UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:
A VERITABLE TOOL FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

VALEDICTORY LECTURE

By

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FACULTY OF SCIENCE

VALEDICTORY LECTURE

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PROGRAMME

1.   **GUESTS ARE SEATED**

2.   **INTRODUCTION**

3.   **THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S OPENING REMARKS**

4.   **CITATION**

5.   **THE VALEDICTORY LECTURE**

The lecturer shall remain standing during the citation. He shall step on the rostrum, and deliver his Valedictory Lecture. After the lecture, he shall step towards the Vice-Chancellor, and deliver a copy of the Valedictory Lecture and return to his seat.

6.   **CLOSING REMARKS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR**

7.   **VOTE OF THANKS**

8.   **DEPARTURE**

DEDICATION

To God Almighty, the Omnipotent, the Alpha and Omega!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank God for all His mercies. I am grateful to all men, women, children, and corporate bodies that have in one way or another had impacts on my life. Without them, there would probably been no life for me to have lived. It is not possible to mention them all. I will however wish to mention all those that quickly come to mind: my late parents, Herbert Njoku and Christiana Nmaji Nwachukwu who were lovers of education, my most senior brother, Obed A.H. Nwachukwu, who is also late, but whose thirst for education was unquenchable and my late junior sister, Mrs. Comfort Chioma Nneji. I am grateful to my wonderful children, Tony, Uche, and Oge, who now double as my brothers and sister, and my grand children, Tobi and Amara who are very fond of grand dad. To all academic staff of the Department of Computer Science, especially the pioneer staff of the Department, Prof. O. Owolabi, Prof. P.O. Asagba, and Dr. F. Egbono, To the technical and admin staff, Mrs. Ngozi Emecheta Mr. Friday Ogbuji Mrs. Evelyn Omordu, Mrs. Sabina Orlu, Mr. Clifford Ejekwu, and Mrs. Blessing Kinanee. You formed a formidable team. I could not have succeeded in nurturing the Department without you all.

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I thank former Vice-Chancellors that created the enabling environment that led to the development of Computer Science, Prof. S. J. S. Cookey, Emeritus Prof Nimi Briggs, Prof. Don Baridam, Prof. J. A. Ajienka, and the current Vice-Chancellor, Prof. N. E. S. Lale.

To the father of Faculty of Science, Emeritus Professor S. N. Okiwelu, whom I served as a fag at Government Secondary School Owerri, and who as a Dean, encouraged me to come over to Uniport to help nurture the Computer Science Programme, I say may God continue to bless and keep you. You are one of a kind.

I thank all organizations and individuals outside the University who played very relevant roles in my success story. They include Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), through its then General Manager but now His Royal Majesty Igwe Nnemeka Achebe, The Obi of Onitsha. He gave me the opportunity to be the first Nigerian to do sabbatical in SPDC. It was indeed a rewarding 2-year experience. I am grateful to Prof. Cleopars Angaye, former DG of NITDA, who provided the equipments that I used to establish the Departmental Research Laboratory; Nigeria Computer Society (NCS) President Prof. G. A. Aderounmu, for honouring me with a National Information Technology Merit Award NITMA 2016, for my contribution to IT education in Nigeria. I also thank an honest friend, Prof. G. I. Umoh who was very helpful at NAFCON, as Divisional Manager Materials Management and Procurement, and who recognized my technical ability as an IT training consultant.

I express gratitude to the Board of Directorate of Education, Faith Tabernacle Congregation Nigeria, led by the Presiding Elder, Pastor Marshal W. Bara an1d my District Pastor/Trustee, Pastor Gabriel Farayola. Your prayers have been very effective.

My dear wife, Blessing Ehisianya Nwachukwu, who has always been at the rear managing me and the children all these 42 years, since she said "I do" while I was a Graduate Assistant, I acknowledge your care. You have been nice to us. I salute you.

