

COVID-19 ALERT

The Coronavirus disease is real. Observe the preventive measures on campus by washing your hands regularly with soap under running water or use hand sanitiser. Wear facemask in public places. No facemask, no entry into UniPort.

WISEcrack

"If you find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn't lead anywhere"

FRANK A. CLARK

To Attain Optimal Productivity, Universities Must Stick To Established Culture ~Efiuvwevwere

By Otikor Samuel

For universities to continue to be relevant as ivory tower and engender national development through teaching, research and public service, policy-makers and regulatory agencies such as the National Universities Commission must take appropriate measures to guide the standards of personnel recruited into the system and quality of its output. This was the observation made by erstwhile Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor Bernard Efiuvwevwere, while delivering the 18th Valedictory Lecture entitled, *Reflections on University Culture: The Existence, Criticisms and Cautiously Optimistic Sustainability* at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Wednesday, September 9, 2020. Professor Efiuvwevwere, who retired from the Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, said his choice of the topic was to enable him share his experience of about 39 years in the university system. He traced the history of university culture to 1088 when the first modern university which is the University of Bologna, Italy, assessed the oral defence of its Postgraduate students in public arena with all stakeholders including the examiners, parents, students and the public in attendance. "Quality assurance culture should be emphasised and put in place at various levels (departmental, faculty and University) since it is an integral part of the University culture. As a result of economic competitiveness and globalisation, more objective measures should be taken in the input/admission process of students since this affects the quality of

the outputs," Professor Efiuvwevwere submitted. The 18th Valedictory Lecturer advised managements of universities and government agencies to make frantic effort towards improving the ranking of universities. He urged staff and students to commit themselves to quality education by eliminating all forms of misconduct. "The University culture is characterised by individuality, academic features, diversity and creativity. Consequently, if the University deviates from its cultural heritage, it is no longer a place for the continuation of learning and academic prosperity, hence it must be vigorously defended,"



Prof Efiuvwevwere (centre), his wife, Roselyn (right), Ag VC, Prof Okodudu (left), Principal Officers and others

he said, listing innovation, research, knowledge economy and quality teaching as key imperatives that university leadership must address to achieve sustainability of the University culture. Reacting to the Lecture, the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu, extolled Professor Efiuvwevwere for putting up 39 years of quality service to the University, adding that the number of years Professor Efiuvwevwere had spent in teaching and administrative positions had exposed him to share knowledge of the University culture. Conceding that there are changes in the University culture, the Acting Vice Chancellor added that universities should however, endeavour to blend emerging developments with established culture for the overall growth of the system.

Eke Advocates Reversed Medical Tourism In Nigeria

By Humphrey Ogu

"The Coronavirus has foreclosed heavy reliance on overseas countries for medical services. The natural history of each disease varies from one geographical environment to another. Nigerian doctors should be empowered to study and treat their patients as well as visitors. It is time medical tourism is reversed." Foremost Urologist in the Department of Surgery, College of Health Sciences, Professor Ndubuisi Eke

made this observation while delivering the 17th Valedictory Lecture on Thursday, August 27, 2020. Speaking via Zoom, Eke, whose Lecture was entitled "Quelling the Riotous Dysfunction in the Water Works, The Case of Trauma and Prostate Gland", explained that the topic "was chosen to cover two important aspects of urological practice (water works) that occupied our attention in University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH) in the last 35 years".

Disclosing that the most prevalent acquired lesions

that affect men occur in the prostate, Eke noted that "the prostate gland is described as a walnut size gland that lies with its base at the bladder outlet and its apex continuing as the urethra in the male," adding that its function is speculated to be the production of fluid that nourishes the semen.

"Benign Prostatic Hypertrophy is prevalent in men from 50 years of age. It is not life threatening unless it has complications. It does not metastasize. The complications arise from obstruction of urine. This may lead to poor kidney function and failure if treated in time. The treatment is medical with medicines (alpha blockers) or with surgery, prostatectomy open or endoscopically transurethral resection of prostate (TURP), using resectoscope," he explained.

Pointing out that half patients that they see in the Urology Unit were afflicted with prostate cancer, Eke disclosed that the treatment is not affordable to the average senior civil servant who has to pay from his pocket, adding that the treatment is largely palliative except for cases diagnosed early and treated by radical prostatectomy or radical radiotherapy. "Early diagnosis can be made from screening or incidentally when managing a different illness and the Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) is checked," he further explained. Speaking after the Lecture, the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu, who was represented by the Provost, College of Health Sciences, Professor Iyeopu Siminialayi, commended Professor Eke for his contribution to the medical profession. He thanked him for mentoring younger colleagues and contributing the growth of Urological practice, UPTH and the University.



