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Obasanjo avoids Danjuma in Lagos



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Ag President Jonathan swears in ministers today



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Yar'adua meets Christian leaders

By Habeeb Pindiga & Ben Atonko

AILING President Umaru Yar'adua, who was last seen in public nearly five months ago, prayed with Christian leaders at the presidential villa in Abuja yesterday, four days after he met senior Islamic clerics.

President of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN)

Archbishop John Onaiyekan, Dr David Oyedepo of the Living Faith Ministry, former Aso Rock chaplain Prof Yusuf Obaje and Pastor Emmanuel Kure of the Throneroom Trust Ministry, Kafanchan, Kaduna State, were at the villa on the invitation of the president.

Obaje told *Daily Trust* last night: "I am happy that I met the

president today and prayed with him because as a Christian it is my responsibility to pray for Nigerian leaders."

Obaje declined to give details on the president's condition, saying he would not comment because he was not a medical doctor.

Kure said they met the president and prayed with him for about ten minutes yesterday.

"The prayer was for the Lord to perfect his healing," Kure said, according to *Reuters* news agency. He also declined to elaborate on the meeting or discuss Yar'adua's health. "I do not want to get involved in the politics. It is not my place," he said.

Onaiyekan and Oyedepo could not be reached for comments last night.

The president prayed with four senior Islamic clerics at his residence last Thursday, among them chief imam of the National Mosque Ustaz Musa Mohammed, who said the president had some difficulty speaking.

The other clerics who went with Ustaz Musa are Sheikh Isa Pantami, Sheikh Yakubu Musa

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PHOTO: SANI MAIKATANGA



REMAINS of the late Alhaji Abubakar Rimi being taken for burial in an ambulance yesterday. Inset: Mourners carry the remains at the Tarauni graveyard, Kano.

How Rimi died, by driver

From Lawan Danjuma Adamu, Kano

DRIVER of the late Abubakar Rimi yesterday gave a blow-by-blow account of how the former Kano State governor died, saying Rimi began gasping soon after he saw wounds in his brother's head after a brush with armed robbers on Sunday night.

Alhaji Haruna Abdullahi, who worked with the Rimi family since 1979 when the late politician was elected governor, said their vehicle was forced to stop by a gang of armed robbers along the road to Darki/Gadar Janna near Wudil, south-east of Kano.

"The robbers had completely taken over the road when we approached Darki/Gadar Janna," he said. "It therefore became compulsory for us to stop, otherwise they would shoot at us."

"As we stopped, they searched us and collected our money and our handsets. They also beat my boss' younger brother who was seated right behind me. The security aide

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Gunmen attack another EFCC operative

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Death of Abubakar Rimi



Former Kano State Deputy Governor Engineer Magaji Abdullahi (foreground) commiserates with the Emir of Kano Alhaji Ado Bayero yesterday at the Emir's palace over the death of Alhaji Abubakar Rimi. Seated from left are Jigawa State Governor Sule Lamido, Kano State Deputy Governor Tijjani Abdullahi Gwarzo and former Kano State Governor, Dr. Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso.

'My dad was father to all'

From Jaafar Jaafar & Ruqayyah Aliyu

ABUBAKAR Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi, the eldest son of late Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi, has described his late father as person who embraced people as part of his family.

Abubakar, popularly known as Alhaji Karami, said his father was a father to all, adding that the mammoth crowd that attended the funeral and visited the family to condole with them indicated how he was revered by people from all walks of all.

Alhaji Karami said his father would be remembered for championing the cause of the common man, justice, equity and sustenance of the nation's democracy.

Also speaking, widow of the deceased, Hajiya Batulu Koguna, described her husband's death as traumatizing, which will leave a vacuum that cannot be filled.

Hajiya Batulu further said one of the greatest legacies the deceased left behind was honesty. "One thing that remained peculiar to him was whenever he said or criticized any action or inaction of leaders, people later on realized that he was saying the truth. His honesty reflected in everything he said. He was fearless and highly objective," she said.

On his relationship with people, Hajiya Batulu said he was easy going and had a good sense of humour. She prayed to Almighty Allah to rest his soul.

Kano declares today public holiday

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

KANO State Government has declared today a work free day in order to mourn the death of former governor of old Kano State Alhaji Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi. He died on Sunday at the age of 69.

A statement by Adamu Abdullahi, the Director of Press to the deputy governor of the state, Engineer Abdullahi Tijjani Gwarzo said it has become imperative for the state government to declare a public holiday in reverence of the late politician.

He said late Rimi had contributed immensely to the development of Kano State and the nation in general, noting that the government and people of Kano State were in a state of shock and grief over the loss.

Governor Shekarau, who was away in the United States, sent his condolence message through his Press Secretary Malam Sule Ya'u Sule, saying Rimi's death was "a tragic and big loss not only to Kano but the nation in general as he was a nationalist and a political icon whose ideology is emulated by many."

Shekarau, Shema, Yakasai, others extol Rimi's virtues

From Lawan Danjuma Adamu, Hisham Habib, Ruqayyah Aliyu & Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

NOTABLE Nigerians including Governors Ibrahim Shekarau and Ibrahim Shehu Shema of Kano and Katsina States, respectively, yesterday extolled the virtues of late Second Republic governor of Kano State Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi.