PROTOCOL

The Vice Chancellor, Sir

Members of the Governing Council here present

Deputy Vice Chancellors

Registrar and other Principal Officers

Provost, College of Health Sciences

Dean, Graduate School

Deans of Faculties

My Fellow Professors and other Academic Colleagues

Directors and Heads of Department

Great Students of Unique UniPort

Friends of the University

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

PREAMBLE

Mr. Vice-chancellor Sir, it is with utmost sense of joy and humility that I stand here today to deliver this Valedictory Lecture. The first time I delivered a lecture to an audience like this was on 20th January, 2010, when I delivered the 67th Inaugural Lecture titled "Information Technology; the Albatros of our Time". Today, I have invited you all to inform you that I am bowing out of the tenured position of Professor of Computer Science. May I observe that a Professor does not retire. You can have a retired General XYZ or Retired Justice ABC, but there is no retired Professor PQR.

I must however first pay tribute to that great man who blazed the trail of Valedictory lectures in the University of Port Harcourt. This is no other person than Emeritus Professor Emmanuel Okogbue Anosike. He initiated the first request for a valedictory Lecture in 2006, during the tenure of Professor Don Baridam as the 6th Vice-Chancellor of The University of Port Harcourt. This initiative culminated in the 1st Valedictory Lecture on 4th November, 2006, by Emeritus Professor Emmanuel Okogbue Anosike himself, of the Department of Biochemistry. Although Biochemistry has produced 2 of the 11 Valedictory Lectures, yet this is the 1st from the Department of Computer Science and the 12th Valedictory lecture from the University of Port Harcourt.

WHAT EXACTLY IS A VALEDICTORY LECTURE ALL ABOUT?

A Valedictory lecture is given by a Professor who is bowing out of the University system after several years of successful academic career in a University. According to the University of Port Harcourt guideline, the content does not necessarily need to be in the Professor's area of expertise but is generally more encompassing, reflective, and advisory. I hope that at the end of this lecture, I would

have shared my experience from which lessons could be learnt for the benefit of the University system and the society at large.

SHORT WALK TO ACADEMICS

Mr. Vice-Chancellor Sir, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, my first step into Academics must have started when I cried myself into forcing my parents to send me to school before my age mates. I couldn't accept staying at home while my immediate senior brother carried his slate to school every morning. My father had to convince the Headmaster that I would cope with the demands of standard one at Faith Tabernacle School, Okpala, which was located just opposite where we lived. I eventually benefitted from double promotion of those days.

I remember with nostalgia that from my 2nd year at Government Secondary School Owerri, until I finished Higher School, I was a School Scholar in which all expenses were paid including my haircut. Federal Government Scholarship and awards took care of the rest of my education from first degree at the University of Ife, to my Ph.D. at the Victoria University of Manchester (OWEN).

My serious academic career started when I completed the National Youth Service Corps. I was offered 3 different jobs; a Trainee Engineer at COMDEN (Nig) Ltd, Kano; a Pupil Engineer at Federal Ministry of Works, Electrical Inspectorate Division, Ibadan, and a Graduate Assistant, Department of Computer Science, University of Ife, (Now OAU). I worked at the Federal Ministry of Works for 3 months and left for Ife as the first Graduate Assistant in Computer Science Department, University of Ife. I was given a Temporary appointment as a Graduate Assistant. After one year, I was given study leave for a total of 4 years, during which I obtained a Masters and a Ph.D., all in Computer Science. On my return to Ife, I was interviewed and given another Temporary appointment as Lecturer

II. After one year, I was given a renewal of my temporary appointment. I had to resign my temporary appointment and joined Rivers State University of Science and Technology, (RSUST now RSU) Nkpolu, Port Harcourt as a permanent Lecturer II staff in the Department of Electrical Engineering. At RSUST I discovered that not being an "indigene" was a serious handicap and I had to leave and join the University of Port Harcourt (Uniport) as Lecturer I, Department of Maths/Statistics/Computer Science.

Uniport had its own challenges. The first was to convince most of our senior colleagues that computer literacy was important for all academic staff. It took some 10 years to convince everybody. The second was related to the first. Research grants were readily very available, but our senior colleagues, through the Research Committee, placed an embargo on any computer being included as equipment in any research proposal. Thus those in Computer Science were cut off from Research grants. By the time the embargo was lifted, Research grants had dried up. I thank God that we survived by applying the principles of Information Technology.