Some Principal and Senior Officers of the College of Health Sciences. Inset: Prof Eke presenting the Lecture via Zoom

Okodudu Bags Africa's Scholar Award

By Sam Kpenu

It was a celebration of a scholar at the Vice Chancellor's office on Friday, October 9, 2020 as the League of African Development Students, an umbrella body for all students' Unions in Africa converged on University of Port Harcourt to confer on the Acting Vice

Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu, LEADS-Africa Patriotic Personality Award.

Presenting the award, the Leader of the delegation and Regional President, LEADS Africa, Kobehi Kossa, who is from Universite de Cocody, Abidjan Cote

More on p3



A Publication of the Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria

AVC, Past UniPort Leaders Discuss Institutional Growth At Luncheon

By Otikor Samuel

It was a gathering of the crème de la crème in the academic environment when the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu, hosted past Vice Chancellors, Deputy Vice Chancellors and Emeriti Professors of the University to a luncheon. The event held at the Vice Chancellor's Lodge on Monday, September 7, 2020.

In his welcome address, the Acting Vice Chancellor presented the state of the University to his guests, stating some of the challenges he met on ground. "I

requested for this reunion meeting to enable me chronicle for you all the record of my first seven weeks activities in the course of the management of the University of Port Harcourt following my appointment as Acting Vice Chancellor. "I consider it necessary to do so because you all are not only very important stakeholders to the University of Port Harcourt, but as our elders and senior partners, you are custodians of the corporate culture and institutional memory that can add value in our efforts to deepen the culture of academic excellence where learning, teaching and

innovation, in an entrepreneurial mindset, will continue to thrive," Professor Okodudu said.

The Acting Vice Chancellor disclosed that on assumption of office, he engaged in extensive consultations with critical stakeholders including Federal and State Governments, regulatory agencies, Unions, Alumni, host communities, contractors and security agencies. Professor Okodudu solicited the advice of the former leaders to sustain the state of tranquility which the University currently enjoyed. "I am requesting that you all stay

More on p6



Registry Day Holds November 12



Story on p2

Enaohwo Speaks On Dev Planning In Education



Story on p3

Okodudu Tasks UDPS Board



Story on p4

Class 1988 Donates Desks To UDSS



Story on p7

Published by University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria
Editor: SAM KPENU - 08030779176 E-mail: ippr@uniport.edu.ng

TND
PRESS
084-300861, 08129908260

Read UniPort News online @ www.uniport.edu.ng

October, 2020

October, 2020

PAGE 7

Registry Day Holds November 12, As Ndiokho Heads C'ttee

By Otikor Samuel

Preparatory to the 9th edition of Registry Day celebration, the Staff Training and Development Officer, Mrs Elizabeth Ndiokho has been appointed the Chairperson of the Planning Committee. This year's Registry Day celebration with the theme: *The University Registry and Efficient Service Delivery*, is slated for Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Information made available by the Registrar, Dr Dorcas Otto, disclosed that the event would hold virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The occasion would be chaired by the 7th Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Joseph Ajenka, while the Commissioner of Commerce and Industry in Rivers State, Mrs Ifeyinwa Nwankpa would be the Special Guest of Honour. The immediate past Registrar of the University of Abuja, Mrs Rifkatu Hoshen Swanta would deliver the Lecture on the theme: *Sustaining the University Registry for Efficient Service Delivery Amidst New Challenges*.

The statement added that the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu is the Chief Host, while the Registrar, Dr Otto is the host. The Registry Day would again provide the forum for staff of the Registry Department to interact, share knowledge, mentor and appreciate past and present administrative staff. Members of the Committee include: Messrs

Chukwuemeka Odoemena, Emmanuel Asoka, Justice Ewelie, Letom Nnen and Charles Agumagu. Others are



Registrar, Dr Otto (seated 2nd left), flanked by Chairperson, 9th Registry Day Planning C'ttee, Mrs Ndiokho (right), Secretary, Mr Akwaowo (left) and other members

The Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu, has given marching orders to all Faculties, Centres and Institutes that do printing and publishing jobs to patronise the University of Port Harcourt Press to enable it realise the dream of the founding fathers.

Acting VC Directs Patronage Of University Press

By Sam Kpenu

Professor Okodudu gave the directive when he received



Acting VC, Prof Okodudu (seated 3rd right), flanked by Chairman of Board, Prof. Amakoromo (left), Principal Officers, Director, Prof Emasealu (standing left), other members of the Board and SAVC, Mr Alex Nmecha

Meet Kpenu, New IPPR Unit Head

On assumption of office of Professor Stephen Okodudu as the Acting Vice Chancellor of the University, some innovations were made alongside the appointment of Mr Samuel Kpenu as the Acting Head of the Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit of the University.

Until his appointment, Mr Kpenu was the Studio Manager of Radio UniPort 88.5 (Unique FM), a position he held since February 2010. His elevation to the position of Acting Head of IPPR Unit did not come to persons who know him as a surprise because of his remarkable sojourn in both academic and professional practice as a journalist.

