



## 2025 Founder's Day: Gov. Otti lauds Prof. Iwe's leadership, legacies in MOUAAU

By Ubadire Agua and Sunday Anyim



The Executive Governor of Abia State, His Excellency, Dr Alex Chioma Otti, OFR, has commended the Vice-Chancellor of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, CFS, for initiating and sustaining the Dr Michael Iheonukara Okpara Lecture in MOUAAU and his purposeful leadership of the University since 2021.

The Governor, represented by the State's Commissioner for Agriculture, Dr. Cliff Agbaeze, made the remarks while

addressing participants at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dr. Michael Iheonukara Okpara Lecture, held on May 2, 2025 in a newly completed and furnished 1500-capacity Lecture Theatre in the University.

Said Dr. Otti: "Let me begin by congratulating the Vice Chancellor of this University, Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe and his team for introducing the Dr M. I. Okpara bi-annual lecture and for his purposeful leadership in steering this great citadel of academic and moral excellence to greater heights since his assumption of office in 2021".

The Gov. further said: "permit me

to say that MOUAAU has grown in leaps and bounds over the years particularly since his tenure, witnessing monumental strides in infrastructural and human capital development, which have contributed greatly to nation building".

Dr. Otti seized the opportunity to commend the Visitor to the University and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, for assenting to the Bill that established the South East Development Commission (SEDC) and appointing an Abia son, Dr. Emeka Wogu as its pioneer Chairman.

He called for collaboration among the State, SEDC and MOUAAU to create a space for free enterprise imbued with innovation, where agripreneurs can thrive, thus making the Southeast a hub for agricultural development.



# Pro-Chancellor eulogizes late Dr. Okpara, charges leaders to embrace his ethos

By Joy Nlebedum



The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike (MOUAAU), Comrade Fidelis Chukwunweike Edeh, has eulogized the outstanding virtues of the late Premier of Eastern Region, Dr. Michael Iheonukara Okpara, and called on leaders in Nigeria to embrace his ethos in public service.

The remarks were contained in Comrade Edeh's goodwill

message to participants at the 2nd Dr. Michael Iheonukara Okpara Lecture organized by the University on Friday, May 2, 2025, at the newly commissioned modern Public Lecture Theatre of the University.

Comrade Edeh described late Dr. Michael Iheonukara Okpara as a trailblazer and an iconic leader who demonstrated courage in the face of social injustice and charted the most imaginative focal agro-industrial template Nigeria has ever seen.

He said late Dr. Okpara foresaw the

food insecurity challenges facing Nigeria today and had already laid out practical solutions through proactive policies. "He was imaginative and delivered results," Edeh noted, citing Okpara's legacies in agriculture, manufacturing, brewing, tourism, animal husbandry, farm settlements, and textiles.

The Pro-Chancellor also highlighted late Dr. Okpara's boldness in confronting colonial injustice, saying his leadership went beyond agriculture, into the realm of national courage and resistance.

Comrade Edeh urged leaders in public service to go beyond merely remembering late Dr. Okpara, but live out his ethos, which include imagination, innovation, selfless service and courage.

**"I believe that Dr. Comrade Michael Okpara has invented the wheel of innovative agro-allied ventures - the reason for which this great institution was renamed after him, We must, therefore, cease from merely remembering him but must embrace the ethos of his public service."**

**- Comrade Fidelis C. Edeh**



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# MOUAU 2025 Founder's Day: VC excited as Pro-Chancellor commissions Modern Public Lecture Theatre

By Chinedu Ononiwu



There was obvious excitement in the face of the 6<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, CFS, when the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the University's Governing Council led other Council Members to commission an ultra-modern Public Lecture Theatre in the University on May 2, 2025.

The Vice-Chancellor went

down memory lane to describe how the building was conceptualized, commenced and now completed, and expressed his excitement that the Pro-Chancellor was on ground to commission the Theatre.