The third challenge at Uniport was to convince other colleagues in Maths/Statistics, that Computer Science was of age and should therefore be a separate Department. They were scared that they would not have students if Computer Science was demerged. This was sorted out by having B.Sc. (Maths/Computer Science) and B.Sc. (Statistics/Computer Science) programmes being left to be domiciled in Maths/Statistics Department, while B.Sc. (Computer Science) emerged as a new Department of Computer Science in 2005.

The fourth challenge was the unavailability of academic staff with terminal degrees. The industry was too attractive for those with M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees to accept and stay with paltry salaries that were same for all disciplines irrespective of market value outside the University system. Some people who ventured to join us, chickened

out after a few years. I tackled this problem with a two-prong approach. The first approach was to convince our Faculty AP&PC to recommend that academic staff with M.Sc. and one journal publication, should be appointed Lecture II, while anybody with a Ph.D. (Computer Science) should be appointed Lecturer I. The second approach was to develop and encourage a high quality and vibrant M.Sc. and Ph.D. programs in which our staff were encouraged to take advantage of. In addition to enlisting the services of Adjunct Lecturers, I had to deliberately encourage some Professors from other Departments to become special friends of the Department of Computer Science. I used to invite them to sit in and make very useful comments during our Ph.D. seminars. They helped me transform the Department from a single tree into a forest of Professors. Our PG programmes today are about the most vibrant in the Faculty of Science. The following PG graduate statistics obtained from Proceedings of the last four Convocations, speak for themselves.

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

PG GRADUATION FOR THE LAST FOUR CONVOCATIONS

M.Sc.

S/No.		31st	30th	29th	28th	Total	No. of Professors
1.	Animal & Environmental Biology	31	19	5	10	65	6
2.	Biochemistry	49	49	16	18	132	8
3.	Chemistry (Pure and Industrial)	48	50	5	15	118	10
4.	**Computer Science**	**27**	**44**	**28**	**32**	**131**	**1**
5.	Geology	65	60	23	44	192	6
6.	Mathematics /Statistics	24	21	6	4	55	2
7.	Microbiology	47	42	1	25	115	8
8.	Physics	40	19	16	22	97	8
9.	Plant Science & Biotechnology	15	15	10	8	48	5

Ph.D.

S/No.		31st	30th	29th	28th	Total	No. of Professors
1.	Animal & Environmental Biology	2	12	7	13	34	6
2.	Biochemistry	4	14	3	6	27	8
3.	Chemistry (Pure and Industrial)	13	14	9	1	37	10
4.	**Computer Science**	**7**	**14**	**3**	**4**	**28**	**1**
5.	Geology	10	20	2	1	33	6
6.	Mathematics /Statistics	5	1	1	1	8	2
7.	Microbiology	8	12	7	4	31	8
8.	Physics	4	6	2	2	14	8
9.	Plant Science & Biotechnology	6	6	4	1	17	5

We have gone a long way! A Department that started with 4 academic, 1 technical and 6 admin staff in 2005, has today a complement of 20 academic, 4 technical, and 8 admin staff, with an Assistant Registrar as Head of administration.

Many challenges still lie ahead, NUC has directed that each Computer Science Department should become a Faculty of Computing Science with four Departments.

Although I am leaving behind I Professor, I Associated Professor, and 3 Associate Professors undergoing assessment, the Department, which should soon be a Faculty, urgently needs more lower cadre Academic and Technical Staff. Faculty of Computing Science building should please be captured in the next budget.

Mr. Vice-Chancellor Sir, I do not intend to have a benediction that is longer than the main prayer. Consequently, I will now proceed to the main topic.

INTRODUCTION

Information is Knowledge
Information is Wealth
Information is Power

Information Technology creates Knowledge
Information Technology creates Wealth
Information Technology creates Power

What is the Essence of a Valedictory Lecture?