Mr Kpenu started mainstream journalistic practice in 1997 at the Rivers State Broadcasting Corporation (Radio Rivers). Even as a Part-time Reporter with the Station, Sammy was easily spotted and later attached as a Correspondent to the Rivers State Government House to cover the tour of Local Government Areas by the then Military Administrator of Rivers State, Group Captain Sam Ewang.

Having cut his teeth in the profession, it was easy to gain employment with the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN), Treasure 98.5 FM, Port Harcourt. Armed with his experience both in Radio Rivers and Radio Bayelsa, where he served during his National Youth Service Corps scheme, Mr Kpenu anchored several programmes in the Station with relish.

Under the News and Current Affairs Division of Treasure FM, Sammy was the Anchor/Presenter, Treasure Sports, a daily sports programme that re-defined sports presentation in Rivers State. He also presented classical music, as well as held down listeners with his Sunday night medley. Seven years at Treasure FM was what endeared him to the authorities of the University. So, in 2010, he was hired to man operational activities of Radio UniPort.

Mr Kpenu obtained his first degree from the then Rivers

State University of Science and Technology, now Rivers State University in 2001. He also holds a Master of Arts degree in Communication Studies from the University of Port Harcourt and he is putting finishing touches to a Doctoral programme in Communication Arts. Sammy is a practising Christian; in fact, his friends are soldiers of Christ. He is married to a former Beauty Queen and blessed with children. He is currently charged with managing the public image of the University of Port Harcourt.



Mr Kpenu, Ag PRO

members of the Board of the University of Port Harcourt Press Limited at the Committee Room on Thursday, September 9, 2020. The Acting Vice Chancellor described as unpatriotic, a situation in which printing jobs of University's events are taken outside when the University has a viable printing press.

"We must give our printing press the benefit of first refusal. A situation where we have a printing press, yet our jobs are taken outside is unpatriotic and not in line with the vision of the founding fathers. I want all Units and Departments in the University to patronise the University of Port Harcourt Press to keep the vision of the founding fathers alive," Professor Okodudu stated. The Acting Vice Chancellor commended the Board and Management of the University of Port Harcourt Press for rebranding and upgrading the equipment in the press, stating that the state-of-the-art equipment in the printing press would enable it to compete favourably with modern printing firms in and outside the State. He assured the Board of his administration's readiness to support the Press to succeed.

Speaking earlier, Chairman of the Board, Professor Ebi Amakoromo, said the Press has gone through some transformation through prudent management of resources, acquisition of state-of-the-art equipment and the introduction of tissue papers enough to serve the University community.

"The Press has reinvented itself; more materials have been introduced while two new Direct Imaging (DI) machines have been acquired to keep pace with developments in the printing industry," she disclosed. Also speaking, the Director of the Press, Professor Emmanuel Emasealu, has assured the Acting Vice Chancellor that the Press was keeping pace with industry best practices. Professor Emasealu expressed the readiness of the Press to handle highly sophisticated and quality jobs. He informed the Acting Vice Chancellor that the Board increased salaries of its workforce last January to boost the morale of staff.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Prof Stephen Okodudu
Sam Kpenu

- Publisher
- Editor

STAFF WRITERS
Humphrey Ogu
Ethel Timi-Johnson
Otikor Samuel
Letom Nnen

TECHNICAL SUPPORT
Mitchell Ekiyor
SECRETARIAT
Emillie Nwoko (Mrs)

GRAPHICS
Chika King-James (Mrs)

CIRCULATION
Christiana Baridam (Mrs)
Samuel Owior

PHOTOGRAPHY
Soala George

GUIDE POST

APPOINTMENT

Professor Nnenna Frank-Peterside, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, appointed *Director, Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit*. The two-year appointment which took effect from September 9, 2020, will terminate on September 8, 2022.

Professor Atei Okorobia, Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Humanities, appointed *Director, Institute of Niger Delta Studies*. The two-year appointment which took effect from August 10, 2020, will terminate on August 9, 2022.

Professor Philomena Ejele, Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities, appointed *Director, School of General Studies*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect, will terminate on August 17, 2022.

Dr Badey DineBari, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, appointed *Assistant Director, School of General Studies*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect, will terminate on August 17, 2022.

Dr Kinigoma Boma, Department of Petroleum and Gas Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, appointed *Acting Director, Center for Petroleum Research and Training*. The two-year appointment which took effect from August 12, 2020, will terminate on August 11, 2022.

Dr Adekunle Sofolabo, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, appointed *Acting Dean, Student Affairs Department*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect, will terminate on August 18, 2022.

Dr Chima Wokocha, Department of Crop and Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, appointed *Acting Director, Students' Industrial Work Experience Scheme*. The two-year appointment which took effect from September 7, 2020, will terminate on September 6, 2022.

