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CPN Applauds Varsity's Computer Science Department

Jesse Okedi

The Computer Professionals (Registration Council) of Nigeria, CPN, has applauded the management of the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt, for ensuring that the Computer Science Department is of international standard.

The Council came out with this when its accreditation team led by Prof. Tanko Ishaya paid a courtesy call on the Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Blessing Chimezie Didia, on Wednesday, August 17, 2016. Prof. Ishaya stated that his team was very happy with the way the University is structured. “In fact, this is one of the best Universities in terms of the organization and physical structure.

RSUST Mobilizes 338 Student Teachers for Teaching Practice

Victor Banigo

The Faculty of Technical and Science Education of the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt, has mobilized 338 Student Teachers for the 2016 Teaching Practice exercise.

The Dean of the Faculty, Professor Ken Akaninwor disclosed this on Thursday 15 September 2016 during the 2016 Annual Teaching Practice Orientation for the Student Teachers, noting that the teaching practice is expected to be in 59 Secondary Schools of Rivers State.

Speaking on the significance of the Teaching Practice, Prof. Akaninwor stressed that the exercise is a professional requirement in Education which should be fulfilled by all students before they are issued certificate, adding that the Teaching Practice carries six credit units.

In his keynote address, the Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Blessing Chimezie Didia described the Teaching Practice exercise as a...
That I have seen here in Nigeria. You should be congratulated for that. Coming to the physical facilities within the Department, it is also very well organized”, he said.

He pointed out that the Computer Science Department of the University, after a thorough assessment in terms of the programme content, philosophy, entry requirements and examination process, “We identified that indeed the programme had met the required standard that any University in Nigeria and indeed outside can be equated to. The programme objective and the content are quite in line as far as the vocation of Information Technology is concerned, not just in Nigeria but the world over”. Prof. Ishaya said that the computer facility for the Department was very adequate given that the department could boast of having different laboratories for software and hardware.

He commended the synergy between the University's Information Technology Centre and the Computer Science Department, urging the management to ensure that the synergy is sustained. “You have a very fantastic Library. We have looked at the books and journals and found out that they are very current. The University also has an e-library section with about one hundred systems, with provisions for students to also bring in their personal systems and use with the facility. The subscribed books are very current also”, he said.

He urged the management to continue to support the development of staff through sustained funding of the staff for conferences, workshops and seminars. "Our interaction with students of the Department showed that they are being made industry ready”, he snapped.

In his response, the Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Blessing Chimezie Didia, thanked the team for doing a thorough job. His words, "I appreciate the Computer Professionals (Registration Council) of Nigeria, CPN, for appointing those in the real business of academics to carry out the accreditation exercise for the Department of Computer Science. They have painstakingly done their job and directed us on the right path. I assure you that the Management will not relent in her efforts at ensuring sustainable development of every aspect of the University", he concluded.
developmental effort, explaining that when teachers engage in teaching, the goal is to assist the learner think, develop a plan to solve problems and take responsibility for their actions.

Represented at the occasion by the Dean of the Faculty of Technical and Science Education, Prof. Didia observed that the teaching profession is so important because every graduate in the medical, legal, engineering, entertainment and other professions were once taught by a teacher.

He charged the 338 Student Teachers to be worthy ambassadors of the University, adding that they should be dynamic in their teaching practice and inspire their students to aim for excellence.

Also speaking, the Director of Academic Planning, Professor Sunny Okoroma called on the students to uphold the ethics of the teaching profession, noting that they should not influence the learners with their ideologies.

Other topics that were delivered at the orientation programme include, “Dress Code of the classroom teacher and the teaching subject” by Prof. Joseph Vipene; “Maintenance of Discipline as a Professional Competency of the Classroom Teacher” by Dr. Eric Amadi; “The Lesson Plan, TKT and Evaluation of Students' Teaching Practice Experience” Dr. W. J. Ubulom and “The Student Teachers First day in School” by Dr. P. C. Okwelle.
Victor Banigo

RSUST VC Charges New SUG Executives to Make Sacrifice

The Vice Chancellor of the Rivers State University of Science Port Harcourt, Professor Blessing Chimezie Didia has charged the newly elected executive members of the Students Union Government to be prepared to make sacrifice for their fellow students in course of their one year service.

The Vice Chancellor gave the charge on Thursday, 1 September 2016 while inaugurating the executives, expressing mixed feelings that students’ leadership provides the platform for few students to lead their fellow students with a huge price to pay, sometimes at the expense of their studies.

While congratulating them for emerging as the executive members to represent the entire student body, Prof. Didia charged them not to disappoint their parents by abandoning their primary assignment in the University, which he said is to graduate within the stipulated time frame.

The Vice Chancellor used the forum to appreciate the Chairman and members of the Electoral Committee for conducting a free, fair and credible election, noting that the Electronic Voting system introduced contributed to the peaceful election, devoid of electoral malpractice and violence.

He also thanked the out gone executives for their selfless service, stating that whenever they called his telephone line, they only informed him of issues concerning the entire students and not their personal affairs. He called on the new executives to emulate their worthy example.

Presenting a report of the election to the Vice Chancellor, the Chairman of the electoral Committee and Dean of Students Affairs, Dr. Isaac
Zeb-Obipi noted that Prof. Didia gave the committee a mandate to uphold the interest of the students and that his committee fulfilled that mandate.

He said that for over seven years the Students Union Government functioned with just the Executive arm but that with the mandate of the Vice Chancellor and consultation with the students, the Students Representative Council and the Students’ Judicial Council have been put in place for effective student representation in the 2016/2017 academic session.

