



MOU**AU** *News*

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Public Relations and Protocol Unit

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From the Vice-Chancellor

It's a new dawn in our Public Relations efforts

Last week, my administration took a step forward to strengthen our engagement with various stakeholders of our University through effective communication and public relations.

I am excited to announce the appointment of Dr. Ubadire Agua, as the Head of the Public Relations and Protocol Unit of my Office.

I have charged Dr. Agua, who is an astute public relations practitioner, to bring his wealth of experience to bear in the management of human and



MOU**AU** promotes 123 academic staff to the rank of Professor in 3 years.

By Ubadire Agua and Ginger Eke

No fewer than 123 academic staff from across 11 Colleges in Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike have been promoted to the rank of professor between March 1, 2021 and October 1, 2024, MOU**AU** News can confirm.

Information made available to MOU**AU** News by the Office of the Registrar, Personnel Academic Staff Matters (PASM) shows that in 2021, the same year that Prof. Iwe assumed duty as Vice-Chancellor, 45 academic staff were promoted to the rank of professor and 32 in 2022. In 2023, 37 academic staff were announced eggheads while 36 were promoted in 2024.

Speaking about the promotions, the Registrar of the University and Secretary to the

Governing Council, Dr. Nkeiruka Charity Mbanaso, said the administration of Prof.

Maduebisisi Ofo Iwe, has fully restored public confidence in the process of assessing staff of

the University for promotion to the professorial cadre. She stated that the rank of a professor is the highest academic position in the world and requires a thorough and meticulous process to attain.

The Chief Administrative Officer of the University commended the Vice-Chancellor and the

Governing Council for their seeing through the appraisal exercises over the years and congratulated the promoted staff.



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material resources in the discharge of critical functions of the Unit.

The University's internal and external publics deserve to be adequately informed about the events and activities in the University. They deserve to know the contributions of the University in meeting some of the needs of the society. We shall do this on a regular, sustainable and truthful manner. Going forward and to further demonstrate our preparedness to reach out to the world, I have approved the creation of new social media handles for the PR Unit. You can connect with us on X (formerly Twitter) @mouauPR and on LinkedIn at MOUAU Public Relations. You can also visit our blog at www.mouauonline.com.ng for more information about our University.

This e-copy of MOUAU News is served for your reading delight.



EU, UNDP lift MOUAU's Artificial Intelligence Centre with Grants.

By Sunday Anyim & Ubadire Agwa

The European Union (EU) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have shown interest in the development and training of students in Embedded Artificial Intelligence (EAI) in Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike (MOUAU), with

grants in equipment and training worth 80,000 and \$2,000,000 respectively. The Director of MOUAU Artificial Intelligence Centre, Prof. Lawrence I. Oborkhale disclosed this during an interview with MOUAU News last week.

According to the Director, MOUAU is among 5 other Nigerian Universities who got the EU grant through the ERASMUS Programme. The other universities are: University of Abuja, University of Port-Harcourt, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, and Abubakar Tafawa Bale-

wa University, Bauchi. Prof. Oborkhale also disclosed that the 5 Nigerian Universities would work in partnership with 3 foreign universities Germany, Sweden and Austria to develop curriculum in running a Master Degree programme in Embedded Artificial Intelligence.

It will be recalled that the Vice-Chancellor of MOUAU, Prof. Maduebisi Ofo Iwe, recently appointed Prof. Oborkhale as the Director of MOUAU's Centre for Artificial Intelligence, following Senate's approval of the establishment of the Centre.

In making the appointment, Prof. Iwe considered the experience of Prof. Oborkhale...

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“ASUU is worth giving attention, NEC welcomed to MOUAIU” – VC

The Vice-Chancellor of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike (MOUAIU), Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, Cfs, has stated that the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) is worth giving attention, and that the Union’s National Executive Committee (NEC) is welcomed to the University for its meeting scheduled for November 7 – 8, 2024.

The Vice-Chancellor made the statement when the Chairman of ASUU-MOUAIU Branch, Prof. Michael C. Ugwuene, led other members of the Executive Committee to a meeting with the University Management on Tuesday, September 24, 2024. During the meeting which held at the Vice-Chancellor’s Conference, Prof.

Ugwuene, notified the Vice-Chancellor and the University Management, that ASUU-MOUAIU Branch was granted the right to host the NEC Meeting of the Union, after the last NEC in the University of Ibadan. Prof. Ugwuene said ASUU-MOUAIU, being the Branch of the President of ASUU, Prof.