Dr Chinedu Ogbuji, Department of Marketing, Faculty of Management Sciences, appointed *Acting Director, Entrepreneurship Centre*. The two-year appointment which took effect from September 7, 2020, will terminate on September 6, 2022.

Dr Ganiyu Adekola, Department of Adult and Non-Formal Education, Faculty of Education, appointed *Acting Director, Nomadic Education Centre*. The two-year appointment which took effect from September 9, 2020, will terminate on September 8, 2022.

Dr Kelechi Okonta, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, appointed *Acting Director, Youth Friendly Centre*. The two-year appointment which took effect from September 15, 2020 will terminate on September 14, 2022.

Mr Nicholas Abule, Works and Services Department, appointed *Procurement Officer, African Centre of Excellence in Public Health and Toxicological Research (ACE-PUTOR)*. The appointment lasts till the end of the project.

HIGHER DEGREE

Dr Dorcas Dappasika Otto, Registrar, completed her terminal degree programme at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa.



Principal, Mr Weleria (centre) flanked by Management Staff and the donors. Inset: New toilet facility

Class 1988 Donates Desks To UDSS

By Otikor Samuel

Ahead of the resumption of normal academic activities in the educational sector after forced closure due to Coronavirus disease pandemic, a set of former students of the University Demonstration Secondary School under the aegis of *Class 1988* donated a total of 50 student desks to the School to assist its infrastructural growth. Speaking on behalf of the Class before handing over the desks, Mrs Magdalene Umoh, disclosed that the Class earlier visited the School last February for on-the-spot-assessment of the state of the School that laid strong foundation for its former students.

"From our visit in February, we came up with a list of items that the School needed. One critical need was the desk and we

all supported it. We voted for the provision of desk not just because of coronavirus, but we don't like the idea of cramming students together. We will go back and plan for another homecoming not as a class but alumni of the School," Mrs Umoh disclosed.

In his reaction, UDSS Principal, Mr Fidelis Weleria, lauded the UDSS Class of 1988 for the donation. "On behalf of the Management, staff and students, I wish to express my profound joy and gratitude to Class 1988 for providing a relief of 50 desks to assist the students sit comfortably to receive lectures in the classrooms," the Principal said.

In a similar development, the Management of the School, has unveiled a five-room toilet facility built by the School with the approval of the Board of Governors chaired by Professor Barisua Nwinee.

Stop Press

Akpoghomeh Heads C'ttee To Review Janitorial Services

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu, has appointed Professor Osi Akpoghomeh of the Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences as Chairman, Committee on the Review of CEBAS and Janitorial Services in the University.

The Committee is to among other things determine the adequacy or otherwise of the number of personnel currently engaged in the service of CEBAS, determine the number and propriety of the number of janitorial service providers in addition to CEBAS, determine the actual number of personnel required to clean the University and recommend recruitment process, deployment, management and monitoring measures for effective use of cleaning personnel in the University.

Members of the Committee are: Acting Director of CEBAS Unit, Mr Job Borgbara, Acting Dean, Student Affairs Department, Dr Adekunle Sofolabo and Messrs Victor Eriwidjewe (Works and Services Department) and Ikechukwu Nwodo (Legal Unit). Mr Promise Aalooce of the Registry Department is to serve as Secretary. The Committee is expected to submit its report in the next one month.

Ace Educationist Family Donates To Library

By Letom Nnen

In keeping to the ideals of the late ace educationist, Jenudo Oke, his family has donated books numbering about 188 to

the Donald Ekong Library. Speaking shortly before donating the books on behalf of the family at the Vice Chancellor's Committee Room on Tuesday, September 15, 2020, wife of the late educationist, Mrs Ndidamaka Oke who was accompanied by one of her sons, Okenwa Oke, disclosed that the family's decision was informed by the premium their late husband and father placed on reading and education. "Right now, his family feels that these books may be useful to the students in your University for their studies and so, wishes to donate them to the Institution. We hope that this gesture will go a long way in aiding the users in their studies and research work," she said.

Receiving the books which cut across different subject areas, including Philosophy, Religion and Education, the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu commended the family for the gesture. He assured representatives of the family that the books would be put to good use.

"Let me on behalf of the staff and students of the University of Port Harcourt thank you

for this gesture. We want to assure you that our students would find these books useful as resource materials. We want to wish you and your family the best," Professor Okodudu assured his guests.



Ag VC receiving the books from Oke's family



Ag VC, Prof Okodudu (arrowed), flanked by 2nd VC, Prof Cookey, Emeriti Profs Alagoa, Nduka and Okiwelu (right), Emeritus Prof Briggs, Profs Baridam, Anikpo and Anusiem (seated left), Principal Officers and others

UniPort Recalls Chinah To Duty

The Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu, has recalled Mr Philip Chinah of the Bursary Department to duty. The recall followed Mr Chinah's appeal in a letter dated August 4, 2020. The Registrar, Dr Dorcas Otto, in a letter dated August 14, 2020, conveyed the approval of the Acting Vice Chancellor.