Others who paid glowing tribute to the late political icon included former governor of Plateau State Solomon Lar, member of the House of Representatives Faruk Lawan, elder statesman Tanko Yakasai, among others.

Governor Shekarau sent his condolence message from the United States through his Press Secretary Malam Sule Ya'u Sule.

He said Rimi's death was "a tragic and big loss not only to Kano but the nation in general as he was a nationalist and a political

icon whose ideology is emulated by many."

Governor Shema said Rimi's death was extremely shocking. "Alhaji Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi was an eloquent person who served the interest of the people and the interest of the nation. I hope and pray Allah will reward him Aljanna Firdaus."

Alhaji Tanko Yakasai, former Special Adviser on National Assembly Matters to former President Shehu Shagari, said "Rimi was a dogged and fearless fighter who dedicated his life to the unity of the nation and enthronement of a lasting democracy in the country."

Yakasai said by Rimi's death Nigeria had lost one of its pillars who stood firm in the struggle for the restoration of true democracy not only in Nigeria but on the entire African continent. He prayed to Almighty Allah to forgive his mistakes and grant his

soul eternal peace.

Former governor of Sokoto State Attahiru Bafarawa, in a statement by his media aide Yusuf Dingyadi, said late Abubakar Rimi died as an accomplished politician who sacrificed his life toward ensuring equity and unity in the nation's democracy.

Rep Faruk Lawan said Rimi died championing the cause of the common man, adding that he lived a life of courage, doggedness, commitment, fearlessness and determination to fight injustice wherever it was.

Nigeria's ambassador to China Aminu Wali said Rimi attained international status such that his death was "a loss that cannot be described."

Ambassador Wali, who was among the first callers at the residence before Rimi's body was taken for burial, further stated that "Rimi has been a political colossus throughout his political

Rimi's death a national loss – ACF, PDP, NCP

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna & Muideen Olaniji

THE Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and the National Conscience Party (NCP) have described the death of Alhaji Abubakar Rimi as a national loss.

ACF in a statement signed by its National Publicity Secretary, Mr. Anthony Sani, said the death of the former governor has robbed the nation of a veritable source of politics of mass participation where peoples' votes

count.

"The best way to remember him is for those charged with the task of electoral reforms and other laws to reflect Alhaji Rimi's suggestion as they affect immunity clause, state electoral commissions, current management of state / local government account in the states, existing number of political parties and punishment of corrupt persons in our laws," the forum stated.

PDP National Publicity Secretary Professor Rufai Ahmed Alkali said Rimi, whom he

called 'great colossus of all times' would be missed by all Nigerians because of his deep ideological convictions, forthrightness and colourful personality.

Alkali said: "The PDP has received with a great sense of bewilderment and utter shock the sad news of the passing away of Alh. Dr. Mohammad Abubakar Rimi, a frontline politician, an elder statesman, and a dogged fighter for the common man."

Secretary of the NCP, Mallam Yunusa Tanko, in a statement, said late Alhaji Rimi would be

remembered for his contributions to the entrenchment of democracy in the country.

"He stood firm against former President Olusegun Obasanjo's third term bid even though he was holding a juicy appointment as the Chairman of the Nigerian Security, Printing and Minting Company (NSPMC)," he said.

The party said the late politician would fondly be remembered by members and supporters of their founder, late Chief Gani Fawehinmi, for his role during the legal icon's burial.

Death of Abubakar Rimi

Jonathan orders investigation

By Mohammed S. Shehu & Misbahu Bashir

ACTING President, Goodluck Jonathan has directed the Inspector General of Police Ogbonna Onovo to investigate the circumstances surrounding the robbery incident, which reportedly led to death of Alhaji Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi.

Rimi, former Governor of Kano State, Minister of Communications and presidential aspirant, died Sunday night of compli-

cations from high blood pressure, an hour after he had an encounter with armed robbers on his way back to Kano from Bauchi.

A statement by Jonathan's Senior Special Assistant on Media and Publicity Ima Niboro described Rimi's death as sad and unfortunate incident coming at a time when the country needed his political counsel.

He described the late Rimi as "one of the great leaders of the Nigerian nation, an astute politician and successful adminis-

trator. He said the late politician will always be remembered for his vibrant ideology and vocal advocacy for the rights of the Nigerian people. "The nation will greatly miss his political experience and invaluable contributions to nation building."

The Acting President extended condolences to the family of the late politician, the government and people of Kano State, and the entire nation. He prayed that the Almighty will grant all the strength and courage to bear the loss.

Meanwhile, IGP Onovo has instructed the Commissioners of Police in Kano and Bauchi States to find and arrest the bandits who attacked the former Governor of Kano, late Alhaji Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi and his entourage, taking away monies and personal items.

A statement by the Force Public Relations Officer ACP Emmanuel Ojukwu said Onovo asked the two commissioners to immediately dispatch detectives to fish out and arrest the assail-

ants. The statement said Rimi died from shock which emanated from the attack. One of the members of the entourage was severely injured by the bandits.