It is true that a Valedictory Lecture is similar to an Inaugural Lecture in some respects. However the Valedictory Lecture is designed to serve an entirely different purpose. It is given by a Professor who is retiring after several years of successful academic career in a University, in which he or she may have also held a high administrative office. The content is therefore not necessarily restricted only to the Professor's area of expertise but is generally more encompassing, reflective and advisory in nature. The Professor shares his or her experience from which lessons can be drawn for the benefit of the University system and society at large.

Mr. Vice-Chancellor sir, I wish to take advantage of this broad guideline to show how we, as individuals and as a group, can utilize Information Technology as a veritable tool for National Development.

What is a Tool?
A tool can be defined as an item or implement used for a specific purpose. It can be a physical object such as mechanical tool, including saws and hammer or a technical object such as a web authoring **tool** or software program (*Business Dictionary.com, 2018*). In addition, a concept can be considered a **tool.** What all these imply is that **a tool is** anything used as a means of accomplishing a

task or **purpose**! In this lecture, Information Technology will be taken as our tool.

What is Technology?
Technology is the knowledge of constructing, obtaining and using tools.

What is Information Technology?

According to the Information Technology Association of America (ITAA, 2018), **Information Technology** (IT) is "The study, design, development, implementation, support or management of computer-based **information** systems, particularly software applications and computer hardware".

NATIONAL STRUCTURE AS AN INVERTED TREE

I will use one of the many tools that those in IT and some other disciplines are very familiar with. This is the inverted tree structure shown in figure 1. Nigeria as a nation is the root node. The root node has children called states. Each State is a node and has children which are called Local Governments. Each Local Government is a node and has children called Communities. Each Community is a node and the children are towns or villages. Each town or village is a node whose children are called wards. A ward is a node and has children called families. Each family is a node and the children are individuals. Each individual is a node
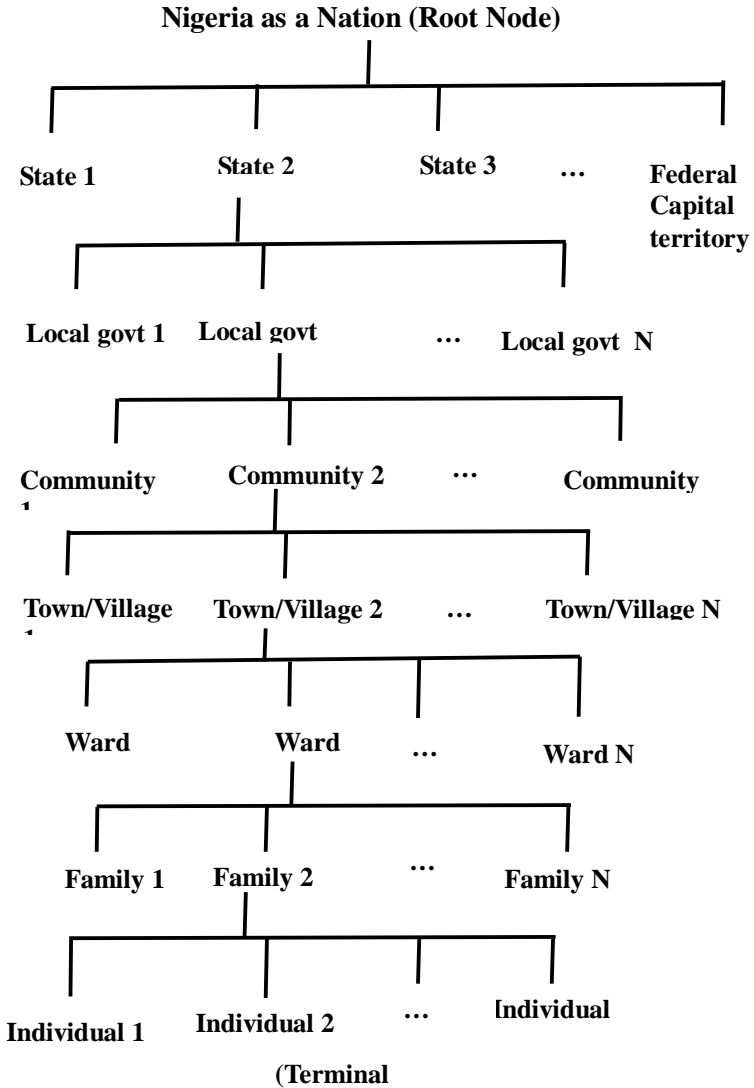
Nigeria as a Nation (Root Node)