"I am pleased to inform you that the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen A. Okodudu, has approved that you be recalled to duty and the proportion of your emoluments withheld be paid to you with effect from the date of your suspension from duty (that is, 1st July, 2019). In the light of the above, I write to inform you that you are hereby recalled to duty as Principal Accountant in the Bursary Department," part of the letter read.

AVC Meets Past UniPort Leaders

Cont'd from Page 1

close to the University which you have served. While we shall continue to contact you, we are open to suggestions about how to pursue the opportunity of formalising your continuing support to the University," he appealed.

Responding separately, 2nd Vice Chancellor, Professor Sylvanus Cookey, commended the Acting Vice Chancellor for hosting former Principal Officers and other academics in top echelon of administration. Professor Cookey, who described the initiative as a right step, expressed concern with the myriad of problems facing the University. He advised the Acting Vice Chancellor to tackle the problems headlong to sustain the towering heights of the University.

In his reaction, 5th Vice Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, also expressed regrets with recent events playing out in the University. Emeritus Professor Briggs noted that the University was making enormous advances in different fields such as in engineering, Nollywood and sports. He stated his willingness to continue to contribute to the growth of the University.

Also, speaking, 6th Vice Chancellor, Professor Don Baridam, reminded his host that the position of Vice

Chancellor is an office in which the occupant becomes a subordinate to his former subordinates when he leaves office. Professor Baridam advised the Acting Vice Chancellor to cultivate relationship, rather than allow sycophants to breed hostility around him.

In his speech, the 7th Vice Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka enjoined former leaders of the University to deploy their circle of influence to cultivate goodwill for the advancement of the University. He commended the Acting Vice Chancellor for hosting former Principal Officers in the academic cadre and other senior academics in the University.

Also, Emeriti Professors Otonti Nduka, Ebiegberi Alagoa and Samuel Okiwelu took turns to speak at the event. Former Deputy Vice Chancellors including Professors John Enaohwo, Joseph Okoh, Mark Anikpo, Samuel Ibodje, Igbo Joe, Bernard Efiuwewwere, Anthony Ibe and Bene Willie Abbey also spoke at the luncheon.

Also, in attendance at the event were the Registrar, Dr Dorcas Otto, Bursar, Dr Felicia Ayuwo, University Librarian, Dr Susan Umeozor and former Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Alphonsus Anusiem.

COVID-19 That We All May Be Safe

By Humphrey Ogu

Novel Coronavirus, also known as Covid-19 pandemic threw up a lot of challenges to humanity. Although every entity—country, state, community, organisation strove to protect its citizens or staff, different organisations adopted different approaches to ensuring that people are protected from the killer virus.

As a socially responsible institution, the University of Port Harcourt took a proactive step by sensitising members of the academic community on Tuesday, February 11, 2020 on how to stay safe from Lassa Fever virus and Novel Coronavirus two viral killer diseases ravaging parts of the world at the time. The one-day Sensitisation Forum on Lassa Fever and Novel Coronavirus at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium was organised by Africa Centre of Excellence in Public Health and Toxicological Research (ACE-PUTOR) in collaboration with UniPort School of Public Health. It featured two lectures. The first one was entitled,

"Lassa Fever and Novel Coronavirus: An Overview of What We Know and What We Need to Do," delivered by Consultant Infectious Diseases and Respiratory Physician, Dr Datonye Alasia. In her lecture entitled: "Infection Prevention and Control for Lassa Fever and Corona Virus", Consultant Epidemiologist and Acting Head of Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Dr Omosivie Maduka recommended regular hand washing with soap under running water as well as personal hygiene as preventive measures. She also demonstrated best ways of washing the hands and wearing masks to prevent contracting the viral diseases.

On March 25, 2020, staff on Grade Level 11 and below were asked to stay away from work, except for drivers and others on essential duties. This was to reduce the number of staff at work, thereby checking the spread of the Covid-19. A memo conveying that decision, which was signed by the Registrar, Dr Dorcas Otto on behalf of management, urged staff to adhere strictly with the precautionary measures recommended by

the World Health Organisation.

Other measures taken by the Management of the University were the installation of washing hand basins with running water and liquid wash at different spot on campus. At the entrance of the Senate Building, where six of such basins are stationed three on each of the two wings, security men are on hand to enforce compliance with the hand-washing rules. This is in addition to checking the temperature of staff and visitors to the building. More so, the use of face masks had also been made mandatory for those who wish to access the building. Sometime in May this year, an indigenous firm, AMNI International Petroleum donated Covid-19 equipment to the University. This donation has culminated in the University having a Centre for Covid-19, which was commissioned on Monday, September 14, 2020. While overseeing the affairs of the University, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Regina Ogali had on Friday, June 25, 2020 paid a working visit to the centre, located at the Regional Centre for Biotechnology and Bioresources Research (RCBBR). Again, the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences had earlier produced hand sanitiser, while the Department of Fine Arts and Design also mass-produced customised facemask for use by staff and students in the University.