Emmanuel Osodeke, is ensuring that the NEC meeting would be well-organized. He informed the University Management that the NEC meeting would be attended by delegates from no fewer than 78 branches of the Union in Nigeria and would mark the end of the tenure of the President. He appealed to the Vice-Chancellor of MOUAIU, to sup-

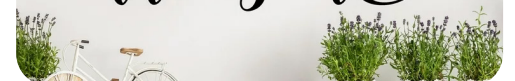
port the Union by providing a venue that would be conducive for the meeting as well as a bus to convey officials of the Union from their hotel rooms to the campus, among other requests.

Prof. Iwe, expressed his excitement that ASUU NEC was coming to MOUAIU during his tenure as Vice-Chancellor, just as the NEC of the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) held its meeting in the University last year.

The VC assured the Union leaders that the University’s Guest House, which prides itself as the most affordable and convenient place for relaxation and serious business in town, would accommodate all their Delegates. He also revealed that the ongoing expansion of the Guest House with new buildings and facilities would be ready for use before the NEC meeting.

Prof. Iwe assured Prof. Ugwuene and his team that the University would consider areas where it could support the ASUU-MOUAIU Branch to host a successful the NEC, albeit, within the limits of its resources.

When someone
you *love*
becomes a memory,
that memory
becomes a
Treasure



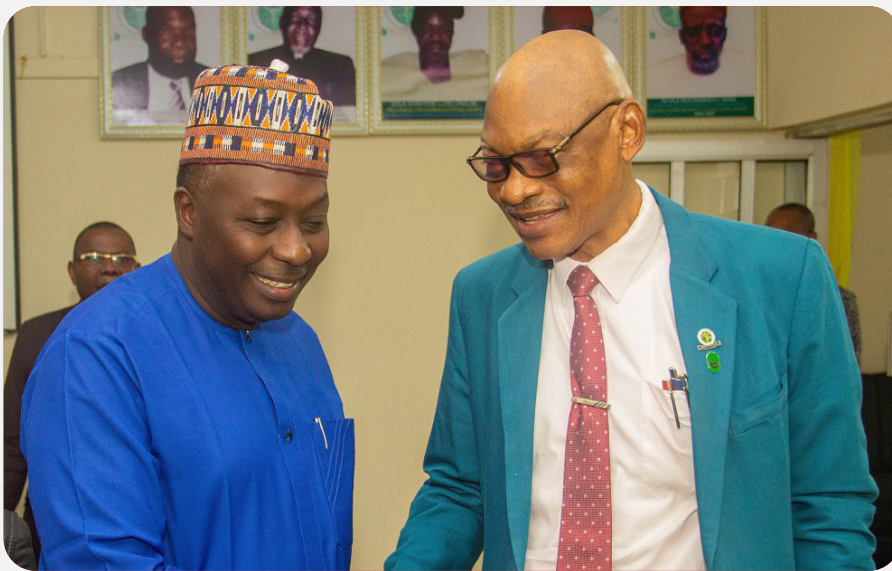
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“We’d make our Vet. Medicine Prog. the best in Nigeria”, MOUAU VC assures VCN

By: Chinedu Ononiwu and Joy Nlebedum

The Vice-Chancellor of the Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike (MOUAU), Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, Cfs, has reaffirmed the commitment of his administration to making the University Veterinary Medicine programme the best in Nigeria.

Prof. Iwe stated this during a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor and the University Management by a team of the Veterinary Council of Nigeria (VCN) on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at the Vice-Chancellor’s Conference Room.

The VC noted that while virtually all universities in the Nigeria have been grappling with the challenges of poor funding and inadequate staff, his administration has been doing its best in managing scarce resources and

allocating them to critical aspects of students training, so as to produce competent graduates.

He stated that the Veterinary Medicine programme in MOUAU has received reasonable support from his administration and gladly informed his guests that the programme achieved a full accreditation status of the National Universities Commission (NUC) during the visit of the Programme in 2023.

The VC assured that the successes recorded so far infrastructural development and procurement of equipment notwithstanding, his administration would continue to give the College of Veterinary Medicine the needed support to churn out competent veterinary doctors.

In his remarks during the visit, the Leader of the Delegation and Vice President of the Council, Prof. Matthew Adamu, stated that the Team was in MOUAU on an statutory accreditation exercise of the Veterinary Medicine programme. He noted that the exercise was one of its core mandates of the VCN in its mission to ensure international best practices in Veterinary Medicine in Nigeria.

Prof. Adamu, who is also the Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine at J.S Tarka University, Makurdi, noted that exercise would be a peer-review to see that standards are maintained for the safety and good health humans and animals.



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