State 1 **State 2** **State 3** ... **Federal Capital territory**

Local govt 1 **Local govt** ... **Local govt N**

Community 1 **Community 2** ... **Community**

Town/Village 1 **Town/Village 2** ... **Town/Village N**

Ward **Ward** ... **Ward N**

Family 1 **Family 2** ... **Family N**

Individual 1 **Individual 2** ... **Individual**

(Terminal

Figure 1: An Inverted Tree Representation of Nigeria

Note:

> Any node that has no child is a terminal node. The implication of this is that any individual that has not produced a child is a terminal node. As soon as an individual produces a child, the individual becomes a family node while the child becomes a terminal node.

If we look closely at this tree, for any nation to be developed the nodes at each level must be developed. The most important of all are the terminal nodes i.e. the individuals. Without individuals a nation does not exist. The Family in that tree is the one closest to the individual and therefore has a critical role to play. If each individual in a family is developed, the family is developed. If each family in a Ward is developed, the Ward is developed. The more we have Wards that are developed, the more Towns/Villages are developed. The process continues till you reach the States, and then the Nation. National development must therefore start with the development of the individual, as a foundation.

Why is Information Technology a Veritable Tool for National Development?

The major reason is that Information Technology as a tool, cannot be ignored! No individual, no Nation can afford to ignore IT because IT will not ignore you. We are in a generation where IT is the dominant tool for development of any kind. It is being used to create knowledge. It is being used to create wealth. It is being used to create power. If you doubt the last statement ask the Americans what happened during their last Presidential election. If not for IT, they might have had another President. The implication of this is that every individual must be IT compliant. The level of compliance may differ from individual to individual, from home to home and from nation to nation. The wider implication is that individuals have to be computer literate, since the computer is a major tool of IT. In fact if in 2018 you are not computer literate, you are an illiterate.

Main Measures of National Development

The main measures of National Development include:

- Literacy rate; High number of literate people (> 90%), leads to high development index (HDI), Examples of nations that have HDI include Norway, Japan, Sweden, UK, Singapore, Canada, and USA.
- Affordable and large network of healthcare system.
- Good infrastructure and services.
- Very low unemployment rate; Leads to high living standards which results in high consumption and also leads to less crime. As an example, Japan is reported to have the lowest crime rate because of high number of employed people.
- A stable Central Bank.
- Law and justice; well established.
- Technological research: Leads to increase in use of mobile, credit and debit cards, internet banking, etc. These are necessary to keep pace with today's world.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, THE MILLENNIALS, AND NETIZIENS

If one listens to news from radios, or read our newspapers and the social media, one will be tempted to conclude that the Nation called Nigeria can never be developed. This, on the surface appears to be true. In reality however, Information Technology can be used as a veritable tool for National development. Let's look at the population at the terminal node of our National tree. According to indexmundi (2018), The Nigeria age structure is as follows:

0 – 14 years 42.54%

15 – 24 years 19.61%

25 – 54 years 30.79%

55 – 64 years 3.97%

65 years and above 3.13%

Within this structure are Millenials and Netizens. Millenials are those born from late 1980's and have grown up with the internet. Netizens (or Net Citizens) are Millenials who utilize the internet from home, workplace, schools, and any internet-connected place. As far as they are concerned, the world does not exist without internet, (Chijioke, 2018). Of course, those in the 0-14 age range are potential Netizens. Netizens are identifiable by Certin characteristics:

- Boundless energy
- Inpetience
- Inclined more to freedom
- Bold and non-conformity
- Great risk takers
- Disruptive world view.

These are the leaders of tomorrow!