On Monday, October 12, 2020, the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu, led other Principal Officers and some senior staff on inspection of the Isolation Centre in the eventuality of any case. The Isolation Centre is located at the International Students' Centre, University Park. The level of preparedness at the Centre was quite impressive and satisfactory.

While the authorities of UniPort does its bit in ensuring the safety of staff, students, visitors, and other stakeholders in the University, it behoves every individual to continue to obey the Covid-19 preventive protocols. This way, UniPort shall be safe. And we all shall stay safe and healthy.



Array of beds at the Isolation Centre

Okodudu Gets Award

Cont'd from Page 1

d' Vioire, said Professor Okodudu was chosen based on three major criteria which include: antecedence of excellence in the academia stretching three decades, the predominant place of priority for students' welfare and his efforts in building bridges of hope.

"We are confident that history will be kind to remember you for the historic and patriotic role in this Ivory Tower, even as you will be honoured with the prestigious award of LEADS Africa's Patriotic Academic Awards to recognise your commitment to development, peace-building efforts and self-reliance in Africa," Kossa, who doubles as the Regional Representative of

Francophone Countries said, describing Professor Okodudu as a man with an impressive and exemplary antecedence in the academia having a vibrant dynamic and remarkable teaching and research career spanning over 27 years in the institution.

The Regional President disclosed that Professor Okodudu was selected after a special envoy of enquiry of LEADS Africa visited Nigeria in July 2020 to assess performances of select personalities. He urged the Acting Vice Chancellor to justify the award by continuing to distinguish himself through purposeful leadership.

Responding, Professor Okodudu told the

delegation that his Interim Administration was committed to the mandate of ensuring a lasting peace on campus. He expressed delight for the award, promising that he would collaborate with all relevant stakeholders to return the Institution to the path of greatness.

"I am deeply honoured by this award and I promise to do more by ensuring that the welfare of staff and students is given top priority. I also urge you to be good ambassadors of your respective countries," Okodudu said.

Highlights of the occasion were the presentations of the Plaque and Medal of -Honour to the Acting Vice Chancellor, while a special medal was also presented to the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Regina Ogali.

The brief ceremony had in attendance other Principal Officers of the University.



Ag VC, Okodudu (centre), flanked by DVC (Admin), Prof Ogali, Registrar, Dr Otto, Univ Librarian, Dr Umeozor (left) and the students

Enaohwo Highlights Gains Of Bridge-Building For Optimal Educational Planning

By Otikor Samuel

For too long, academics have operated and practised their profession from an esoteric perspective to the exclusion of those considered as non experts or specialists, whereas inclusion of these non-specialists could contribute to certain breakthroughs as most early innovations were discoveries from non-experts in the field.

Professor John Enaohwo of the Department of Educational Management, Faculty of Education made the submission, while delivering the 16th Valedictory Lecture at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on August 26, 2020. The Lecture was entitled: *Leveraging the Clientele and Interest Groups for Optimal Effectiveness in Development*

Planning in Education.

The former Vice Chancellor of Delta State University, Abraka, stated that leverage could be considered from endogenous and exogenous perspectives. Endogenous leverage, he said involves internal cooperation among members of same profession to solve a problem, while exogenous leverage takes place between members of a profession and people, experts or interest groups who do not belong to the occupational group.

"Leveraging does not involve depending on the clientele or end-users in order to carry out one's duties in a chosen profession or practice, rather the process of leveraging consists of cooperating and relating with end-users for necessary feedback for self-improvement in any chosen

profession, practice and occupation. This feedback and interaction with the clientele or patients, students, or members of the society could result in ultimate enhancement or innovation for better practice," he said.

"In exceptional cases, clients or members of the public who are laymen or experts in different fields have contributed immensely to innovations in several professions, to the benefit of all. Such leverage could be of immense value to development planning in education," Professor Enaohwo said, pointing out that development planning comprises performance plans with clearly spelt out goals to address specific needs.

Listing several inventions and innovations by experts and non-professionals from other fields, Enaohwo who became a Professor twelve years

after his first degree, described students as the main catalysts to any success in education. According to him, the role of students is enhanced by their natural ability, age and their interaction in the environment through learning.

Other critical stakeholders in the determinants of outcomes through development planning in education include: parents, guardians, non-governmental organisations, foreign and local agencies and donor organisations.

Professor Enaohwo, who put up forty years of service, was a pioneer staff of the University. He was promoted to the rank of a Professor in October 1987.

Reacting to the Lecture, the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu, stated that the Lecture drew the attention of the audience that all knowledge are multidisciplinary and should draw strength from one another.