"The IGP has directed the CP's in Bauchi and Kano to pull their operatives and detectives to identify and arrest the attackers for prosecution," the statement said.

Several other people were robbed same night at the spot where Rimi was robbed, which was not far away from a police check point.

No arrest yet – Police

From Lawan Danjuma Adamu, Kano

KANO state police command yesterday said no body has been arrested yet in connection with the death of former Kano State governor Alhaji Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi.

The police command in a statement issued yesterday said the state commissioner of police Mohammad J. Gana led a team of senior police officers and detachment of mobile policemen to the scene where Rimi was robbed along with his co-travellers before his death.

A statement signed by the Police Public Relations Officer SP Baba Mohammed Azare said the police team had gone to Darki/Gadar Janna scene of the robbery incident to effect the arrest of culprits who took part in robbing the former information minister.

But as at the time of going to press, Azare who spoke to our correspondent on phone said no arrest has been made yet.



THE late Alhaji Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi in his last public appearance in Bauchi, hours before his death.

Death a tragedy to the political class – Mark

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

SENATE President David Mark has described the death of the former civilian Governor of old Kano State Alhaji Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi as a tragedy to the political class in Nigeria.

He said the Rimi's death at this point in time had robbed the nation of his wealth of experience, which is needed to navigate the murky political waters. Mark said the nation has lost another political icon.

In a condolence message to the government and people of Kano State, Mark said the late politician will be remembered for his positive contributions to the political development of Nigeria.

"Rimi was a politician of inestimable value. He played politics of honesty, integrity and without

bitterness. He was an advocate of equity, respect for human rights, rule of law and upheld democratic principles at all times. His death is a tragedy.

We shall miss his frank disposition to national issues, knowledge and political sagacity. He combined the rare attribute of conservative and liberal political theories to achieve results. He was a good ambassador of the political class. He left his positive footprints on the sand of time," he said.

While urging the people of Kano State, especially the immediate family to take solace in the fact that Rimi lived an eventful and exemplary life worthy of emulation, Senator Mark added that, "All we can do to immortalise Rimi is to be fair and just to all in politics and in our various human endeavours."

Stampede at funeral

From Auwalu Umar, Kano

THERE was stampede at the palace of Emir of Kano Alhaji Ado Bayero as thousands of sympathizers stormed the Kofar Kudu wing of the spacious palace yesterday to attend the funeral prayer for the Second Republic governor of old Kano State Alhaji Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi.

The Kofar Kudu wing is the frontage of the palace, the same place the funeral prayer of the slain wife of the late politician Hajiya Sa'adatu Rimi took place after she was murdered in her matrimonial home in Kano in 2006.

The funeral prayer, earlier billed to hold at the Race Course, held at the Emir's Palace at the instance of Emir of Kano Alhaji Ado Bayero and government of Kano State as a mark of great honour to the late politician.

Police and other security personnel deployed to maintain security and order during the funeral prayer and final internment of the former minister of communications had a hectic time as they could not control the surging crowd at Tarauni burial ground where the deceased was buried.

Sympathizers trooped to the palace from different directions as early as 9am in readiness for the funeral prayer. Hundreds of married women and children lined up on Palace Road to catch a glimpse of the ambulance conveying the remains of Kano's first civilian governor, just as several other young men and women could be seen on trees and rooftops to watch the funeral unhindered.

At every corner in the ancient city one could see groups of people with transistor radio monitoring the live radio coverage of the burial by Radio Kano, owned by the state, and the Kano-based Freedom Radio.

The ambulance that conveyed the deceased was said to have left the politician's residence on Durmin Katsina Road at 10:30am but could not arrive at the palace until around 1pm because those accompanying the corpse were on foot. It was a hectic journey as it would take one more than five kilometers to arrive at the palace from Rimi's residence. The funeral prayer led by acting Chief Imam of Kano Central mosque Sheikh Nazifi Dalhatu with Emir of Kano Alhaji Ado Bayero in attendance slated

for 12 noon ended up taking place after 1pm. The prayer held with the corpse inside the ambulance as a result of the huge gathering.

There was however a mild drama at the palace soon before the funeral as former governor of Kano State Engineer Rabi Musa Kwankwaso and his entourage were booed, with shoes hurled at them. The intervention of police personnel saved the situation. Kwankwaso is seen in Kano as the arch political rival of the late political icon.

At the Tarauni burial ground, which took the ambulance more than two hours to arrive, was filled to the brim already even before the arrival of the corpse by sea of mourners. Prayers were offered at the palace, Tarauni cemetery and the deceased's residence for the repose of his soul.

Emir of Dass in Bauchi State Alhaji Usman Bilyaminu Othman II was among the early personalities that arrived at the palace for the funeral prayer. Others were Kano deputy governor Engineer Abdullahi Tijjani Mohammed Gwarzo, Jigawa State deputy governor Alhaji Ahmed Mohammed Gumel and Alhaji Musa Musawa.