Let's have a closer look at the Nigerian age structure and Netizens. 50.13% of the Nigerian population is aged between 15 and 54 years. This is the productive age bracket of any nation. Out of this productive group 38.86% is between 15 and 24 years; the Netizens of our time and the future development of our Nation depend on this group. We already have a population made up of Netizens, poised to use IT tools for National Development. What is needed is the harnessing of our Netizens' energy for productive development.

Security and IT Tools

Security is critically important for National development. Individuals, property and information must be secure. What criminals fear most are monitoring and detection of their fraudulent acts. With the availability of Internet of Things (IoT), where gadgets can be connected and controlled via the Internet, you can use your smart phone to monitor not only your property but also individuals. If you add the capabilities of Global Positioning System (GPS), you

can visually monitor anything from anywhere. You do not even need public power supply to implement all these. Batteries or solar power can be used. Infrared technology is available in the absence of light. There are affordable CCTV's which can be used to monitor, record and even raise alarms where necessary.

The unreliability of human security personnel makes IT security inevitable. IT Security tools are readily available and are continuously being improved. They can be further explored from the following sources: (Web 1, Web 2, Web 3 and Web 4)

Education and IT Tools

When people are educated they are easy to rule but difficult to deceive. In addition an educated person has more potential to contribute to national development than an uneducated person. If the Nigerian masses are to be effectively educated, IT will have to be the tool to use.

According to Chijioke Eke (2018), 95% of Nigerians do not have personal computers but 46.1% have internet access. Thus IT, has a very important role to play in mass education. Vast internet resources are easily and cheaply available for both mass and specialized education.

IT Tools and Wealth Creation

Digital Poverty is the lack of access to IT tools and to the vast potentials derivable from IT. This is the worst enemy of a nation. If you are digital poor you cannot develop. On the other hand, digital and media literacy, plus the contents from IT, enable youths who are Netizens, become critical thinkers, who can actively analyze, evaluate, and create media messages of added relevance and value which of course constitute wealth. It is very important for us to realize that the philosophy, the modalities and the environment for wealth creation with IT have their peculiarities. You just not make,

create and innovate, you need to analyze and evaluate, before those processes. In fact you need to keep calm and think before you click. You need to answer four cardinal questions of systems analysis

> What is it you want?
> Who is going to use it?
> Where will it be used?
> When will it be used?

Answers to these questions lead you to the right decision
If you are always taking the right decision you are on the correct path to development.

Operating Environment

The environment for IT operation has drastically changed within the past 10 years. You no longer need big heavily air-conditioned offices with big tables and swinging chairs. You now have Netizens who may be in Nigeria but are working (writing computer programs) for companies in China, Europe or Canada. These are countries they may never have to visit throughout their lives. They can earn thousands or millions of dollars every year from the comfort of their rooms. They are creating real wealth. The principle of work from home is fast gaining ground. There is world-wide shortage of people with programming skills, especially people who are professionals of other fields and also have programming skills.

IT added Value to Professional Practice

What of using IT as a tool to add value to your profession and improve quality, quantity, and efficiency. Why should we, at this age and time, be using felt pens or markers for writing lecturer notes on white boards? Why not use PowerPoint presentation? Some of us have done it for over 10 years. You invest in it and on the long, run you and the student will benefit from it. How do you handle the

power problem? Each Department, as the terminal node of the University system, should invest on back-up generators. However, the University has a responsibility to provide constant power in the campus. The Government has a larger responsibility to provide reliable power to the citizenry.

Concluding Remarks

Information Technology has grown from using computers to process data from tables to the processing of Big Data from the Internet. Such data are characterized by the four V's Volume, Velocity, Variability and Volatility. With increased use of Artificial intelligence principles, IT tools have even become more veritable tools for National Development.

