Akpor Monarch Visits UNIPORT

Authorities of the University of Port Harcourt have reiterated their resolve to ensure that host communities benefit from the location of the Institution on their land. Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, made the pledge when the Paramount Ruler and Nye-New-Ali Akpor, His Royal Highness, Eze Anele Orlu Oriebe, JP led a delegation of Akpor Council of Chiefs to his pay him a Courtesy Visit last Friday. 

By Williams Wodi

The Governing Council of the University of Port Harcourt has been reinstated to serve out its statutory tenure, which was interrupted following sudden dissolution of the Councils of all Federal Universities in 2011 by the Federal Government. Consequently, the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the University of Port Harcourt Council, Dr. Dan Shere and other Members of the apex policy-making body are returning to continue their good work till the end of their tenure as stipulate in the terms of their appointment. A Letter signed by the Registrar and Secretary to Council, Mrs. Matilda Nwodim, which was obtained by UNIPORT Weekly, stated that the reinstatement of the old Governing Councils followed the approval granted by the Visitor and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic, His Excellency, President Goodluck Jonathan, GCFR authorising the move. Reinstatement of the Councils, according to information obtained by UNIPORT Weekly, would allow for policy continuity and administrative stability in the affected institutions which have so far operated without such important statutory organs in place. 

Cont’d on p6
A Resounding Victory For Post-UTME

By Williams Wodi

Genuine leadership is not only an instrument of change; it is also a catalyst for change. To paraphrase Barack Obama’s victory speech in 2008, “change has come to the university admission process”. This eagerly-anticipated change in the university admission process came last week with the final acceptance by the Senate of the Federal Republic of the recommendation of its Committee on Education that there is no illegality in the conduct of Post-Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examinations (PUTME), conducted by Nigerian universities after all. The delayed acceptance followed a rather protracted acrimony generated by the motion moved by Senator Heinonen Lokpobiri over the legality or otherwise of PUTME by universities. A brief summary of the contentious position may be of use to the reader at this point: Senator Lokpobiri’s ill-timed motion seeking to outlaw the screening exercise was essentially on grounds of what he described as exploitation of candidates by the universities. The Senate Committee on Education had consequently investigated the validity of the exercise to determine its legitimacy and returned a heart-warming verdict on the same day. It is not illegal! We may, therefore, say that seeking to outlaw PUTME solely on grounds of exploiting candidates was an act of short-sightedness by the Senate. The Minister of Education, Professor Ruqayyah Rufai, who appeared before the Committee, rightly argued that there was basically nothing wrong with conducting the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examinations (UTME) and PUTME side-by-side. Other stakeholders, such as the National Universities Commission (NUC), Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) and the Committee of Vice-Chancellors (CVC), including interested citizens from JAMB over the legality of universities to conduct the UTME was essentially self-serving, to say the least.

Sen. David Mark

Sen. David Mark, Senate President

Prof Dibu Ojilede

Prof Dibu Ojilede, JAMB Registrar

Joe Heads New Faculties C'ttee

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, has appointed the University Centre Professor Chair, Implement Committee Rep Fac Progra the which immediate effect is a follow-up to the decision of Senate at its 380th Meeting authorising the move.

Other Members of the Committee are Professors Tony Arize, Lawrence Igwe, Sylvanus Udoidein, Augusto Enwe, Ayegebaem Spiff, Adewale Nosonu, Alice Nte and Augustine Uwakwe. The Implementation Committee is expected to closely scrutinize the various reports submitted by the Professor Spiff-led Faculties and Programmes Review Committee, with a view to making workable recommendations that would lead to the birth of new Faculties and Programmes in the University.

The Committee is also charged with the responsibility of harmonising Courses and Programmes that tend to conflict, with a view to ensuring that they properly work together in the various stakeholders in the University.