PIC: CHRIS AGABI

CULTURAL troupe displaying at Lagos Carnival yesterday

Obasanjo avoids Danjuma in Lagos

From Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

THERE was a mild drama at the Presidential Wing of the Murtala Muhammed International Airport Lagos yesterday when former President Olusegun Obasanjo snubbed his long time friend General Theophilus Yakubu Danjuma who was waiting for aircraft that would fly him back to Abuja.

Obasanjo was returning from a trip to Senegal where he was guest of President Abdoulaye Wade to celebrate the 50 years independence anniversary of the West African country. He flew in aboard a private Hawker Sidley 125 jet marked with

registration number ZS-5AH and landed at about 4.40pm.

Obasanjo said there was no basis to compare Senegal to Nigeria in terms of their achievements in 50 years of nationhood, because the two countries had different colonial experience.

When reporters accosted Obasanjo to inform him that his friend was inside the inner lounge awaiting his arrival, Obasanjo said: "Greet T. Y Danjuma for me. Tell him I am greeting him."

Obasanjo quickly hopped into the waiting black jeep that accompanied a two car convoy and sped off onto the road leading to his farm

country home in Ota.

Meanwhile Theophilus Danjuma who arrived at the airport in an S-class Mercedes car about 3.40 pm earlier before his friend refused to comment on the state of the nation.

There was also a mild drama when aviation correspondents tried to interview Danjuma who was dressed in a white flowing agbada. The following ensued: Journalists: "How are you doing Sir, Happy Easter. What is your assessment of the state of the nation?"

Danjuma: "Get out of here."

He later went into the inner lounge to await the arrival of the aircraft that will convey him to Abuja.

Panel: Cross-carpeting, threat to Nigeria's democracy

From Ibrahim Chonoko, London

A discussion panel on BEN Television, United Kingdom, has cautioned against moves by the National Assembly to legalise cross-carpeting in politics, warning that it would weaken Nigeria's nascent political system and its structures.

The panel, chaired by Alistair Soyode, Chairman of Nigerians in Diaspora Organisation Europe (NIDOE) stressed that Nigerian politicians should be made to stick together on political ideology, which it said, would strengthen their parties and create "stability in the coun-

try's political journey".

It noted that cross-carpeting "has brought home the sad message that politicians harbour little or no regard for the electorate", adding that the practice was "bereft of ideology and principles" by the politicians.

"Instead of strategizing on ways to re-launch their parties into winning ways, some elected politicians cross-carpet to the victorious party", it lamented.

Describing the trend as "opportunistic politics and betrayal of voters", the panel urged the National Assembly to abolish the right of

cross-carpeting among elected representatives in parliament and all other elected positions.

It argued that freedom of political choice should not be used as grounds for cross-carpeting, pointing out that no freedom was without limits or boundaries.

The panel therefore urged INEC to call for bye-elections in the constituencies of the cross-carpeted candidates, and called on the National Assembly to enact a bill that provides penalties on leaders and officers of political parties who fail to account for the use of funds allocated to them through INEC.

SSS invite labour leader over strike threat

By Francis Okeke

CHAIRMAN of the Joint Public Service Negotiating Council (JPSNC) Comrade Olakunle Olaitan has been invited to appear before the State Security Service (SSS) on Wednesday following threats of strike action by federal workers.

JPSNC is an amalgam of eight unions in the Federal Civil Service.

Olaitan told Daily Trust on telephone yesterday that the invitation was as a result of the threat issued over a week ago by the workers protesting the "wide disparity" among different cadres in the public service.

The workers are kicking against the wide gap in wages enjoyed by permanent secretaries and directors-general against what others in the service earn.

Comrade Olakunle Olaitan who is also the President of the Association of Senior Civil Servants of Nigeria (ASCSN) said the invitation was done on phone but however, did not state specific issues to be discussed.

"I know they are doing their work. I will see them on Wednesday because they contacted me and the invitation is connected to the strike. But what we are saying is that government knows the needful and should do the needful.

"After the meeting with the SSS, the meeting of the council will be on Thursday where we will take our next action but what we are saying is that government should do the needful," he said.

Nigeria oil production hit 2-year record high

By Hamisu Muhammad

THE crude oil production in Nigeria has hit two-year record high with daily production of 2.6 million barrels on Sunday, records from the Crude Oil Marketing Department of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) show.

Confirming the figure to Daily Trust, NNPC Group Executive Director, Commercial and Investment, Aminu Baba Kusa said throughout last week the average production was put at 2.5 million barrel per day and the has hit 2.6m on Sunday.

Before now, the country's oil production has been hovering around 2.2 million b/d to 2.3million b/d since the commencement of the Amnesty programme by the federal government last year.

At the heat of the battle between militants in the Niger Delta region and task force set up by the federal government before the amnesty deal, the crude oil production dropped to as low as 500 000b/d in 2008 and early 2009.

Gunmen attack another EFCC operative

By Boco Edet

GUNMEN attacked another operative of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) at his home in Keffi, Nassarawa state on Sunday night where he was shot severally in the chest.

Solomon Yorr who is attached to the Economic Governance unit which handles cases of Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs) has been admitted in a hospital in Abuja under intensive care.