According to Prof. Iwe, the Theatre was a result of the persistent agitation of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) for better infrastructure in the Nigerian tertiary education system. He said that building of the

Theatre commenced during the administration of the 4<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Hilary Odo Edeoga, but could not be completed due to some funding issues. Furthermore, the administration of the 5<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor led by the late Prof. Francis Ogbonnaya Otunta, could not conclude the project as well.

The 6<sup>th</sup> VC, however, gave glory to God that his



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The 6<sup>th</sup> VC, however, gave glory to God that his administration confronted the brick walls that hindered the completion of the building and moved on to furnish it adequately with modern facilities that make it fit for public lectures and conferences. He expressed his joy that his administration's insistence that such a vital project should be put to its utmost use for the benefit of the University community had paid off.

Speaking during the Commissioning Ceremony, the Pro-Chancellor, Comrade Fidelis Chukwunweike Edeh, congratulated the Vice-Chancellor and University Management for their doggedness in ensuring that the Project was realized after a long time, quipping that the building came by the struggles of Comrades and waited until a Comrade Pro-Chancellor came to commission it.

capacity Modern Public Lecture Theatre with a 600-capacity basement is a significant milestone for the University and has added to the remarkable achievements of Prof. Iwe's administration in infrastructural development.

MOUUAU News reports that the completion of the 1,500



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# MOUAU 2025 Founder's Day: VC calls on SEDC to support MOUAU's research efforts

By Ubadire Agua and Ginger-Eke Collins



The VC informed his audience that the University through its Research Directorate has been proactively hosting high level symposia, research exhibitions and conferences, adding that to ensure proper organization and management of research on a sustainable basis, appropriate administrative machinery has been put in place from the administrative level to the University Research Board (URB).

He noted that Commodity/Utility/Action based research has been identified in all Colleges, Centre and Schools of the University and that there are thirteen (13) multidisciplinary research programmes in the University, and that each programme constitutes teams that conduct research on various conceived aspects of the broad Research Programme.

According to the VC, the Research Teams are funded by both the University and TETFUND. He therefore called on the Southeast Development Commission to consider supporting the University's innovative research efforts, among other areas of assistance.

**T**he South East Development Commission (SEDC) has been called upon to consider supporting the innovative research efforts of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike (MOUAU), in its plans and programmes for the overall development of the South East Region.

The tireless 6<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor of MOUAU, who seizes every opportunity to seek support for the University, made the call on Friday, May 2, 2025, while addressing dignitaries and participants who converged on the University for its 2025 Founder's Day Celebration and 2<sup>nd</sup> Dr. Michael Iheonukara Okpara Lecture.

According to the Vice-Chancellor, the SEDC could join the list of organizations and individuals who have made significant contributions to the University, helping her to record major milestones in its mandates of teaching and training, research and community service.

Prof. Iwe said: "The various arms and support organs of MOUAU are quite vibrant. In consonance with the institution's mandate, these outfits strive to enthrone a functional, sustainable, excellence-driven and productive research culture, especially in Agriculture, Science, Engineering, Technology and Management to solve societal problems, prioritizing the needs of the catchment areas and the nation".



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# 2nd Dr. Okpara Lecture: SEDC reveals plans for Okpara legacy continuity

By Chinedu Ononiwu

The newly established South East Development Commission (SEDC) has seized the opportunity of the 2nd Dr. Michael Iheonukara Okpara Lecture organized by Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike to reveal its plans and programmes to improve on the legacies of the late Premier for the overall development of the Region.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Commission and former Minister of Labour and Productivity, Dr. Emeka Wogu, CON, N P O M , revealed the plans while delivering the Lecture, on May 2, 2025 in the newly commissioned Public Lecture Theatre in MOUAU