Prof Enaohwo (centre), his wife, Agnes (right), Ag VC, Prof Okodudu (left), Principal Officers and others

The Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu has commended the Board of the University Demonstration Primary School (UDPS) for its developmental strides, charging members of the Board to run quality programmes that would attract pupils to the school and make it a competitive brand. Professor Okodudu made the remarks, while playing host to the Board of Governors of the School at the Vice Chancellor's Committee Room on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. The Acting Vice Chancellor commended the Board for its numerous achievements, directing the Management of the School to put all precautionary measures in place against the COVID-19 ahead of resumption. He encouraged the Management of the School to key into online teaching of the pupils.

"I want to thank you for the achievements you rolled out. We would be expecting more of these from you. While we are not expecting perfection from you, there is need to make improvement. So, I want you to encourage members of your Board to ensure that solid foundation is given to these children as they constitute a very basic foundation of children that will eventually end up in the University. If the foundation is not well laid, in the years to come, the foundation would be faulty. We would want you to focus on standard in addition to the infrastructural development," Professor Okodudu told the Board.

Okodudu Tasks UDPS Board On Quality Programme

By Letom Nnen

Earlier in her address, the Chairman of the Board, Professor Joyce Akaninwor, disclosed that the visit was to acquaint the Acting Vice Chancellor on the activities and achievements of the Board. She listed capacity training

workshop for teachers, completion of a one-story building of eight classrooms initiated by previous Board, donation of twenty desktop computers and a laptop and the establishment of the Crèche and Nursery sections amongst other achievements. She appealed for the employment of more teachers to fill the existing vacancies.



Ag VC, Prof Okodudu (centre), flanked by Board Chairman, Prof Akaninwor (right), Principal Officers, Board Members and some staff of UDPS

Ag VC Restates Commitment To Rotary Club

By Sam Kpenu

The Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu, has lauded the humanitarian endeavours of the Rotary Club of Choba-UniPort, describing its exploits as unprecedented. Professor Okodudu made the remarks when he granted audience to the Executives of Rotary Club of

Choba-UniPort, District 9141 led by its President, Professor Emmanuel Emesealu, at the Vice Chancellor's Committee Room on Thursday, September 10, 2020.

The visibly elated Acting Vice Chancellor poured encomiums on the Club for their humanitarian services particularly, the efforts towards the eradication of polio in the country.



Ag VC, Prof Okodudu (seated 3rd right), flanked by Principal Officers, Rotary Club of Choba-UniPort President, Prof Emesealu (seated 3rd left), members of the Club and SAVC, Mr Alex Nmecha

University of Port Harcourt now has functional Covid-19 Molecular-Testing laboratory. The follows the commissioning of the laboratory equipment donated by AMNI International Petroleum Development Company on Monday, September 14, 2020. The laboratory is situated at the Regional Centre for Biotechnology and Bioresources Research. In his speech, Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu expressed appreciation to the donor. "We are grateful to AMNI International Petroleum Development Company. I see this donation and the relationship with the Company as a very strategic handshake between the university and the industry. It is a global best practice. I call on corporate organisations to emulate AMNI," Professor Okodudu said.

In his address, Special Adviser to Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of the donor Company, Professor Oladipo Afolabi, noted that government has made tremendous efforts to contain the spread of the virus through massive public education on the preventive measures, building of facilities and provision of drugs. "Private individuals and corporate citizens need to give a helping hand in the provision of infrastructure for our teeming population. It is in view of this, that AMNI as part of its corporate social responsibility, decided to partner with the University of Port Harcourt to deliver a standard Covid-19 Test Centre to the benefit of residents of Port Harcourt in particular and Rivers State in general," he said.

Earlier in his welcome address, Director, RCBRR, Professor Anthony Ataga, said the commissioning of

UniPort Gets Covid-19 Lab

By Humphrey Ogu

Covid-19 laboratory would go a long way in assisting the state, the nation and the world at large in fighting SARS CoV-2 Virus, which is responsible for Covid-19. "The lab is open to staff of AMNI International Petroleum Development Company Limited, members of the University of Port Harcourt community and the general public," he added.

The highlight of the event, which featured a Courtesy Call on the Acting Vice Chancellor, was a tour of the

diagnostic centre. Other dignitaries at the Commissioning Ceremony included the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Regina Ogali, Registrar, Dr Dorcas Otto, Bursar, Dr Felicia Ayuwo and the University Librarian, Dr Susan Umeozor. Representing AMNI were Group Managing Director, Mr Wale Olasifisan, Group Manager, Human Resources, Ayo Otepolu, and Head, Health, Safety and Environment, Joseph Ekpelegho. Others included Head of Port Harcourt Office, Sam Famfo, Community Relations Officer, Gafa Abdullalhi.