We should however not loose sight of the fact that physical tools such as hammers and screw drivers are used to break into houses and steal valuables. IT tools have also become vicious weapons for stealing, forgery, tack news, and harking. The good news about all these however is that there is no hiding place in IT. Every operation and every transaction in the internet is monitored and recorded somewhere and everywhere. It is there in the Cloud. You cannot completely delete what has gone through the net. If you know what to do, you can always trace and recover every information including the time, location and details of those who have attempted to access or have accessed such information this is inherent in the design of internet itself. Internet is a network of networks spanning international boundaries. There is no one person or country that controls the internet. As a corollary, you should never give out your old phone to anybody unless you do not mind other people having access to all messages and all calls that the phone was ever used for. Deleting a message from your phone does not mean that it cannot be recovered.

In order to effectively utilize IT as a tool for National development, parents, primary schools, secondary schools, and tertiary institutions have roles to play. Parents, literate or not, should make out time to sit down with their children and ask the child to show what he or she has learnt in school about computers and computing. Parents also need to ask their children what they can do with those phones the children are using, including daddy's and mummy's phones. You will be amazed at how much you can learn from these netizen kids.

Computing skills must be introduced at Nursery/Primary School Levels. Toys and games that illustrate computing principles should be introduced. Incidentally, IT itself has introduced many valuable social media, such as Youtube which enable all these to be streamed and utilized virtually free of charge. At the Primary School Level some coding principles should be introduced in the form of games.

At the secondary school level, coding otherwise called programming has to be part of subjects that are mandatory for each child. State and Local Governments must take special interests in all these by sponsoring training, programmes for teachers, in both the public and private schools. At the tertiary level, the Federal Government, through the National Universities Commission (NUC) has taken a bold step by insisting that all Computer Science Departments should transform into Computing Faculties with four Departments. What remains is another bold step that produces necessary infrastructure and encourages massive staff training for Computer Science academic staff and other IT Staff. State Governments also need to do even more than the Federal Government since they are closer to the people.

Universities and other Tertiary Institutions must invest in IT not only for administrative purposes but also for Security, Research and Development. 25 to 75% of the funds being currently expended on security should be channeled into installation and maintenance of

cameras, CCTV's and IT-based monitoring systems. The number of existing inefficient security personnel will drastically reduce but new skilled jobs will be created.

Mr. Vice-Chancellor Sir, ladies and gentlemen you can now see why it is very important to invest on our Netizens so that they can utilize Information Technology tools not only for individual Security but also for National development. There is no doubt in my mind that within the next 8 years Netizens will be Governors, Ministers, and Commissioners, National Development will be the better off for it.

I will not feel weary in misquoting Jonathan Holland in one of his celebrated prayers:

> God give us men
> A time like this demands men
> Men who are IT literate
> Men who will utilize IT tools
> Men who will not lie with IT
> Men who the spoils of IT will not kill
> Men with a good opinion of IT
> God give us men.

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CITATION

PROFESSOR ENOCH OKECHUKWU NWACHUKWU

May Professor Enoch Okechukwu Nwachukwu please stand and remain standing.

It is a rare privilege to be asked to read the citation of this great academic giant whose profile is very intimidating. A man who started academic life with a Distinction in the Primary School, Distinction in Secondary School and a Distinction in the Tertiary institution.

Professor Enoch Nwachukwu is the son of Herbert and Christiana Nmaji Nwachukwu, all of blessed memory. He was born on the 23rd of September, 1948 exactly 5 days to this day that he is 70 years and wishing the University good bye. Though I have never heard of a retired Professor but I know of Retired Generals, Retired D.Gs and so on and so forth. That means that Greater academic knowledge comes after 70 which means that Professor E. O. Nwachukwu would still be very useful in the University system.

Professor Nwachukwu attended the Prestigious Government Secondary School Owerri. At Owerri, Nwachukwu E was called E for Engine. He was an all rounder – an Eastern Regional Athletic icon. He was a school scholar. That meant that he enjoyed School scholarship covering tuition, clothing, and accommodation including barbing of his hair and washing of his beddings and clothing. He was a School Prefect (1965-66), House Captain (1966) and School athletics Captain (1966). His 5-mile Cross country record is yet to be broken! He had one of the best results in 1964 (school certificate) and Higher school certificate in 1966. Winner of J. F Kennedy Essay Competition, Eastern Region of Nigeria.