Also on Thursday April 1, some officials received anonymous text messages threatening to kill and maim them.

The attack on Yorr is coming barely two weeks after about 15 armed men ambushed a team of five operatives killing one of them and injuring others along Mbanokigwe road, Imo state.

EFCC's spokesman Femi Babafemi said the Chairman Mrs. Farida Waziri has since directed that security be beefed up around the officer while she prays for his recovery.

Mrs. Waziri has said that the various attacks against the officials would not deter the activities of the Commission.

Jonathan inaugurates executive council today

From Mohammed S. Shehu

ALL is set for the inauguration of the Federal Executive Council today by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan.

The new council, comprising of 38 ministers and presidential aides including the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF) and the Head of Service of the

Federation (HOSF), would be inaugurated following the dissolution of the last cabinet by Jonathan on Wednesday, March 17.

Daily Trust gathered that the event is scheduled for 12:00 pm at the Aso Chambers and ministers designate have been contacted and told to limit the number of those that will accompany them to swearing-in event to two.

Although there was no official information to that effect, sources in the presidency said the date and time of the event fixed and relayed to all the affected would-be cabinet members.

Daily Trust also gathered the Acting President is still yet to disclose the list of his new cabinet, which heightened speculation over allocation of portfolios.

Akande, Nwobodo mourn Rimi

By Suleiman M. Bisalla & Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

FORMER governor of Osun State Chief Bisi Akande has described the death of Alhaji Abubakar Rimi as shocking, even as he recalled that the bond of friendship between him and the deceased dated back to 33 years.

Akande, the national chairman of the Action Congress who woke up to the shock of Rimi's demise yesterday regretted that Rimi had to die in the manner he did due to the absence of security guarantees anywhere across the country.

He said the sad event underscored the need for state police since the current system has failed to guarantee the security of the lives and property of Nigerians.

Senator Jim Nwobodo yesterday called on security agents in the country to do everything possible to arrest the robbers who attacked late Alhaji Abubakar Rimi on his way back to Kano from Bauchi State.

Nwobodo, in a statement signed by Chief Geo Uguru, said he received the death of his friend with deep sorrow, saying while Rimi was alive, they were inseparable. He prayed God to give Rimi's family the fortitude to bear the loss.

...Bauchi mourns too

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

BAUCHI State, where the late Alhaji Abubakar Rimi attended his last function, received the news of his death with shock.

Rimi's last major public appearance was in Dass, Bauchi State on Saturday, where he attended the presentation of staff of office to the new Emir Alhaji Usman Bilyaminu Othman II, who succeeded his late father as the 8th Emir of Dass.

The late politician also attended a book launch on the history of the Katagum Emirate in Azare, Bauchi State on Sunday, hours before his death.

Bauchi State Governor Isa Yuguda has described his death as devastating and shocking, considering the fact that he was hale and hearty before he left Azare for Kano, after spending the previous night in Bauchi town.

The Special Assistant to the Bauchi State Governor on Media, Sanusi Muhammad said, "Governor Yuguda received the news with great shock because they were together on Saturday before he left Azare on Sunday and they discussed many issues".

The Emir of Dass Usman Bilyaminu Othman II, when contacted by our correspondent on phone said, "As we are talking, I am on my way to Kano to attend the burial. It came to me and the entire people of Dass Emirate as a rude shock".



FROM left: The Osile of Oke - Ona Egba, Oba Dapo Tejuosho, Alaka of Egbaland, Oba Adedotun Gbadebo, Speaker, House of Representatives Dimeji Bankole and President, Abeokuta Club, Chief Victor Koleoso, at the induction ceremony of the Speaker as a member of the club in Abeokuta, Ogun State on Sunday.

Jonathan mourns Gombe senators' death

By Mohammed S. Shehu

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan has expressed shock over the death of senators Tawar Wada and Kawu Dukku representing Gombe North and Gombe South senatorial districts respectively in the National Assembly.

He described the death of the

two senators as a great loss to Gombe State, the National Assembly and the country at large. He stated that the past few days must have been trying for the state and the Senate, with the death of the two senators within a span of 48 hours.

Jonathan, in a statement by his Senior Special Assistant on Media

and Publicity, Ima Niboro, said both men passed at a time when the nation needed their contributions most in the promulgation of laws to move the nation forward.

He said that the lawmakers would be fondly remembered for their vibrant contributions to issues on the floor of the senate as well as their positive contributions

to politics in Gombe and the country at large.

He condoled with Governor Danjuma Goje and the people of Gombe State, the Senate on the passage of the senators.

He also commiserated with the families of the deceased and prayed God to give them the fortitude to bear the loss.

Yar'adua meets Christian leaders

Continued from page 1

and President of the Supreme Council of Sharia in Nigeria, Sheikh Ibrahim Datti Ahmed. Ustaz Musa said he believed

the president would recover.

The president's meeting with the Christian leaders came a day before the swearing of a new cabinet by acting President Goodluck Jonathan,

who is yet to see Yar'adua since his return from a medical trip to Saudi Arabia on February 24.