Ag VC, Prof Okodudu (arrowed), flanked by Principal Officers, members of COVID-19 C'ttee and others after the commissioning

In a determined effort aimed at enhancing the smooth running of the *Nollywood* Art and Photography Units of the Institute of Arts and Culture, the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu has commissioned a state-of-the-art photo studio at the Institute.

Commissioning the studio which is located beside Basic Studies building on Monday, August 24, 2020, the Acting Vice Chancellor, commended the Acting Director of the Institute, Dr Friday Nwafor for the initiative, charging him to put the facility to proper use. "This is a radical transformation. Looking at it is great and impressive, and I would urge you to leverage on the *Nollywood* actors whose images are placed on the facility to attract fund to the University," Professor Okodudu charged the Director, urging him to run quality services.

Earlier, while conducting the Acting Vice Chancellor round the studio, Dr Nwafor, disclosed that the facility was put in place to enable the Institute run some of its already approved programmes and render professional photographic services to staff and students at an affordable rate.

The Acting Director further revealed that the studio which would serve as workshop for students would also afford the Institute to run the production of identity cards for staff and students, thereby saving cost for the University. He also stated that the studio

AVC Commissions Artsville Studio

By Letom Nnen

would render other services such as reprinting and treating of old pictures.

"This Institute has four units namely: Film Production and *Nollywood* Art, Fashion Design and

Craft Making, Photography, and Cultural Administration. This is an Institute that is supposed to run programmes in these areas and so, this Photography studio is one of the things needed in running both the *Nollywood* and Photography units," the Acting Director revealed.



Ag VC, Prof Okodudu (centre), flanked by Ag Director, Dr Nwafor (right) and a staff

Akpokodje Charts Pathways To Sustainable Dev In N'Delta

By Otikor Samuel

Sustainable development in the Niger Delta could only be achieved when there is a paradigm shift from the current sectoral and piecemeal funding approach to a multi-sectoral, well-coordinated and integrated approach with a clear vision. The vision must be laced with practical development roadmap and planned within specified timeframe.

This was the position canvassed by Professor Enuvie Akpokodje of the Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, while delivering the 15th Valedictory Lecture of the University entitled, *A Sustainable Niger Delta: Still Possible Only If...* at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on August 24, 2020. The Lecture was streamed online as part of COVID-19 preventive protocols.

"A sustainable Niger Delta is still possible only if the intervention approach optimises short, medium and long-term goals as integrated components of the overall 'umbrella' strategic plan aimed at addressing socio-economic and environmental challenges of the Niger Delta in the context of sustainability and sustainable development," Professor Akpokodje said. The 15th Valedictory Lecturer stated that a sustainable Niger Delta would be based on a collaborative strategic planning, adding that the implementation would involve strong cooperation among the levels of government, business, communities and other

relevant stakeholders.

Professor Akpokodje noted that the issue of sustainable management of earth's finite natural resources poses serious challenges to human society in the 21st century, pointing out that environmental sustainability and human health are under serious threat in the Niger Delta region due to oil and gas exploitation.

He stated the need to address the fundamental issue of environmental degradation and how to sustain the livelihood of people in the local areas who constitute over 60% of persons that rely on the natural environment for existence. Professor Akpokodje also emphasised the need for the appointment of competent individuals to manage intervention agencies, arguing that appointments to critical development agencies should not be made based on political patronage and group interest.

Akpokodje, who retired as a Professor of Engineering and Environmental Geology, served the University for forty-four years. He joined the University in 1976 as Graduate Assistant.

In his reaction, the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu, described the Lecture as a rich harvest of 44 years of active service. The Acting Vice Chancellor stated the need to incorporate the issue of sustainability into academic curricula to transmit the knowledge of sustainable development to the next generation.



Prof Akpokodje handing over a copy of the Lecture to Ag VC, Prof Okodudu

AVC Assures Choba Police Of Continued Support

By Ethel Timi-Johnson



Ag VC, Prof Okodudu (right) and Area Commander, Mr Okunade exchanging pleasantries

Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu has assured the Choba Area Command of the Nigeria Police of continued support, noting that security was paramount for the well-being of any human society.

Professor Okodudu gave the assurance when the Area Commander, Mr Stephen Okunade, accompanied by some senior officers paid a courtesy visit to him, last August.

"As a human organisation which prioritises security, it is only important that we do the needful which is to support your cause. There is need to deepen this relationship and keep communication open to address threats as they come. We would continue to do what is possible within our powers," Professor Okodudu told his guests, regretting that the government pays the least attention to security over the years.

In his response, the Area Commander, Mr Okunade, disclosed that the Command was working to ensure that the Area was crime free. "We carry out our businesses without fear or molestation to provide a conducive environment. So far we can attest to the fact that communities within our jurisdiction have enjoyed relative peace including the University of Port Harcourt which is one of our major concerns," Okunade said. He listed the challenges affecting the Command while appealing to the Acting Vice Chancellor to support the Command in its bid to offer quality service to the Nigerian society.