



MOUAAU *News*

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From the Vice-Chancellor INAUGURATION OF NSPRI-MOUAAU POST-HARVEST HUB

I am excited to announce that the Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute (NSPRI) has built, equipped and donated a Post-Harvest Hub to Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike.

The Hub, located beside the College of Applied Food Sciences and Tourism (CAFST) Building, is equipped with a large solar-powered drying chamber, a substantial food drying cabinet and a 5-tonne capacity storage silo.

The Management of MOUAAU expresses her profound gratitude to NSPRI for the donation of the Hub and assures the Institute that MOUAAU will make proper use of the Hub to address food processing and preservation needs of people and communities and to generate revenue.

I am pleased, therefore, to invite the University Community and the general public to the Inauguration of the Hub on Wednesday, November 6, 2024 by 11am.

Please, do not miss it.

To God be the glory.

MOUAAU Mgt. Cracks Down on Fake Receipt Syndicate

**Expels 3, Suspends 54,
Directs 50 to refund 50,000.00 Naira
Refers suspected staff to SDC**

**By Ubadire Agua and
Chinedu Ononiwu**

In a bid to maintain financial integrity of the University, the Management of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike (MOUAAU) has taken decisive action against students involved in forgery of receipts for payment of hostel accommodation.

Information made available to MOUAAU News from the Registry indicate that the University Management Committee (UMC), at its 311th meeting held on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, expelled 3 students namely: Nmeregini Casmir Chinaza, Somadina Daniels, and Obi Victor, for conspiring with external individuals to defraud the University by generating fake receipts and facilitating illegal payments.

The affected students are from the Departments of Statistics, Industrial Technology Education, and Science Education respectively.

Similarly, 54 students who ignored invitations to appear before the Students' Disciplinary Committee (SDC)

on four occasions, for alleged forgery of receipts, were suspended for one academic session.

The UMC directed that the suspended students should not resume until they appear before the SDC.

The UMC also mandated 50 students who presented fake receipts to pay 50,000 Naira as hostel accommodation fees within one month of notification to avoid sanctions.



Dr. Nkeiruka C. Mbanasor
(Registrar and Secretary to UMC)

Meanwhile, some staff of the University who were suspected to have connived with the culprits, have been referred to the Staff Disciplinary Committee (SDC) for investigation.

The Registrar and Secretary to UMC,

Dr. Nkeiruka C. Mbanasor, said the University's swift action against forgery demonstrates its commitment to eradicating dishonest practices and that the action should serve as de-

terrent to others who might be contemplating such acts of criminality. She assured that the Administration of Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, CFS, is working assiduously to reduce hu-

man involvement in handling all financial engagements with students through more investment and deployment of ICT facilities.

Prof. Asawalam completes tenure, bows out meritoriously as MOUAW DVC Admin.

By Sunday Anyim and Chinedu Ononiwu

'Our oil palm production tripled because of her'- VC

'She is friendly' – DVC (Academic)

'She was religiously committed to assignments' – Registrar

'She was meticulous and demanded explanations for every document she signed' – Bursar

'She was always calm and never upset, even when situations warranted it' – Univ. Librarian

'She was audit-compliant' – Director, Internal Audit

Prof. Elechi Franca Asawalam has, on Wednesday, October 23, 2024, completed her second tenure as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike (MOUAW).

Speaking during a Valedictory Management meeting organized in her honour, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, CFS, said Prof. Asawalam served meritoriously and distinguished herself by demonstrating a high degree of commitment and thoroughness in all her statutory duties.

The Vice-Chancellor disclosed that records available to him show that the University's palm oil production in the Uzuakoli Palm Oil Plantation tripled in the past 3 years due to the dedication to duty and steadfastness of Prof. Asawalam in managing the human and material resources deployed to the Farm.



Prof. Elechi Asawalam

Adding her voice, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Prof. Nneoma Elechi Obasi described Prof. Asawalam as a very outstanding personality, whose friendly disposition towards her colleagues was endearing.

On her part, the Registrar, Dr. Nkeiruka Charity Mbanasor, described the former DVC Admin. as a quiet and humble woman who was religiously committed to assignments. According to the Registrar, Prof. Asawalam carried out the interest of the University Management in staff welfare and well-being through the various Committees she chaired, including the Committee on Review of the Conditions of Service and University Appraisal Committee (UAC) for

non-teaching staff.