The Vice-Chancellor, who signed the appointment letters, congratulated the Committee Members for accepting to serve the University in such a critical assignment, urging them to complete the job within the shortest possible timeline to enable the new Faculties and Programmes take-off as envisaged.
By Mercy Don-Baridum and Williams Wodi

Urging successful bidders to deliver quality jobs within the stipulated deadline for each project to justify their participation in the bidding process for new jobs in the University. The projects range from Faculty of Agriculture, Power Engineering Building, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Animal Research Building, Central Office Building, to a new Central Instruments Laboratory (CIL), Department of Music and Blocks of Lecture Halls. Also speaking, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, stated that the exercise has been a very fair and transparent one as it complied with all due process standards. “The essential thing is that at the end of the day, it is a very fair exercise. Some of you would be successful, while others would have to await another Tender exercise, but at the end of the day, we expect a very quality job so that your good jobs will sell you both in and outside the University Community”, he said.

He explained that the bidding process for furniture and the Entrepreneurial Centre projects were put on hold on the advice of the Technical and Foundation Committee, assisting affected Contractors that the process involving them would hold as soon as possible. The bidding which participating Contractors described as open and transparent had in attendance representatives from the National Universities Commission (NUC), Engineer Rasheed Mustapha, Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Mallam Umar Mari, Chairman, Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors, Chief Lucky Badom, Nigerian Society of Engineers, Engineer Dennis Daniels and the Nigerian Institute of Architects, Architect Ayenje. Also present were Principal Officers of the University and representatives of benefiting Faculties/Units of the various Projects in the University.

Int'l Mother Language Day
Experts Make Case For Mother Tongue

By Humphrey Ogu

Despite what seems like a general inclination towards modernization and globalization, as well as the growing belief that Mother Tongue is no longer fashionable in the world of today, experts in Linguistics and Language Studies have argued that indigenous languages are still very crucial to human existence.

Speaking with UNIPORT Weekly last Tuesday, Visiting Scholar and Language Educationist, Dr Daniel Ogu, noted that “people are defined by the language they speak. For any nation to make serious impact in the course of advancing the cause of humanity, such impact must be consequent upon the appropriate development and use of indigenous languages. This is because original thought is only possible in the language that is indigenous to the people.”

Oguum, who is a Reader in the Department of English Studies, noted that “you cannot advance in a borrowed language that does not suit your own pattern of development. Consequently, if Nigeria takes Vision 20:2020 seriously, the onus lies on us all to develop indigenous languages well and use them as a launch pad for clear thinking of our ideas that would translate to national development and advancement for humanity, adding that countries that make tremendous advancement are those that make use of their indigenous languages.”

He noted that countries that make tremendous progress in technology and in other spheres of life are known to utilize their native languages, pointing out that “China which is making ripples in the world today because it makes use of Mandarin; in Japan, it is Japanese; in England, it is English; in Germany it is German; in France it is French and in South Africa, the people have cleverly adopted 11 languages as official languages. Chances are that the people are also making their contributions to humanity based on how they perceive reality and their interpretation of human society.”

Also speaking, Lexicographer and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Dr Ethelbert Kari, who defined Mother Tongue as the first language a child comes in contact with, noted that “Mother Tongue is very important because the first child has to form concepts in that language. There is no denying the fact that international languages are important, because we are living in an international world; but that is not to say that indigenous languages are not important. They are as important as international languages.

“Besides, it is we that give importance to languages. If you don’t attach importance to the language you speak, it will not be important to you. Indigenous languages are used to express the world-view of a people who think and reason in those languages. Languages are important to their speakers. Language is the vehicle through which culture is expressed.” Dr Kari explained, stating that language development is essential to the sustenance of a language.

In his own contribution, Mr Jones Ayuwo of the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, observed that “it is very necessary to focus on Mother Tongue. Globalization and Information and Communication Technology (ICTC) can be domesticated. Japanese, Chinese and Malay have domesticated the ICT and related technologies to their own language needs.”

