



RSU

info @ rsu.edu.ng
www.rsu.edu.ng

NEWS BULLETIN

A publication of the Information/Publications/Protocol Unit, Office of the Vice-Chancellor

ISSN: 2141-3800

Vol. IX NO. I

WEEKLY - MONDAY, 11TH AUGUST, 2025



Medical Laboratory Science Graduands Shine as 13 Achieve First Class Honours

The Faculty of Medical Laboratory Science, Rivers State University, held its 19th Induction and Oath-Taking Ceremony on Tuesday, August 5, 2025, at the Senate Chamber of the University. This milestone event marked the induction of over 100 graduands into the medical laboratory science profession, including a record-breaking 13 First Class honours.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Isaac Zeb-Obipi, who chaired the occasion, congratulated the inductees and commended them for their hard work, discipline, and dedication. He specially acknowledged the Acting Registrar/Chief Executive Officer of the

By Victor Banigo

Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (MLSCN), Dr. Donald Ibe Ofili, who graced the event as the Special Guest of Honour, for his continuous support to the Faculty and the profession at large.

Prof. Zeb-Obipi reaffirmed the University's commitment to academic excellence and professional advancement, assuring the Faculty of his readiness to support the conduct of another induction later this year for students currently in their final year. He explained that since this year's convocation will be a combined one, the additional induction will ensure that graduating students are professionally certified before

the ceremony.

Inducting the graduands, the Acting Registrar/CEO of MLSCN, Dr. Donald Ibe Ofili, reiterated the Council's mandate to ensure the highest standards in education and professional practice for Medical Laboratory Science in Nigeria. He emphasized the Council's firm commitment to maintaining accreditation standards in all training institutions nationwide. He noted that graduates from institutions with lapsed accreditation would no longer be recognized for induction until full accreditation status is restored.

While administering the professional oath, Dr. Ofili charged the new inductees to

...excellence & creativity



The VC, **Prof. Isaac Zeb-Obipi** speaking at the induction ceremony



The Acting Registrar/CEO MLSCN, **Dr. Donald Ibe Ofili**, inducting the graduands



The DVC (Academic), **Prof. Valentine Omubo-Pepple**, giving his goodwill message



The Dean, **Prof. Ebirien-Agana Samuel Bartimaus**, giving his address



Prof. Edna O. Ibegbulem, giving the Induction Lecture



Overall Best Student, **Francis Chiebuka Okorocho**, giving the Valedictory Speech

uphold the ethics of the profession, maintain integrity, and contribute meaningfully to Nigeria's healthcare system.

Earlier in his induction address, the Dean Faculty of Medical Laboratory Science, Prof. Ebirien-Agana Samuel Bartimaus, stated that it is customary for faculties or departments of Medical Laboratory Science in every Nigerian university offering the Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science (BMLS) to hold Annual Induction and Oath-

Taking ceremonies for their graduating students as soon as their results are approved by the University Senate.

The Dean described this year's event as peculiar and special in several respects. He announced the academic performance of the inductees: 13 First Class, 55 Second Class Upper, 31 Second Class Lower, 7 Third Class, and 1 Pass degrees.

The Induction Lecturer, Prof. Edna O.

Ibegbulem, urged students to leverage Artificial Intelligence and digital technologies to optimize their practice of medical laboratory science.

In his Valedictory speech, the Overall Best Student, Francis Chiebuka Okorocho, thanked the University Management for providing the enabling environment for teaching and learning that contributed to their academic success.



A cross section of the inductees

Reengineering Nigeria's Tax System: A Critical Call To Action

By Chioma Egwurugwu

Professor Bariyima David Kiabel has advocated for a diminished reliance on federal allocations to bolster the tax initiatives of States and Local Government Areas. This recommendation was made during the delivery of the 115th Inaugural Lecture of the Rivers State University, held on Wednesday, 30th July 2025, in the University's Senate Chamber, titled "Reengineering the Tax System: So Much Hunting, Too Little Catch."

In his insightful lecture, Professor Kiabel emphasized Nigeria's pressing revenue mobilization dilemma, highlighting the nation's dismally low tax-to-GDP ratio of approximately 6–8 per cent. He pinpointed structural and operational deficiencies, including pervasive corruption, lack of transparency, and inadequate accountability, as critical factors that erode public trust and deter voluntary tax compliance. Stressing the necessity for reform, he proclaimed: "Our nation's economic growth and development hinge significantly on our ability to effectively mobilize domestic resources."