The Bursar, Mr. Ugochukwu Ironkwe, also described Prof. Asawalam as a meticulous Principal Officer who demanded explanations for everything she signed, adding that she did everything necessary to support the smooth operations of the University, especially when the VC was out of the Campus on official engagements.

The University Librarian, Dr. Isaac Ogbonna also commended the former Deputy Vice-Chancellor, praising her for being calm and never upset, even when situations warranted her to be.

Prof. Asawalam also received accolades from the Director of Internal Audit, Mr. Ndubuisi C. Mgbemena, who commended her astuteness of service and described her as an "audit-compliant" Officer.

In her response, Prof. Asawalam acknowledged God for granting her the grace to serve the University. She appreciated the former Vice-Chancellor, late Prof. Francis O. Otunta for appointing her in the first instance in October 2020, and Prof. Iwe, for re-appointing her in 2022. She thanked former and current Principal Officers, Members of Senate and her husband, Prof. Damian O. Asawalam for supporting her throughout her years of service as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Admin.)



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University Farm Centre receives grant for broiler production project.

By Patrick Oparah and Joy Nlebedum

The University Farm Centre (UFC) has received the sum of three million, six hundred and seventy nine thousand, five hundred naira (3.679,500) from the University Management to boost its mass broiler production project, Ag. Director of the University Farms (UFs), Dr. Nnamdi Elewanya, has said.

Also speaking about the Project, the Head of the Poultry Unit, Mr. Uchenna Ogwua, said that the Unit has acquired 475 day-old chicks, which have been in the pen for some days and that experts in Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine like Prof. Kevin U. Amefule and Dr. Chidi Okoronkwo, have been working closely with

the Poultry Team to ensure the good health of the birds.

He expressed the optimism that with necessary drugs and feeds which have been procured, as well as maintaining the right conditions for the chicks' development, the Project would be successful.



Dr. Nnamdi Elewanya
Ag. Director UF's

Dr. Elewanya said the fund was a grant to the Farm Centre for End-of-Year Broiler Production Project and described as a departure from the past practices where procurement processes for day-old chicks and feeds were outsourced to contractors.

According to the Ag. Director of UF's: "this new approach allows for better management and timely access to resources critical for poultry production".

He highlighted that this financial support, unlike traditional loans, is designed to be accounted for at the end of the Project with its accrued profit and to ensure that funds are available when needed in such a time-sensitive poultry project.



Mr. Uchenna Ogwua (Centre) and other staff of the unit



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Leadership is about service, not titles, MOUAU VC tells new SUG Executives

By Ginger Eke and Joy Nlebedum



The new President of the Student Union Government (SUG), Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Comrade Ikpeama Fortune and other Officials of the Government have been told that leadership is not about titles but more about service and sacrifices.



Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe
(Vice Chancellor MOUAU)

The Vice-Chancellor of MOUAU, Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, CFS, made the striking statement while addressing newly elected Officials of the SUG before they were sworn in on Wednesday, October 23, 2024 at Senator Anyim Pius Anyim Auditorium.

Said the VC: "I urge you all to prioritize service, sacrifice, and responsibility over titles as you begin your leadership journey. I need you to bear in mind that the 21st century leadership is not about titles, but about service, sacrifice and responsibility".

The Vice Chancellor advised the executives to serve with integrity and stressed the importance of transparency, openness, and accountability in their dealings.

In his remarks, the Dean of Student Affairs, Prof. Ralph Iheke, urged the new Officials to lead with honesty and strive to promote the University's image through their actions. He emphasized the importance of peace, harmony, and transparency in governance.

The event was concluded with the administration of the oath of office on the new Officials and the Student Representative Council by His Worship, Dr. Emmanuel Esiaba, Deputy Chief Registrar (Special Duties) of the Customary Court of Appeal, Abia State Judiciary, Umuahia and a team of lawyers from the University's Legal Unit.

All correspondence to the Editor, MOUAU News,
Dr. Ubadire Agua,
Public Relations and
Protocol Unit, MOUAU.
08034368481
Email: pro@mouau.edu.ng



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