He also pointed out that “those who planned the National Policy on Education in 1977, with revisions in 1981 and 2004 did make provision for pupils in Primaries One to Three to be taught in their Mother Tongues,” stating that “many of those who speak English very well began first by speaking their native languages. For instance, Nobel Laureate, Wolfe Soyinka, famous novelist, Chinua Achebe, noted Linguists Nlore Emenman and Ayo Bamigbade, all began by waxing fluent in their native languages.”

International Mother Language Day, which was proclaimed by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization UNESCO in November, 1999, has been observed every year since February, 2000 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. The theme for United Nations International Mother Language Day 2012 is “Mother Tongue Instruction and Inclusive Education”. 
Akpor Monarch Visits UNIPORT, Gets Assurances From V-C

Professor Ajenga said that “we cannot develop as an institution if the communities around us are not developing alongside the University”, noting that “the University has affected the host communities in a tremendous way and that is why we must continue to partner for mutual benefits”. He thanked the host communities for the cooperation and support given the University over the years, stressing that the growth and development strides so far recorded were as a result of total support from the host communities.

He said that in reciprocating the host communities’ gesture, the authorities were doing everything within their powers to assist them develop, promising that the University would always assist its host communities.

Professor Ajenga, who said that the authorities had taken into consideration the host communities in the admission process, regretted that the privilege was sometimes abused by inclusion of names of candidates that were not indigens of the communities which contravened the affirmative action to help them. He also advised contractors from the host communities to bid and compete for mega-contracts with contractors from other places.

The Vice-Chancellor, who said that anything that is due the host communities would be given them, disclosed that the authorities had set up a Joint University/Community Relationship Committee to work out a process that would address the needs of the communities, hoping that the Committee would become fully functional this year.

Earlier in his speech, the Nye-Nwe Alifi Akpor, Eze Anene Oriri-Uriebe, said that the visit was to familiarize himself with the authorities of the Institution and discuss issues that affect Akpor Kingdom. The Nye-Nwe Alifi, who spoke through the Nye-Nwe Alifi Choba, Eze Raymond Okocha, called on the authorities to consider sons and daughters of Akpor Kingdom for admission in disciplines such as Medicine, Engineering and Nursing, as well as in contract awards. He appealed to Management to put Akpor Kingdom in the agenda of the University when taking decisions that would be of benefit to host communities.

In her speech, Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim, thanked the Nye-Nwe Alifi for the visit, expressing hope that the purpose of the visit would be realized for the mutual benefit of the University and its host communities. Also on the delegation were: Eze Amadi Wali JP, Paramount Ruler of Orohia; Eze John Owohri JP; Eze Nnabuzo Wabo JP, Paramount Ruler of Rumohi; Chief Oluere Wabo JP, representing Paramount Ruler of Rumoonpom and Mr. Cyril Orhi, Secretary to the Akpor Council of Chiefs.

Works Director Advises On Energy Use

By Otokor Samuel

By Williams Wodi

A part of efforts aimed at effective service delivery to its increasing clientele, a Non-governmental organization—the West African sub-Regional HIV Network under the auspices of the Association of African Universities (AAU), has donated a Laptop Computer, UPS, Monopoly and Scrabbles to the University’s Youth-Friendly Centre in Delta Park.

Handing over the items at the International Students’ Centre last week, Acting HIV Project Officer at the AAU Secretariat in Ghana, Mr. Ransford Bekoe, said the donation was part of the action plan by the continental universities’ body to boost effective monitoring of the dreaded pandemic across the West African sub-Region, promising that his organization would do everything possible to partner the Centre in efforts targeted at controlling HIV—especially amongst students and young people who are most vulnerable to infection.

Receiving the items on behalf of the University, Coordinator of the Youth-Friendly Centre, Dr. Chinwe Ezirim, who was assisted by the Administrative Officer, Mrs. Ifeoma Ofurum, expressed gratitude to the donor agency for the kind gesture, adding that it would go a long way in supporting the work of the Centre in giving succor to both the infected and affected persons in society. She also used the opportunity to appeal to public-spirited individuals and groups to come to the aid of the Centre as it continues to fashion out programmes aimed at checking spread of the killer virus in the University and its environs.