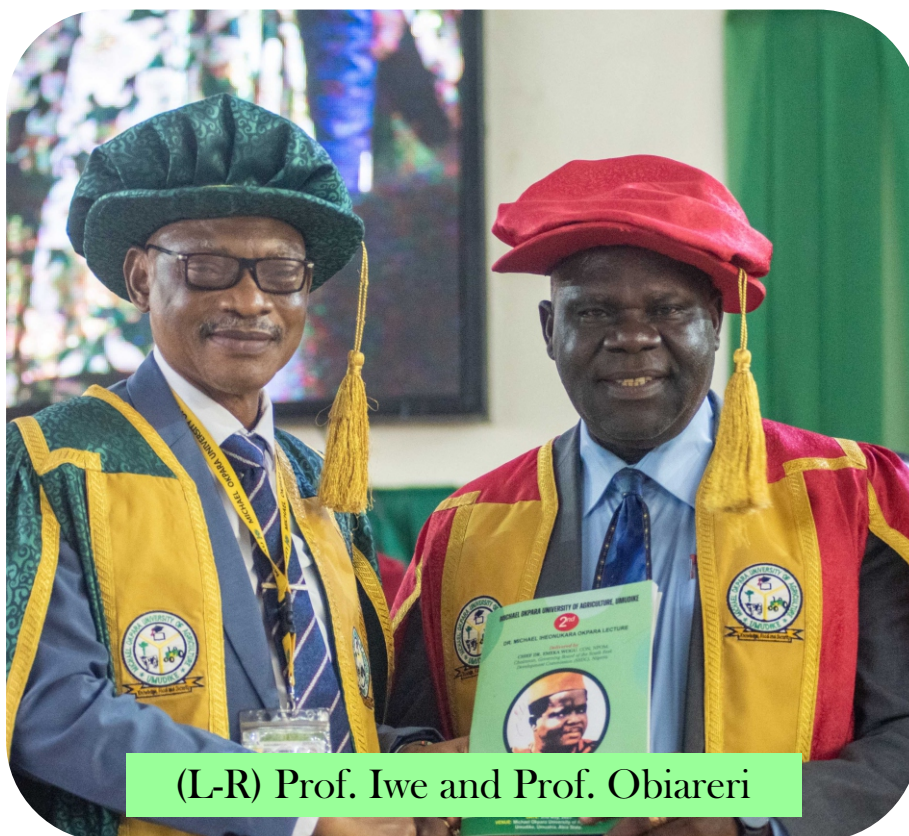
Dr. Wogu, who spoke on "Agripreneur Model for Attainment of National Food Security and Economic Development: The M.I. Okpara Approach in Retrospect - Leveraging the South East Development Commission (SEDC) as a Modern Vehicle for

Legacy Continuity." drew clear parallels between the development ideology of late Dr. Okpara and the renewed vision of the South East Development Commission (SEDC) and emphasized that the Commission represents a modern reincarnation of the M.I. Okpara's development model, citing however, that this time, the model would be infused with cutting-edge technology and artificial intelligence

Dr. Okpara's visionary leadership, including palm plantations, rice mills, and agro-allied factories, have withered due to neglect, poor policy continuity, and lack of visionary leadership.

He, however, offered the hope and assurance that the South East Development Commission must now step

into this vacuum, not only to revive Dr. Okpara's vision but to elevate it using modern tools. He reiterated the Commission's commitment to using the M.I. Okpara legacy as both a compass and a foundation for a sustainable, inclusive, and tech-driven



(L-R) Prof. Iwe and Prof. Obiareri

(AI) to suit contemporary realities and drive rapid development across the South East geopolitical zone.

Dr. Wogu, represented by a Professor of Law in Abia State University, Prof. Nnamdi Obiareri, lamented that many of the once-thriving agricultural estates and industrial projects established under

development trajectory.

Dr. Wogu disclosed that in recognition of Dr. Okpara's unmatched contributions to leadership and agricultural transformation, the SEDC has instituted a legacy Leadership and Talent Development Project in its



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transformation, the SEDC has instituted a legacy Leadership and Talent Development Project in its 2025 budget – the “M.I. Okpara Fellowship for Young Leader, Internship, etc”.

According to him, the SEDC's initiative aims to identify, train, and mentor talented youths from the South East in quality

leadership and global best practices and serves as a leadership crucible that nurtures a new generation of agripreneurs, policymakers and innovators in the spirit of Dr. Okpara.