Prof. Kiabel, a former Director of the Entrepreneurship Development Centre, spotlighted corruption as a fundamental impediment to Nigeria's tax revenue



The VC, represented by The DVC (Academic), **Prof. Valentine Omubo-Pepple**, giving his remarks



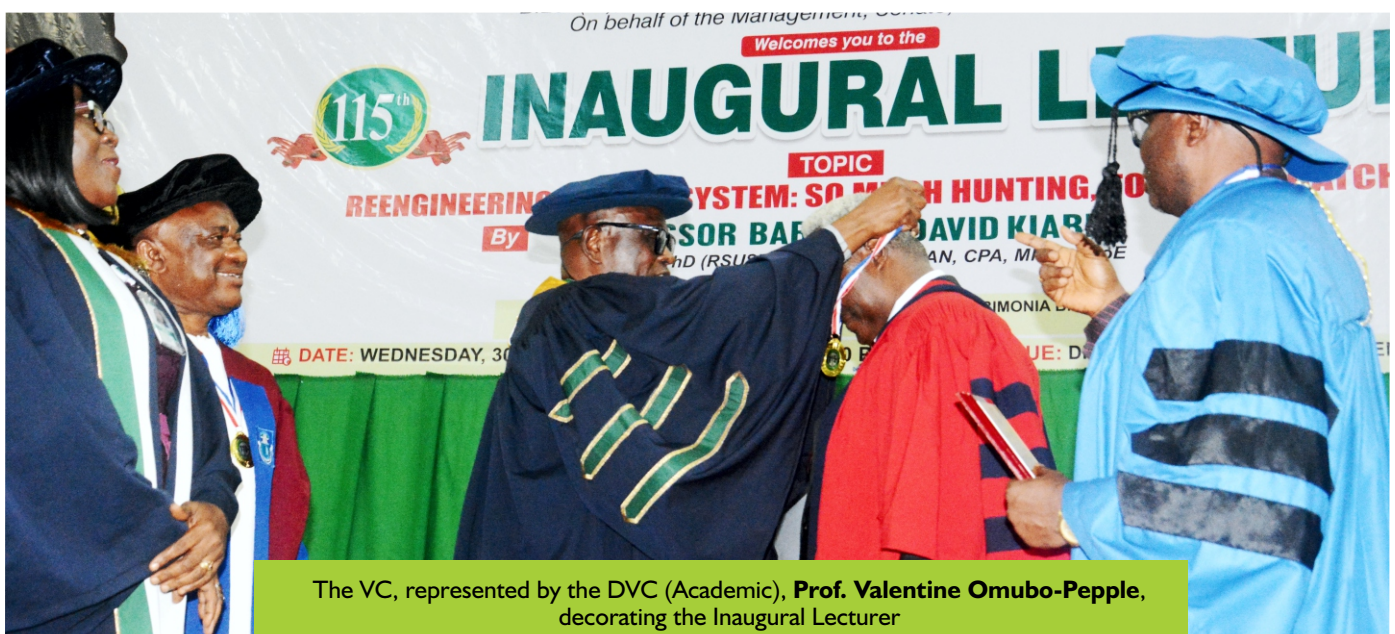
The Inaugural Lecturer, **Prof. Bariyima David Kiabel**, delivering the 115th Inaugural Lecture

collection. He argued that the modest tax yield can be traced back to corrupt practices perpetrated by tax officials, government representatives, and even taxpayers themselves.

He characterized corruption as "a form of dishonesty or a criminal offence undertaken by a person or an organization entrusted with authority to acquire illicit benefits or abuse power for personal gain." Drawing from the Anti-Corruption Law of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (2000), he delineated corruption to include bribery, the misuse of one's office for pecuniary advantage, gratification, influence peddling, and insincerity in counsel for personal benefit.

This "cankerworm," he asserted, is deeply entrenched within the nation, exerting catastrophic effects on tax revenue. "Corruption frequently results in tax leakages and can manifest in the non-remittance of accurately collected taxes by officials, as well as in the diversion and extortion of payments," he stated.

Professor Kiabel stressed that tax payment constitutes a legal obligation, referencing Section 24(f) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended): "It shall be the duty of every citizen to declare his income honestly to



The VC, represented by the DVC (Academic), **Prof. Valentine Omubo-Pepple**, decorating the Inaugural Lecturer



The Inaugural Lecturer, **Prof. Bariyima David Kiabel**, displaying his Award Plaque

appropriate and lawful agencies and pay his tax promptly." He also posited that tax payment embodies a spiritual obligation, invoking biblical teachings: "Render, therefore, unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's" (Matthew 22:21).

The inaugural lecturer concluded with a compelling recommendation for the government to implement robust measures aimed at curtailing tax evasion and fortifying

the nation's fiscal capacity.

In his address, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Isaac Zeb-Obipi, extolled Professor Kiabel as "an erudite scholar of all time." Represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Valentine Omubo-Pepple, the Vice-Chancellor commended the lecturer's astute presentation and reaffirmed the University's commitment to cultivating exceptional academic minds that uphold

Corruption often results in tax leakages and can manifest in non-remitting of correct tax collected by the official, diverting and extorting payment

RSU's esteemed reputation within Africa's higher education landscape.