Also on hand to receive the visit were the sub-Regional Coordinator of West African Network on HIV under the AAU, Dr. Nwadiquate Akani and Professor Onyesochi Akaranta, who represented the Vice-chancellor at the presentation ceremony.
V-C Meets Non-Congregation Members,...Stresses Dignity Of Labour

By Obinna Nwosim

Staff, who are non-Congregation members have been commended to give positive roles in the development of the University, since its inception in 1975. Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajemba, made the commendation while addressing them at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, last Monday.

Professor Ajemba said that the authorities attached much importance to their duties, which have contributed to the overall development strides recorded by the University. He said that the success story recorded by the Institution cannot be told without the input made by this category of staff, stressing that such contributions informed Management’s decision to meet with them.

“...We realize that there is a significant number of workers who are not members of the Congregation. That population is very important and it is important that from time-to-time we have this meeting to get first hand information on issues affecting the University”, he stated. Professor Ajemba commended them for conducting themselves in a manner which, he said, had added value to the University. “I thank you all for all the things you have done. You have contributed immensely to building of the University we are celebrating today and for that we thank you immensely”, he said.

The Vice-Chancellor advised them to imbibe the right ethics and conduct in the discharge of their duties, as hardworking staff would be motivated, advising them to always take their jobs not only seriously, but discharge them with dignity. He stated that, “You should be proud of the work you do. Every one of you is important in the proper functioning of the system. No matter the level of work you do, once you show yourself as exemplary, you will be rewarded”.

Professor Ajemba assured them, urging them to put in their best in the performance of their duties.

Reacting to questions on the payment of the contentious hazard allowance, the Vice-Chancellor said that the issue of hazard allowance, which was a negotiated allowance between the Union and the Federal Government, pointing out that since salaries were paid directly, the Federal Government sends the agreed endorsements to the Universities. He, however, assured them that whenever the Federal Government sends money to be paid to staff, the Administration would not hesitate to pay such money to its intended beneficiaries.

On staff conversion, he said that the Governing Council had directed that the exercise be conducted annually, assuring them that the process was still on. He noted that only staff that passed the interview sessions would be converted. The Vice-Chancellor frowned at a situation where leaders of the Non-Academic Staff Union (NASU) prevented Management from carrying out training for Artisans in the Works and Services Department, which was a criterion for their promotion to the next level, noting that the action could not be justified under any guise.

Professor Ajemba also advised staff to utilize the opportunity of operating in the environment to develop themselves, while enjoining them to make useful suggestions that would contribute to the growth and development of the Institution. In her remark, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Development, Professor Enyioha Eze, commended the Vice-Chancellor for creating the opportunity to interact with staff, who are not members of Congregation, pointing out that the meeting indicated the important role played by such staff in ensuring that the system worked. She advised the affected staff to put in their best where they may find themselves to justify their pay.

Also speaking, Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nwosim, advised them to be hardworking and avoid actions that could tarnish their record of service, pointing out that bad records impeded the career prospects of some staff in service.

In his speech, Bursar, Mr Mark Roman, said that the authorities considered staff welfare as very important, advising them not to look for excuses in the performance of their duties. He also warned them against obtaining loans with stringent conditions that may adversely affect their savings.

The meeting featured an interactive session with staff on issues ranging from welfare to conducive working environment.

CampusMetro

Death Toll From Lassa Fever Hits 40

Minister of Health, Professor Onyebuchi Chukuwa yesterday said 40 persons have died from the outbreak of Lassa Fever in Nigeria in the last six weeks.

He said the disease, which is an acute, febrile illness, is caused by Lassa virus and leads to bleeding and death in severe cases. It has an incubation period of six to 21 days.

In a statement in Abuja, the Minister said the 397 cases reported, 87 have been confirmed to have the disease. The patients, he said, are being treated free of charge.

Stressing that the disease was reported in 12 States, including Edo, Nasarawa, Plateau, Ebonyi, Taraba, Yobe, Ondo, Rivers, Gombe, Anambra, Delta and Lagos, he said six of the 40 deaths were health workers, comprising two Doctors and four Nurses.