Yar'adua last week received several visitors including Gov-

ernor Isa Yuguda of Bauchi State, who is his son-in-law, business mogul Alhaji Dahiru Mangal, who is a close political associate of Yar'adua's, as well as Alhaji Shehu Inuwa Imam.

How Rimi died, by driver

Continued from page 1

to my boss was sitting at the front.

"The robbers were armed, but they did not use their weapons. They asked for money and we gave them. They asked me to open the boot and when I opened it, they searched all our luggage, including that of my boss, but one of the bags was difficult to open.

"At that time, I tried to frighten them by telling them that the police could come and open fire on us all." Abdullahi said one of the robbers responded by saying: "to hell with the police!"

He said after the robbers were done with them, they asked them to proceed on the journey. As they moved on, Rimi said to him: "You

see what robbery is nowadays. These men have now cheated us." The deceased then said he would never travel at night again, because this was not the first time they encountered robbers.

"They have robbed us once and robbed us twice, therefore we should not fall victims again," the driver quoted the late Rimi as saying.

He said at that point, Rimi's brother Alhaji Sule Sa'a told them he was injured in the head and arm by the robbers. Rimi asked to see the wounds and immediately he saw them, he started coughing and gasping.

He said as they got to Wudil town, Rimi's son Nura rang the guard, whose hidden cell phone

was not taken by the robbers.

Abdullahi said Nura suggested to them to take the late Rimi straight to hospital instead of coming home, though they assured him that Rimi was not physically attacked by the robbers.

"At that moment my boss started sweating to the extent that Alhaji Sa'a advised me to put on the car air conditioner. As we approached Gano town, my boss said to me 'take me to Classic Clinic as soon as we get to Kano.'"

At the Classic Clinic, Abdullahi said, "after he was examined by a female doctor, we were asked to take him to Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital (AKTH)."

He said Rimi was already unconscious by the time they got

to the teaching hospital.

"We—myself, Nura and the bodyguard—lifted him into the emergency ward. They later asked us to leave the room so that he could take fresh air. So I came out, but shortly Nura came out and started calling friends and family members to inform them that my boss was dead," Abdullahi said.

Rimi, a former minister of communications and presidential aspirant, died Sunday night of complications from high blood pressure an hour after he had an encounter with armed robbers on his way back to Kano from Bauchi.

More stories and photos on Rimi's death on pages 2, 3, 28 & 29.

70 doctors in Nasarawa resign in a year

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

REPORTS say poor remuneration and condition of service are making doctors working under the Nasarawa State government to resign their appointments.

In the past 12 months, about 70 doctors have resigned their appointments, turning the hos-

pitals including the Specialist Hospital in Lafia, which is the biggest health facility in the state into ghost centres.

The state Chairman of the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), Dr. Usman Abe who spoke with our correspondent yesterday in Lafia said poor remuneration and the general

lack of incentives, including residential quarters and official vehicles had caused most of the doctors to seek better conditions of service elsewhere.

"In the past 12 months alone, about 70 doctors resigned and if you look at the past 24 months, the number of those, who have left is alarming", Dr. Abe said.

He cited lack of space for doctors to operate, lack of functional ambulances in the hospitals and lack of residential quarters and other incentives as responsible for poor health delivery in the state.

He decried the absence of functional ambulances, saying the development had affected

what he called "the referral system".

The state Commissioner for Health Dr. Bawa Abimiku could not be reached for comments, but the Commissioner for Information Mammen Alakayi said he did not have the figures and could not speak on the matter as he was new in office.

Tsav blames Rimi's death on failure of police

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

FORMER Lagos State Police Commissioner Alhaji Abubakar Tsav has blamed the death of the former Governor of Kano State Alhaji Abubakar Rimi on the failure of the Nigerian Police, saying robbery had become enticing to young men because they know they could never be caught.

Tsav in a telephone chat with our correspondent yesterday said this robbery and many other robbery cases in the country were due to the incapability of the police to check crime.

Tsav said the most annoying part of the matter was that the late politician would not get justice because of the usual inability of the police to trace and arrest culprits of such acts.

He said the Police Force was not working because of the lack of commitment from both the junior and the senior cadre, who he said, "Have preoccupied themselves with pecuniary gains at traffic check points instead of making the roads safer through effective policing."

Tsav also blamed the Federal Government for the state of the police, alleging lack of political will to improve the force.

Most annoying part of the matter was that the late politician would not get justice because of the usual inability of the police to trace and arrest culprits of such acts



A British woman, Adila Ukor on horse back, after she obtained the emir's permission to partake in a grand durbar during the 3rd Machina Cultural Festival, in Yobe State, yesterday.

PIC: ISA UMAR GUSAU

Coalition demands probe into killings at Ajegunle

THE Labour and Civil Society Coalition (LASCO) yesterday called for an independent probe panel to investigate the alleged killings of five persons on Wednesday in Ajegunle, a Lagos suburb.

Addressing newsmen in Lagos, the Lagos State Secretary of LASCO, Mr Dagga Tolar, said that "There is need for an immediate public inquiry into the circumstances that led to the alleged killing".