Emphasizing key points from the lecture, Professor Zeb-Obipi noted the perils of overreliance on federal allocations by State and Local Governments, as well as the deleterious impact of excessive exemptions and inefficient tax incentives, which create loopholes through which billions in tax revenue are forfeited annually.



The VC, represented by The DVC (Academic), **Prof. Valentine Omubo-Pepple**, Principal Officers, Members of Senate with the Inaugural Lecturer

RSU Set For 116th Inaugural Lecture

The Rivers State University, Nkpulu-Oroworukwo, Port Harcourt, is set for the 116th Inaugural Lecture. According to a statement signed by the Registrar of the University, Mrs. Ibimonia B. S. Harry, the Inaugural Lecture titled "Rethinking Impact in Marketing and Business Research through the Interpretivist Lens" will be delivered by Professor Andy Fred Wali, a Professor of Strategic Marketing and Social Constructivist Techniques.

The statement stated that the Inaugural Lecture will hold on Wednesday 13th August, 2025 at the Dr. Nyesom Ezenwo Wike Senate Building by 2pm.

The statement further stated that the Vice-chancellor, Prof. Isaac Zeb-Obipi on behalf of the Management, Senate, Staff & Students invites the public to the Inaugural Lecture.

RSU Reaffirms Commitment to Innovation and Partnerships

By Rita Pius

The Rivers State University has held the 10th edition of its Breakfast Academy Meeting, a strategic platform designed to foster collaboration, drive innovation, and strengthen partnerships for institutional growth. The event took place on Tuesday, 5th August 2025, at the CIBN Hall and was organised by the University's Directorate of Advancement and Linkage Centre (ALC).

In his opening remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Isaac Zeb-Obipi, reaffirmed the management's commitment to supporting initiatives that promote progress, innovation, and sustainable development on campus. He explained that the Breakfast Academy Meeting was conceived as a platform for sharing expertise, exploring areas of collaboration, and charting strategies for the continued advancement of the institution.

Professor Zeb-Obipi emphasised the need for meaningful engagement, interactive innovations, and forward-looking ideas that will drive the university's growth and development. He called on professional bodies to mentor students and urged stakeholders to work in strategic partnership with the university to harness collective potentials for building a better future for communities and beyond.

The Vice-Chancellor commended the Director of the Advancement and Linkages Centre, Professor Hudson Ukoima, for his dedication to creating effective mechanisms aligned with the university's vision, and reiterated the institution's readiness to



The VC, Prof. Isaac Zeb-Obipi giving his remarks



The Director, ALC, Prof. Hudson Ukoima giving his address



The VC, Prof. Isaac Zeb-Obipi, Principal Officers with the Chairman of the occasion at the event

deepen its collaboration with the centre.

In separate remarks, the Director of the ALC, Professor Hudson Ukoima, and the Chairman of the occasion, Mr. Amadi Amadi, highlighted the meeting's mission of connecting Rivers State University to the global community through stakeholder collaboration, and actionable research in priority areas.

Dr. Richard Somiari while delivering a paper on the theme "Meet Your Partners and

Collaborators", underscored the urgent need for regional and state-level collaboration to produce locally relevant solutions, especially in a country like Nigeria that traditionally depends on foreign technologies and products. He recalled that the founding vision of the then Rivers State University of Science and Technology (now the Rivers State University) was to position Rivers State as a centre of excellence in science and technology a vision that can only be realised through innovation and strategic partnerships with industry.



The Guest Lecturer with some participants shortly after the meeting

VC Appoints Mr. David Lambert as Acting Principal of ISS

By Kingdom Shadrack & Chidi Miachael

The Vice-Chancellor of the Rivers State University, Nkpolu-Oroworukwo, Port Harcourt, Professor Isaac Zeb-Obipi, has appointed Mr. David Lambert as the Acting Principal of the International Secondary School (ISS), Rivers State University.

The Vice-Chancellor who announced the appointment of the Acting Principal during a meeting with Principal Officers, the Management Committee and staff of the International Secondary School, charged Mr. Lambert to raise the bar of excellence and ensure the growth of the school, particularly in attracting more students for admission.

Until His appointment which took effect from Tuesday, 5th August 2025, David Lambert was Chief Master at the International Secondary School (ISS), a position he held from July, 2012 to August, 2025.

Pastor David Lambert began his educational journey at Sacred Heart State School I, Diobu, Port Harcourt, where he obtained his First School Leaving Certificate in 1976. He proceeded to Government Secondary School, Okehi Etche, Rivers State, earning his West African School Certificate in 1992. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons.) degree in Fine Arts (Art Education) from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, in 1992; a Master of



The VC, Prof. Isaac Zeb-Obipi, speaking during the meeting



The VC, Prof. Isaac Zeb-Obipi speaking to the Ag. Principal, Mr. David Lambert

Arts degree in Law and Diplomacy from Rivers State University (2013); and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Law and Diplomacy.