For His Tertiary Education, Professor Nwachukwu was a pioneer student of Electronics/Electrical Engineering at the University of Ife (OAU). As usual, he graduated in 1974 with a 2nd Class Upper Division, Electronics Engineering option.

After his NYSC, University of Ife captured this great computer wizard and engaged him in the Computer Science Department as its 1st Graduate assistant. Hence he audited PGD courses in computer science.

In 1976, Professor Nwachukwu left the shores of Nigeria for Post Graduate studies in computer science in the UK. He bagged an MSc (1978) and a PhD (1980) all in computer science at the famous Victoria University of Manchester. While at Manchester, he was a Demonstrator at the Computer Science lab and also at the Microprocessor application lab in Electrical Engineering Department.

For love of his country and to enrich the academic knowledge of his Ife Department, Professor Nwachukwu returned immediately after the PhD and taught briefly at Ife.

In 1981, Professor Nwachukwu crossed the Niger and was immediately grabbed by the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt. He was a Lecturer II, at the Computer Science and Technology unit of the Electrical Engineering Department of the University.

In 1983 exactly after 2 years at UST, the Federal University of Port Harcourt called him in as a Lecturer I in the Omnibus Department of Maths/Statistics/Computer Science. This Omnibus department was eventually demerged in 2005 after the appointment of Professor E. O. Nwachukwu as the 1st Professor of computer science in the old Eastern Region of nine states of Nigeria today. He remained Head of the new Computer Science Department for six years of its 1st 8 years of the Department's existence. During this period, Professor Nwachukwu breastfed, pampered and nurtured this Department of initial academic staff of 4 to the present envious Department with BSc, PGD, MSc and PhD programmes whose performances are well recognised in the comity of Nigerian Universities.

Professor Nwachukwu in the course of his career in the different Universities he taught has supervised over 150 BSc, 35 MSc and 25 PhD degree projects, 6 of which are now of Professorial cadre in different Universities. He has served as External Examiner at undergraduate and postgraduate levels for several institutions including and not limited to University of Calabar, Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka, University of Benin, Cross River State University of Science and Technology Calabar, Rhema University, Federal University of Agriculture Umudike, Niger Delta University, Imo State University, Enugu State University of Science and Technology, Rivers State University Port Harcourt and Ebonyi State University Abakiliki. He was a member of the NUC accreditation team to over ten Nigerian Universities since 2010. He is currently a Chief Technical Advisor to JAMB. Professor E. O. Nwachukwu has to his

credit over 100 articles in learned journals and conference papers. He has equally published over seven books, edited four, and contributed to many chapters in others.

In 1999 Professor Nwachukwu attracted the donation of the 1st internet facility and connectivity to Uniport, by DANALEC (Nig.) Ltd. In 2015, he instituted an Annual Award for the Best Graduating Student in Computer Science.

He was Consultant EDP Trainer, Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) between 1990-1992- a Sabbatical leave appointment, and Training Consultant to other companies including NAFCON, and NNPC.

Ladies and Gentlemen our Valedictory Lecturer today is a member of many professional bodies. These include:
   a) Fellow, Nigerian Computer Society (FNCS)
   b) Nigerian Society of Engineers (MNSE)
   c) Association for Computing Machinery (ACM, USA).

This all-rounder has equally won numerous awards. Some of which include:
1. John F Kennedy Essay Competition Eastern Region of Nigeria (1965)
2. Eastern Regional Athletic Colours (1966)
3. Govt. Secondary School Owerri, School athletics Colours, (1965, 1966)
4. National Merit awardee, Govt. Secondary School Owerri Old Boys Association, 1990
5. Nigerian Computer Society National Information Technology Merit awardee (2016)

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is my honour to present to you this all-rounder, this great sports man, a lover of humanity, a loving husband of Blessing and a loving father of Anthony, Uche and Ogechi, and a proud Grand dad of Tobi and Amara, a humble Christian, a computer scientist of International repute, Professor Enoch Okechukwu Nwachukwu, to deliver his Valedictory Lecture.

Thank You.

Professor N.E.S. Lale
Vice-Chancellor