According to him, there is no cause for alarm as the ministry has deployed rapid response teams in all the affected areas and that there is no great emphasis on routine barrier nursing precautions.

He said: “Nigeria has the capability to diagnose Lassa Fever and all the cases reported so far were confirmed by experts in our laboratories.”

He said no travel restriction would be imposed on the affected areas, but that hotlines have been provided for health workers and experts. The numbers, he said, included: 08037154575, 88032244998, 08037879701 and 08033407101.

The Minister also said the government would continue to give priority to preparing health education materials by states to be distributed in the affected areas to enhance good “community hygiene.”

Dr Usman, yesterday, the Minister of State for Health, Dr Muhammad Ali Pate, said the Ministry has distributed over 759,000 doses of injection and tablets, safety gloves and protective vests for health workers.

Graduating Biochem Student To Launch Book March 3

By Itokor Samuel

A graduating student of the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science, Joseph Ogbolosigha, is set to launch his debut book titled: “Rising to the Pinnacle” on Saturday, 3rd March, 2012 at the Council Hall, Yenagoa Local Government Secretariat.

The event which is billed for 12:00 noon would attract dignitaries from the academia and government circles including Chairman, Yenagoa Local Government Council, Hon Mike Ogbolosigha; Member, Bayelsa State House of Assembly, Hon Gentle Omelah; Head, Department of Biochemistry, Professor Austin Uwakwe, amongst other notable persons in society.

According to the author, Rising to the Pinnacle is a motivational book tailored towards impacting positively on the lives of youths. He therefore, urged young people to avail themselves of the opportunity to enrich their bookshelves with another volume that has the potential to equip them for challenges of life, as well as disabuse their minds of some misconceptions about the world to enable them repackage their lives for the better.

New Agric Dean Unveils Vision

By Mercy Don-Baridam

Due to the importance of Agriculture to economic development and sustainability, it has become imperative for all hands to be on deck to ensure that the sector is improved upon to produce more food for the teeming population of the country, as well as boost foreign earning.

The new Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Professor Love Akoye, who canvassed the view while speaking with UNIPORT Weekly in her office, penultimate Tuesday, said that for any nation to be developed economically, it must have an active agricultural sector that is well organized to help diversify other sectors of the economy, which is the basis for sustainable agriculture.

Speaking on the vision of the Faculty, Professor Akoye, who was once-time Associate Dean, Faculty of Science, disclosed that her main policy thrust and vision is to improve on facilities to meet the requirements of the National Universities Commission (NUC), for accreditation, stating that when fully accredited, the Faculty would achieve its full potentials.

The Dean explained that research is an academic vocation which every Lecturer is expected to engage in, stressing the need for research to be developed in order to address human problems. “As a Faculty, we want to give our students a practice-oriented training which would have positive effect on their lives when they graduate from the University”, she said.

Professor Akoye said that to improve on quality and productivity of the nation’s agricultural sector, as well as key into the entrepreneurial vision of the present Administration, the Faculty would ensure that students are trained to be independent in knowledge and skills that would enable them compete favourably with their counterparts elsewhere. She explained that the Faculty depicts the logo of the University which is “Enlightenment and Self-Reliance”.

Ogbolosigha

Member, Bayelsa State House of Assembly, Hon Gentle Omelah; Head, Department of Biochemistry, Professor Austin Uwakwe, amongst other notable persons in society.

According to the author, Rising to the Pinnacle is a motivational book tailored towards impacting positively on the lives of youths. He therefore, urged young people to avail themselves of the opportunity to enrich their bookshelves with another volume that has the potential to equip them for challenges of life, as well as disabuse their minds of some misconceptions about the world to enable them repackage their lives for the better.
Council Members Return
Cont’d from p1
their administrative processes. In the absence of the Councils, Vice-Chancellors dealt directly with the Minister of Education in Abuja, a development that slowed down decision-making processes in individual Federal universities until the announcement last week that recalled Members to their duty posts.