Tolar said that the probe panel should comprise representatives of the Trade Unions and the Nigeria Bar Association.

He also said that human and civil rights organisations, community organisations and

NGOs should be part of the panel. On April 1, the Lagos State Police allegedly killed one Charles Okorafor, a resident of Ajegunle, during the arrest of some youth at a football viewing centre in the area. A protest by the residents the following day at the Ajeromi Police Station resulted in the killing of four more people, including one Tunde Olute.

While reacting to the allegation of Okorafor's killing, Police Public Relations Officer for Lagos Mr Frank Mba said that the police were not responsible.

Tolar, however, told newsmen that "there is also need for a coroner's inquest into the killings as well as the unconditional release of all residents

arrested in the aftermath of the protest.

"We also demand the arrest and prosecution of the police officers involved in the incident" he said.

The LASCO Secretary also stressed the need for the Nigerian Police to relocate any officer who has served in Ajegunle for more than four years, as well as all DPOs who have allegedly been aiding their officers in "illegal raids".

He stated that the group would stage a mass protest to actualise their demands.

Tolar called on the NLC, TUC, human rights' organisations, NGOs and other well-meaning Nigerians to intervene.

(NAN)

Gbong Gwom Jos meets Fulanis today

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

THE Gbong Gwom Jos Dah Jacob Gyang Buba has to meet with the Fulani communities in the state on the best way to achieve sustainable peace on the Plateau today. It would be recalled that the Fulani's were alleged to have been behind the recent attack on Dogo Na Hauwa, Rasat, shen and some villages in Riyom in Jos South Local Government Area.

The Police Public Relations Officer of the state ASP Mohammed Lerama told newsmen yesterday in Jos that the traditional ruler had informed the police about the meeting and urged them to invite relevant stake holders and the press to the meeting. He advised all aggrieved persons to sheath their swords and cooperate with the security operatives in their efforts to maintain peace.

Fire guts Ibadan hospital

From Yemi Bamidele, Ibadan

FIRE yesterday gutted the multi-million naira laundry section of the University College Hospital (UCH), Ibadan. The incident took fire fighters from the Oyo State Fire Service

about five hours to put out.

A witness said the fire was due to a power surge.

The Chief Medical Director of the hospital Professor Abiodun Ilesanmi, when asked to react to the incident

said, "Why are you asking questions? Can't you see the extent of the damage for yourself? What do you want me to say?"

No life was lost in the incident, but property worth millions of naira was lost.



PIC: NAN

PART of the top floor of the laundry department of University College Hospital, Ibadan, which was destroyed by fire yesterday.

Jos crises: Police boss tasks journalists on cooperation

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

PLATEAU State Police Commissioner Mr Ikechukwu Ayo Aduba has called on journalists to assist the police and the state to achieve sustainable peace on the Plateau. Mr Aduba made the call yesterday while fielding questions from newsmen in Jos.

He said, "Because of fear, out of the 1000 corps members posted to the state, over 700 redeployed. Because of what you write, people see Plateau as a danger zone. What we are saying is that you speak the truth, but sometimes you have

to show patriotism.

Negative stories will not take us anywhere. You see, no one wants to come to Jos again. I am appealing to the Press to assist us so that peace will return to Plateau"

The Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of the State Criminal Investigation Department Mr Femi Oyeleye said they arraigned suspects arrested during the recent Jos crisis at the Federal High Court, instead of the state High Court because of jurisdiction. He maintained that there was no ulterior motive behind the action.

... As Plateau women pray for peace

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

THE Plateau State Women Development Association (PSWDA) Abuja branch used the Easter period to organize a prayer session in Jos to ask God to intercede in the affairs of the state.

The women converged on the Polo field, Jos in black and white attires. President of the group, Mrs Selbyen Niam-

bang, said the women had to speak to God concerning the peace, unity and progress of the state and its people because they were not happy with the situation.

"Our hearts are heavy because blood is being shed frequently on our land," she said.

Mrs. Niambang lamented that despite several judicial panels constituted on Jos crises, not much had been achieved. The women prayed for several hours.

Archbishop wants church to mediate in conflicts

THE Catholic Archbishop of Kaduna, the Most Rev. Matthew Ndagoso has called on the church to mediate in the inter-ethnic and inter-religious conflicts across the country. Ndagoso made the call in Kaduna during his Easter homily at Saint Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday.

He said the conflicts were an indictment on the government and that the church was the hope of the common man in resolving the crises. He called on it to adopt holistic measures that would bring lasting solutions to the conflicts.

He said the conflicts in Plateau and Niger Delta were worrisome and a threat to the country's democracy. Ndagoso regretted that Nigeria was divided along religious and ethnic lines and that only genuine reconciliation could work.

He said the divisions were responsible for the mistrust, hatred and suspicions throughout the country.

He appealed to religious leaders to learn to be honest with each other when discussing religious issues.

"We must learn to accommodate and respect people with opposing views. We must learn to do this or be prepared to drift apart and ruin ourselves. We must also learn to forgive and shun vengeance," he said.