"The leadership program is expected to be a catalyst towards reorientation and transformation of our young people into great leaders

like Dr. M.I. Okpara," Dr. Wogure remarked.

MOUUAU News reports that the 2nd Dr. Michael Iheonukara Okpara Lecture attracted dignitaries from the academia, political and business, and traditional rulers from communities across Abia State.



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# Senator Akobundu pledges support to MOUAU's development

By Ubadire Agua and Ginger-Eke Collins



**T**he Senator representing Abia Central in the National Assembly, Col. Austin O. Akobundu has pledged to support Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Umudike to achieve its mandates.

Senator Akobundu made the pledge while speaking as Chairman of the 2nd Dr Michael Iheonukara Okpara Lecture organised by MOUAU on May 2, 2025.

According to the Senator, "I have followed the news coming from this University under the

administration of Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, particularly the recent relisting of programmes in the College of Management Sciences, and I congratulate the University. I will do everything I can to support the University to achieve its mandates".

He commended MOUAU for keeping the legacy of Dr. Okpara alive through its academic and agricultural programmes, noting that the University plays a crucial role in producing the kind of professionals Nigeria needs for sustainable development.

"I will always stand by this University. I am proud that this

land, donated by my people, is now a place where history and the future meet," Senator Akobundu said, highlighting his personal connection to the institution's location.

He extolled late Dr. M. I. Okpara, describing him as a selfless and forward-thinking leader whose policies transformed the Eastern Region into one of the fastest-growing economies globally during his tenure. "This is not just a lecture. It is a reminder of the great legacies of Dr. Okpara, who lived a simple life so that others could live better.

Senator Akobundu commended President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for approving the establishment of the South-East Development Commission, and expressed optimism about its potential to reignite the vision of regional growth pioneered by Dr. Okpara. He pledged to support any collaboration between the Commission and MOUAU to attract more development to the Region and the University.



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# 59th Inaugural Lecture: Prof. Amaechi speaks on the unending war between microbes and antimicrobials

By Sunday Anyim



**Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike.**  
The Vice-Chancellor, **PROF. MADUEBIBISI OFO IWE, CFS, FNIST, FIAFST,**  
on behalf of the University Senate and Management

has the pleasure to invite

to the



**INAUGURAL LECTURE**  
OF THE UNIVERSITY

**ENTITLED:**  
**THE UNENDING WAR BETWEEN MICROBES AND ANTIMICROBIALS: PERSPECTIVES OF A VETERINARY MICROBIOLOGIST**

**To be Delivered By:**  
**PROFESSOR NDUBUEZE AMAECHI**  
DVM (Ibadan); M.Sc., PhD (MOUUAU)  
PROFESSOR VETERINARY MICROBIOLOGY

**14th MAY, 2025 | 1PM** | **Sentor Anyim Pius Anyim Auditorium**

**RSVP**  
**Prof. Nneoma Elechi Obasi**  
(Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic & Chairman, Public Lectures Committee)

**JOIN VIA ZOOM: MEETING ID: 845 0223 0858 PASSCODE: 131977**



**A** renowned Professor of Veterinary Microbiology in the College of Veterinary Medicine, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike (MOUUAU), Prof. Ndubueze Amaechi, will on May 14, 2025, deliver the University's 59th Inaugural Lecture.

A notice of the Lecture, endorsed by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic and Chairman of the Public Lectures Committee,

Prof. Nneoma Elechi Obasi, said Prof. Amaechi would speak on "The Unending War Between Microbes and Antimicrobial: Perspective of a Veterinary Microbiologist", and would reinforce the University's commitment to research-driven solutions to contemporary challenges in public health.

The notice invites the public, including academics and researchers in veterinary medicine, animal science and animal husbandry, managers of abattoirs, butchers and

the press, to Senator Anyim Pius Anyim Auditorium by 1 pm for the Lecture.

MOUUAU News reports that Inaugural Lectures provide a platform for professors to share their research and professional journey with the academic community, while contributing to national and global discourses in their respective fields.



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