Other external Members of the reinstated Council in the University are, Chief Dan Orbih, Rev (Dr) Walter Eneji, Alhaji Abubakar Agate and Pharmacist Ebenzer Aremo. Others are, Dr. Alex Otti, representing Convocation and Mrs B. C. Chinegwu, representing the Honorable Minister of Education. Representatives of Congregation on the returned Council include Professors Joseph Egeni, Omotayo Ebon, Mike Onyeikwu, Nnoso Emesia and John Otaigbe.

The Registrar congratulated the returning Council Members on behalf of the University Community, wishing them a successful tenure in office as they continue to contribute their individual and collective quota to the growth of the University in the remaining part of their tenure in office.

Meanwhile, the former Graduate Studies Officer, Dr. Dakor Charles-Granville, has been appointed a Director-in-Charge of Council Affairs. The appointment which coincides with the reinstatement of the Council by the Federal Government brings him back to a position in which he served between 2005 and 2008.

T
he former Acting Director of Works and Services Department, Mr. Jubrin Inede, has finally been confirmed as substantive Director. Until his confirmation as substantive Director of Works, Mr. Inede had functioned in acting capacity. Also, following approval of the Directorate System by the Governing Council of the University and emergence of successful candidates from an interview conducted last year, five pioneer Directors have been appointed to head Establishments, Council, Student Affairs and Academic Directorates—all in the Registry Department. The fifth Director is from the Bursary Department.

The new appointees have single five-year tenures in the first instance.

The newly-appointed Directors in the Registry Department are: Mrs. Bridget Nzimiro (Student Affairs), Mr. Roland Wabali (Establishments), Mrs. Dorcas Otto (Academic Office) and Dr. Dakor Charles-Granville (Council); while Mr. Vitalis Aliezi, assumes office as pioneer Director in the Bursary Department.

Mrs. Nzimiro, who until her elevation was the most senior Deputy Registrar in the University, served at the Information and Communication Technology Centre (ICTC), after rising to the rank in 2000. She obtained the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology in 1978 from Adelphi University Garden City, New York and the Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Finance and Corporate Investments (1979). She also holds the Master of Science Degree in Banking and Money Management in 1980.

The new Director (Student Affairs) joined the services of the University in October, 1982 as Senior Finance Officer (Bursary), before joining the Administrative cadre as an Assistant Registrar in 1988. Mrs Nzimiro has served in various Units of the Registry, including Membership of the Governing Council of the University, Member, Vision 2020 Committee, as well as Chairperson and Member of several committees.

Mr Roland Wabali, was elevated to the position of Director (Establishments), after serving as Deputy Registrar (Council Division). Mr. Wabali joined the Secretariat cadre of the University in 1984 and rose through the ranks to his present position as Director. He was appointed as the general manager of the Student Centre, Chief Okogbue Wonodi of blessed memory. Wabali cut his managerial teeth under the close supervision of Chief Wonodi, who was renowned for his efficiency and dedication to duty during the formative years of the University.

He also served the former Deputy Governor of Old Rivers State, Dr. Dominic Anachurch as Secretary and Personal Assistant during the Second Republic. The new Director of Establishments Division, who holds the Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Port Harcourt in 1996, is reputed to have an eye for details in the Registry Department, where he has established himself as an efficient and dependable officer. He has served the University on accountable Committees and Boards, including those of the University Demonstration Secondary School and College of Continuing Education.

Mrs. Otto was until her elevation to the position of Director, a Deputy Registrar-in-Charge of the Academic Office. The new Director, who holds the Bachelor's Degree of the University of Port Harcourt, also obtained a Master's Degree in Sociology from the University of Lagos, got her first job with the University of Port Harcourt as a Clerical Officer before her sojourn to the Rivers State Polytechnic, Borri. She came back in 1994 as Senior Registrar and rose through the ranks to become Deputy Registrar in 2005. The new Director was also Liaison Officer (Lagos Office), Admissions Officer, Faculty Officer (Science) before her current appointment.