In his acceptance speech, the President, Comrade Alali Daniel Daminabo assured that he will fulfill his campaign promises, adding that students will now feel the impact of unionism with the reintroduction of a “value system based on leadership, sacrifice and selfless service”.

Other members of the Executive Council are: Patience Spencer Sunday, Vice President; Confidence Atuegbu, Secretary General; Victor O. Elemchukwu, Assistant Secretary General; Promise Osigwe, Financial Secretary; Adokiye C. Tamunosikima, Director of Social; Favour Nubeabu Ndi, Welfare Secretary; Idamiebhonani Harry Edoghotu, PRO; Godgift Celestine Nwogu, DOS; Thankgod Enyi Harold, Transport and Equipment Secretary; and Akpobari Precious Keakiile, Auditor-General.

In a goodwill message, the Commissioner of Information charged the executive members to be team players and work for the welfare of the entire students. The Commissioner who was represented by the Director of Public Enlightenment in the Ministry of Information, Paulinus Nsirim, congratulated the Vice Chancellor for introducing the Electronic Voting system that ensured a conclusive election stating that “in the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, everything is done perfectly”.

Also speaking, the out gone President, Faith Nnna Barigboto expressed gratitude to God for the success of her administration and called on the newly inaugurated executives to put in their best and exceed the achievements recorded by previous administrations.

The Student Union inauguration ceremony which was held at the Vice Chancellor’s Conference Room, was attended by Principal Officers, Deans of Faculties, Directors of Institutes and Centres, staff and students of the University.
The Management and staff of Staff School in the Rivers State University of Science and Technology Npulu-Oroworukwo have held their annual Valedictory Service/Prize Giving Day for the award of prizes on Wednesday 20th July 2016.

The chairman of the occasion and Dean of Students’ Affairs of the University Dr. Isaac Zeb-Obipi commended the management of the school for graduating primary six pupils despite the challenges they as teachers have had to cope with. He advised the grandaunts and urged them to take their studies seriously as they continue their academic pursuit.

Also speaking at the event, the special guest of honor and Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Blessing Chimezie Didia who was represented by the Dean of Technical and Science Education, Prof. Ken Akaninwor thanked the school management for their efforts in training the pupils in spite of their challenges. He said that the job of teaching is very challenging and urged them to persevere, adding that the issue of their remuneration was paramount on the mind of the Vice-Chancellor and assured them that before long they will get their reward.

Prof. Akaninwor congratulated the primary six pupils on their graduation and urged them to continue to stand out so they can distinguish themselves even as they forge ahead in their education.

Delivering the Valedictory sermon, the Chaplain of the Chapel of Redemption, Rev. Thomas O. Okparanta, took his text from Philippians 3:13-14. He said the future of the pupils is bright and that God that has helped them in their primary education will keep them even as they continue in their academic pursuit. He commended the teachers for their patience and dedication to duties that has made the pupils excel in their academics, adding that God will reward them accordingly.

Rev. Okparanta congratulated the parents for their efforts in providing the needs of the children and urged them not to relent as the children were better off educated so they will not be a liability to the society.

In her address, the Headmistress of the school Mrs. Elizabeth Mbachu thanked the entire Management of the University for its Support and encouragement towards the successful running of the academic session. She expressed her sincere gratitude to the teachers for keeping faith with her despite all odds till the end of the academic session, adding that God will never forget their labour of love in the lives of the children.

Mrs. Mbachu outlined the numerous achievements recorded by the school in the academic year, with one of its pupils been offered scholarship by NNPC and SHELL for his outstanding performance in the last NECO Common Entrance Examination.

She expressed her thanks to the Almighty God who upheld and preserved them through the Academic session.

Highlight of the occasion was the presentation of gifts to outstanding pupils.
No doubt the Vice-Chancellor of the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Prof. Blessing Chimezie Didia has great love for children.

How else can one describe this great man who allowed his busy schedule to be distorted to enable him host over 200 children of the St. Peters Anglican Church.

The Children led by Chief Barrister Uche. F. Ewule, the 2016 Children’s Harvest Chairman in his speech said as part of the programmes lined up to commemorate this year’s harvest were on excursion to the University, so they can see for themselves facilities that are available in the University and know how to choose a career path.

Chief Ewule praised the Vice-Chancellor for granting their request on such short notice and for his support to the church.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Blessing C. Didia accompanied by the Registrar of the University, Mrs. Daba C. Odimabo, to receive the children said he was glad to host the children and asked them to be good ambassadors of their families, the Church and the State.

He encouraged the children to pay attention to their guide as they look round to see the aesthetic qualities of the University, ranging from the ICT centre to the University’s e-library and Radio UST - 103.7fm, as it can help them to choose a career path in the future. He thanked them for their visit and urged them to be calm and enjoy their visit.

As part of his efforts to genuinely place the Rivers State University of Science and Technology at par with universities across the country and beyond, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Blessing Chimezie Didia has set up a committee to distinguish the functions of the Physical Planning Unit and the Estate, Works and Transport Department as it is obtainable in other universities in the country.

The Ad-Hoc Committee on separation of functions of Physical Planning from Estate, Works and Transport Department after deliberating and putting themselves to work within the stipulated time given has submitted their report to the Vice-Chancellor.

The committee with Prof. Macaulay T. Lily as its Chairman, while submitting their report to the Vice-Chancellor, thanked Prof. Didia for the opportunity given to them to serve the university by lending their ideas to put facts together to help in moving the university forward.

Prof. Didia thanked the committee sincerely for discharging their duties and timely too, adding that the physical planning unit of the university has been left redundant for a long time.

He thanked them for their courage and promised to put into use the recommendations in the reports.