin-West, also stressed the relevance of the Treatment Centre to the South-South region, which he said witnessed various degrees of crimes occasioned by the consumption of illicit drugs.

"We will provide all necessary facilities to assist the

Centre to enable it succeed as intended by those who set it up. Even though it is always difficult to employ more hands for now, we will do all that is within our powers to ensure that clinical psychologists are recruited to man the new Centre," the CMD promised.

Earlier, the Focal Officer in charge of Training, Professor Princewill Stanley, charged participants to fully utilize what they have learnt from the workshop to assist in the fight against the use of illicit drugs. "We have just begun a process and participants are now fully empowered to tackle the scourge of illicit drugs. I, therefore, urge you to take this task seriously by starting the crusade from your homes and ensuring that your wards and relatives are not involved in the use of illicit drugs and crime," Professor Stanley said.

He appealed for the appointment of, at least, five clinical psychologists to provide services in the emergent Centre, commending UNODC for the series of training which started with a set of persons trained as master trainers, train-the-trainers and training of facilitators. The participants were drawn from the Ministry of Health, Association of Resident Doctors, General Hospitals, O.B. Lulu-Briggs Health Centre, Primary Health Centres, Security Agencies, including the Nigerian Drugs and Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), the Nigerian Navy, Army and Airforce.



Provost, CHS, Prof Mato (3rd left) flanked by National Project Officer, UNODC, Dr. Ibanga (4th right) Focal Officer (Training), Prof Stanley (2nd left) and others

GUIDEPOST

Bursary Dept Staff, Fidelis Okwuosa, Gets ACU Fellowship

By Humphrey Ogu

A staff of the Bursary Department, Mr. Fidelis Okwuosa, was among six persons from across the globe and the only African selected for the 2014 Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) Titular Fellowship, which has a six-month duration, spanning April to September, 2015. The Fellowship is tenable at Valley View University, Ghana.

An online publication on the Fellowship obtained by UniPort Weekly stated that "The Worshipful Company of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales has been awarded to Fidelis Okwuosa at the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria. His work at Valley View University, Ghana will explore the development of accounts reconciliation solution aimed at improving financial management processes at his home institution."

Briefing our Correspondent on his Fellowship, Okwuosa, who is a Chief Accountant and Head of Accounts and Reconciliation Unit in the University, said he got the grant based on an application he made through the Research Management Unit in the University, adding that he was the only African and the only non-teaching staff that benefitted from the Fellowship.

"I am carrying out a research on the development of bank reconciliation solution aimed at improving financial management processes in Nigerian universities. One of the terms and conditions is not to carry out research in one's home country. I have a collaborator in Valley View University in Ghana, where I am carrying out the research, but I gather facts from Nigerian universities.

On how the Fellowship will benefit the University of Port Harcourt, Okwuosa noted that "there is always a very big challenge in universities without the

bank reconciliation system in place. Without it, the integrity or reliability of financial reports will be in doubt as it will be very difficult to ascertain the correctness of such financial reports. So, reconciliation has been a major challenge to universities in Nigeria," regretting that no one posted to his Unit before now had job satisfaction due to lack of passion.

Okwuosa, who noted that he is driven by passion in carrying his official duty, advised other non-teaching staff to avail themselves of training and Fellowship opportunities by writing research proposals. He lamented that most non-teaching staff were not confident of themselves even when they have the potential to pull through on the international stage like their counterparts elsewhere.

According to him, administrative and other non-teaching staff often do better in their professions because they are better equipped with practical skills and experience, while their counterparts in the teaching cadre are most, often than not, only grounded in theories.



Mr. Okwuosa

SERVICOM CORNER

The SERVICOM Unit of the University of Port Harcourt is to monitor, implement and publish the following services:

- Monitoring services delivery in all service windows of the University
- Take Complaints from all UNIPORT Customers.
- Address all complaints from customers
- Routine check on all services windows
- Check staff present on seat
- Taking attendance of early comers and staff at work
- Ensuring effective service delivery within our University system
- Consultation with all stakeholders
- Organizing sanitization workshops on how to improve service delivery
- Conducting opinion poll on our service delivery
- Admission guidelines
- Directional signs in the University
- Maintain clean environment
- Relate to other organs of the University and Quality Assurance & Quality Control Unit

SERVICOM will strive to institute right to good services!!

You can reach us via: servicom@uniport.edu.ng; 08033400064, 07038650174, 08063358445, 08034211712, and 08155303412

APPOINTMENT

Professor Samuel Ejezie, Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Production, Power Systems and Communication Engineering, College of Engineering, appointed *Director, Institute of Engineering Technology and Innovation Management (METI)*. The two-year appointment which took effect from July 21, 2015 terminates on July 24, 2017.

Professor Anthony Ekine, Department of Physics, Faculty of Physical Science and Information Technology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, appointed *Chairman, Housing Committee*. The two-year appointment which took effect from July 21, 2015 terminates on July 20, 2017.

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Professor A. M. Onyeozu, Department of Adult and Non-Formal Education, Faculty of Education, granted a one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective June 9, 2015 to June 8, 2016.

CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Dr. Henrietta Otokunefor, Library Department, granted a one-year *Contract Appointment*, effective on assumption of duty.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Dr. Aniefiok Udoudo, Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities, proceeded on *Sabbatical Leave* to University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, effective July 20, 2015 to July 19, 2016.

Dr. Charles Asuk, Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Humanities, proceeded on *Sabbatical Leave* to Akwa Ibom State University, Uyo, effective July 20, 2015 to July 19, 2016.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Professor Joseph Ebeiro, Department of Physics, Faculty of Physical Science and Information Technology, granted a four-year *Leave of Absence* to serve as Director, Centre of Excellence, University of Benin, Benin City, effective July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2019.

Mr. Seiyefa Koroye, Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted a one-year *Leave of Absence* to serve as *Special Adviser* to the Governor of Bayelsa State on Strategy, Documentation and Community Relations, effective May 3, 2015 to May 2, 2016.

STUDY LEAVE

Mr. Akuro Big-Alabo, Department of Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering, granted a one-year *Extension of Study Leave with Pay* to enable him pursue a Doctorate degree programme in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, effective October 30, 2014 to September 29, 2015.

Mrs. Chindo Nwankwo, Department of Environmental Engineering, College of Engineering, granted a three-year retroactive *Study Leave with Pay* for a Doctorate Research programme at the University of Leeds, United Kingdom, effective October, 2009 to October, 2012.

CHANGE OF NAME

OROMA ANTHONY BIRRA. Former Miss Oroma Dan-Azu of the Academic Planning Resource and Control Unit, Office of the Vice-Chancellor, now wishes to be known, called and addressed as Mrs. Oroma Anthony Birra. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

NENGI MILDRED ISAGUA. Former Miss Nengi Mildred Gogo now wishes to be known, called and addressed as Mrs. Nengi Mildred Isagua. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT
WEATHER OBSERVATORY

FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 2 – SATURDAY AUGUST 8, 2015.

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 02 AUG, 2015	30.0 23.0	72	NE	5.3	6:29 18:48	Passing showers expected. More clouds than sun forecasted.
MONDAY, 03 AUG, 2015	30.0 22.0	71	NE	2.2	6:29 18:48	Rain showers expected late in the day. Cloudy day forecasted.
TUESDAY, 4 AUG, 2015	29.0 22.0	71	NE	2.4	6:29 18:48	Thunderstorm expected late in the day. Mostly cloudy day anticipated.
WEDNESDAY, 5 AUG, 2015	29.0 22.0	82	NE	-	6:29 18:47	Mostly Cloudy day forecasted.
THURSDAY, 6 AUG, 2015	29.0 22.0	76	NE	3.4	6:29 18:47	Thunderstorm expected early in the day. Mostly cloudy day expected
FRIDAY, 7 AUG, 2015	29.0 22.0	78	NE	2.5	6:29 18:47	Thunderstorm expected early in the day. More clouds than sun forecasted
SATURDAY, 8 AUG, 2015	29.0 22.0	79	NE	14.9	6:29 18:47	Thunderstorm expected. More clouds than sun forecasted.

Dr. Gladys Emenike
Acting HoD

Dr. Prince Mmom
AG. Director, (CDRMDS)

V-C's Familiarization Tour

On assumption of office as the 8th Vice-Chancellor of the University on Monday, July 13, 2015, Professor Ndowa Lale embarked on a familiarization tour of the University by meeting staff and inspecting facilities on Campus. Highlights of the tour as captured by our Cameraman, **HEADMANALU** are shown below:



V-C, Prof Ndowa Lale in the office of DV-C (Administration), Prof Anthony Ibe



V-C in a warm handshake with the Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim on his first day in office



V-C, Prof Lale (centre) flanked by Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Alieze (2nd left), Dean, Student Affairs, Prof Andrew Efemini (1st left) and others, inspecting hostel facilities



V-C and his entourage inspecting facilities behind the Nursing Hotels, University Park



Prof Lale (1st right) at the Faculty of Management Sciences



Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Prof Henry Alapiki handing over a trophy to V-C, Prof Lale on his visit to the Faculty



A cross-section of staff of the College of Health Sciences at an interactive session with the V-C



Prof Lale, positioned at the left hand side of the banner, while Provost, College of Health Sciences, Prof Christie Mato (right) with medical students on V-C's visit to CHS



Prof Lale (right), Dean, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Prof Oleka Udeala, Deputy Registrar (Information), Williams Wodi after visiting the Faculty



V-C (centre) flanked by Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim (left) being led by Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Prof John Enemugwem to the Faculty



Provost, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, Prof Nnenna Frank-Peterside welcoming the V-C to the College



V-C (arrowed) flanked by Registrar, Mrs. Nnodim (right), Dean, Faculty of Law, Prof Kaniye Ebeku during the visit to the Faculty



V-C flanked by Registrar, Mrs. Nnodim (right), Provost, College of Graduate Studies, Prof Roseline Konya (left), Deans of Graduate Schools and others during the V-C's visit to the College