He is a registered teacher with the Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria and a member of the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR) and the Society of Nigerian Artists (SNA).

David Lambert joined the International Secondary School, Rivers State University, as Master I in 2000, and rose through the ranks: Senior Master II (2001–2005); Senior Master I (2005–2010); Principal Master (2010–2012) and Chief Master (from July 2012 to August 2025).

An innovative educator, he has pioneered several initiatives in the school, including founding the Model United Nations Club, through which he has taken ISS and other high school students to the United Nations since 2015. He established the “We the People – Project Citizen Club,” with which he has travelled with ISS students to several countries. He is Patron of the Press Club, Literary and Debating Society, and Environment Club. He has served as Chairman of the School Disciplinary Rules and Regulations Committee as well as the Appointments and Promotions Committee.

David Lambert has been active in alumni leadership, serving as National Vice-President (South-South) of the Ahmadu Bello University Alumni Association (2015–2022), National Assistant Secretary-General (2010–2015), Vice-Chairman of the Rivers State Branch (2008–2022), and Secretary of the Rivers State Branch (1996–2008).

In addition to his academic and administrative work, David Lambert is the Assistant Resident Pastor (Cell System) at Gateway International Church Headquarters, Rumuolumeni, Port Harcourt.



The VC, Prof. Isaac Zeb-Obipi, Principal Officers, Management Committee with the Acting Principal and other staff of ISS

Fostering University-industry Collaboration: A Key To Unlocking Career Opportunities

By Hachikaru Egeonu

The Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, Rivers State University recently hosted an interactive lecture for staff and students on the theme "Collaboration Between the University and the Industry." The event, which took place at the University's Amphitheatre, aimed to broaden students'

understanding of the diverse career opportunities available beyond academia.

The Dean of the Faculty of Science, Prof. N. Boisa, emphasized the university leadership's consistent push to strengthen links between academic programmes and industry demands. He highlighted that

producing industry-ready graduates remains a priority for the Faculty and commended Acting Head of Department, Dr. Salome Douglas for initiating the programme.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Valentine Omubo-Pepple, reaffirmed the university's commitment to empowering students with the skills, knowledge, and mindset needed to excel in their professions. He encouraged participants to apply the insights gained from the session in both their academic work and future careers.

The Guest Lecturer, Dr. Richard Somiari, an alumnus of the University, delivered a compelling account of his professional journey titled "Transition from Microbiology to the Industry". According to him, his transitioned from a Research Fellow and Lecturer at the Institute of Pollution Studies, RSU, to a 28-year career in the oil and gas sector with Shell Oil, was possible due to dedication and hard work.

Dr. Somiari who is the President ITS1 Biosciences Inc, USA and President Lagos State Forensic & DNA Centre, said that his assignments spanned Nigeria, the United States, Gabon, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, including senior leadership roles at Nigeria LNG and Shell International.

He encouraged students to actively participate in the session by asking questions, stressing that engagement was key to making the programme truly interactive.

In her address, the Acting Head, Department of Microbiology, Dr. Salome Douglas said the interactive lecture was put together to provide students with valuable insights into the importance of university-industry collaboration and the opportunities that exist in the industry.



The VC, represented by The DVC (Academic), **Prof. Valentine Omubo-Pepple**, speaking at the event



The Ag. Head, Dept. of Microbiology, **Dr. Salome Douglas**, giving her address



The Guest Lecturer, **Dr. Richard Somiari**



The Dean, Faculty of Science, **Prof. N. Boisa** (3rd R), The Ag. Head, Dept. of Microbiology, **Dr. Salome Douglas** (4th R), The Guest Lecturer, **Dr. Richard Somiari** (3rd L), **Mr. Amadi Amadi** (2nd R), and other staff of the Department



RIVERS STATE UNIVERSITY
Nkpulu-Oroworukwo, Port Harcourt

HAPPY

**PROFESSOR
ISAAC ZEB-OBIPi**

**VICE-CHANCELLOR, RIVERS STATE UNIVERSITY
NKPOLU-OROWORUKWO, PORT HARCOURT**

58th

**HAPPY CHEERS
TO AN ICON**

On behalf of the Senate, Staff and Students of the Rivers State University, Nkpulu-Oroworukwo, Port Harcourt, I wish to congratulate our esteemed digital and ideological Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Isaac Zeb-Obipi on his 58th birthday celebration.

Rivers State University is proud to be associated with a great mind, a seasoned administrator, amiable father, elder statesman, personality like you.

Congratulations and Happy Birthday Sir

Signed:

Mrs. I. B. S. Harry
Registrar