Dr. Dakor Charles-Granville, who assumed office as Director (Council), after meritorious services as Graduate Studies Officer, obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Ohio State University. She obtained her Doctoral Degree in International Relations from the University of Port Harcourt in 2011. The new Director joined the services of the University as an Administrative Officer in 1982. She had served as Personnel Officer (Academic) between 2000 and 2005, and Council Officer between 2006 and 2008 before joining the School of Graduate Studies.

He Vitalis Aliezi, assumes the position of Director in the Bursary Department, after serving as Deputy Bursar (Revenue Bureau). Mr Aliezi graduated from the Department of Accountancy, Rivers State University of Science & Technology, Nkpolu-Oworukwo in 1982. He joined the services of the University of Port Harcourt in March, 1984 as a Higher Executive Officer, serving in various Divisions in the Bursary Department, before rising to the position of Deputy Bursar (Revenue Bureau). Aliezi has held numerous positions and Membership of Boards before being elevated to his current position as Director.

The pioneer Director (Bursary Division) made impressive mark when as a Level 8 Officer; he represented then Bursar at University of Calabar (UNICAL) and presented an acceptable financial account of the Nigerian Universities Games Association (NUGA) competition hosted in the University. He also displayed his shrewdness in the handling of financial matters at the Works and Services Department and College of Continuing Education as Finance Officer in the 1980s.
UNICAL HOLDS CONVOCATION MARCH 3
University of Calabar (UNICAL) holds its 26th Convocation for the 2009/2010 academic session from 1st to 3rd March, 2012. According to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor James Epoka, the Convocation Lecture was to be held on 1st March, 2012. Convocation for the award of first Degrees, Diplomas and award of prizes is fixed for March 2, 2012, while Postgraduate Diploma, Master's Degree and Doctor of Philosophy will be convoked on 3rd March, 2012.

ENTREPRENEURIAL COURSE COMPELLING FOR ABDU'S STUDENTS
Vice-Chancellor, Afe Babalola University, Afe-kiiti (ABDU), Professor Adali Osho, has said that the University is taking students for effectively to integrate fully into the society with creative ideas after graduation, is the reason the institution made it compulsory for all the students to take courses in the Entrepreneurial Department.

HIGHER EDUCATION LAW, NEW INSTITUTIONS ON THE CARDS IN ZAMBIA
Zambia's new government is crafting a higher education law that will among other things monitor quality. There has been a slew of reports of higher institutions of higher learning in the Southern African country.

SABBATICAL LEAVE
Professor Z.M. Dkeya, Department of Physiology, University of Zambia, has been granted a sabbatical leave for the 2012/2013 academic year. He will be based at the University of Liverpool, UK.

RESUMPTION FROM LEAVE OF ABSENCE
Professor S.R. Nwokocha, Department of Educational Management, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, has been granted leave of absence for the 2012/2013 academic year. He will return to his post in January, 2013.

RENEWAL OF APPOINTMENT
Professor Robin Brown, Department of Religious & Cultural Studies, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, has been granted leave of absence for the 2012/2013 academic year. He will return to his post in January, 2013.

CHANGE OF NAME
MRS CHIDI GOODNEWS: Former Miss Chidi Omor in the Academic Office, Registry Department, is now known as Miss Chidi Goodnews. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

MRS MERCY WORGA: Former Miss Mercy Orji of the Electrical Electronics Department, has been granted leave of absence for the 2012/2013 academic year. She will return to her post in January, 2013.

SAFETY ALERT
- Security is everybody's business.
- Report all strange faces to the Security Department.
- Don't touch strange objects. Be Vigilant!
ANA Rivers Reads In Honour Of V-C

A Literary Evening was held in honour of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, by the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA), Rivers State Branch at the V-C’s Lodge recently. Pictures show highlights of the literary evening.

Photos: HEADMAN ALU & MITCHEL EKIYOR

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