The cleric also charged the politicians to be sincere in their approach to political issues saying "Always get to the root cause of problems rather than applying cosmetic solutions to them."

Ndagoso appealed to Christians to take advantage of the revalidation of voters register to ensure they were registered to vote in the 2011 elections.

"It is your civic responsibility to elect leaders of your choice, do not sit on the fence, ensure your name is registered," he advised Nigerians. (NAN)

NDLEA to charge drug trafficking couple for child abuse

From Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

THE Chairman/Chief Executive of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) Ahmadu Giade has instructed the agency to charge the couple caught with 4.050kg of cocaine for child abuse. This is because the couple allegedly used their 6 year old twins to smuggle cocaine.

Giade in statement at the weekend in Lagos described the action of the couple as an abuse of the children's rights, which should not be condoned. The couple, Jimoh Oladega Bashir is alleged to have connived with his wife,

Mulikat Adebukola and concealed 350 grammes of cocaine in the diaper of their 6 year old twins while travelling to London.

According to the NDLEA boss, "The action of the couple is callous, morally depraved and unacceptable. Apart from charging them for drug trafficking, they will also be charged for child abuse. It is unlawful for them to have taken advantage of the kids innocence to involve them in a serious criminal act like drug trafficking. No society will overlook such an act."

The family of four was to board an Arik flight to London when they were arrested.

Niger Tax Board commences auto registration

THE Niger State Board of Internal Revenue has commenced the issuance of Auto-Registration Card in place of paper particulars to vehicle owners. Chairman of the board Alhaji Musa Kaboji told newsmen in Minna on Sunday that it had withdrawn all its paper particulars that were hitherto issued to motorists.

He explained that the registration covers vehicle license, proof of ownership and road worthiness. He said the board had established 11 centres for the issu-

ance of the new auto-registration cards throughout the state to make it easier for vehicles to change their vehicle particular.

Kaboji said the board planned to open six more centres, especially in the major towns on the boundary of the state and other neighbouring states. Kaboji said the auto registration card costs N2,000 depending on the vehicle weight.

"If a motorist, wants to change his particulars, he will

pay N2,000 or more depending on the weight of such vehicle. He will equally pay for the papers that would be changed and an auto-registration card, containing all vital information is issued," he said.

He said the board would commence the enforcement of the auto-registration card, and "Motorists will be given time to switch over from paper to the card. The enforcement will follow sound public enlightenment". (NAN)

NDLEA: Illicit drugs threaten stability of West Africa

By Shehu Abubakar

THE sales and consumption of illicit drugs threaten stability in the West African sub-region, Chairman of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) Ahmadu Giade has said.

He spoke at a public lecture

organised by the wife of the Governor of Bauchi State and founder of Challenge Your Disability Initiative (CYDI) Hajia Hauwa Abiodun Isa Yuguda at the Bauchi State Government House.

Speaking on the topic, Implications of Drug Abuse and Illicit Drug Trafficking on Internal Security, Giade identified politi-

cal thuggery, low productivity, money laundering, violent crimes, militancy and youth restiveness as some of the consequences of the obnoxious trade.

The NDLEA boss said that the drug problem in Nigeria and West Africa is real, and cited a report by ECOWAS that listed countries most affected by the menace of

illicit drugs to include Republic of Benin, Cape Verde, Cote D'ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal, Ghana and Togo.

Hajia Hauwa Yuguda in her address also lent her voice to the looming threat posed by illicit drugs and urged participants to improve their lifestyles and those of their neighbours with

the knowledge acquired at the lecture.

Present at the occasion were the Deputy Governor of Bauchi State Alhaji Babayo Garba Gamawa, Speaker of Bauchi State House of Assembly Alhaji Abubakar Ahmed Faggo, heads of military and para-military agencies as well as students.

U.S denies stopping FCT road project

By Aisha Umar Agaie

THE United States of America embassy yesterday denied asking the engineering services department of Federal Capital Development Authority to discontinue work on the construction of road in Asokoro District of Abuja.

Head of Information Office and Public Affairs Section in the U.S embassy David Renz yesterday told *Daily Trust*: I don't know where the information came from, we will contact FCDA to correct the information, but we have not contacted them yet."

Mrs Elizabeth Oricha, the chief resident engineer of the project, said while briefing members of FCDA Board who were on tour of facilities in the territory that "US embassy asked the contractor handling the project to discontinue work on the portion of the road passing by its rented properties or, in the alternative, divert the road."



PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE

CHILDREN enjoying themselves at the Wonderland Amusement Park, Abuja during the Easter Monday celebrations yesterday.

River Niger dredging unite militants, security operatives

By Shehu Abubakar

THE ongoing dredging of the river Niger has succeeded in uniting armed militants, prominent youths from some communities in the Niger Delta, soldiers and other security operatives.

Chairman and Chief Executive of Fung Tai Company, which is handling the dredging of Lot One that covers Bifurcation to Warri in the war tone region, Sir Isaac Chuks, said this in Abuja yesterday.

He said with his military training as a retired Commodore of the Nigerian Navy and as a person that handled several contracts in the region, he has succeeded in bringing the military, other security agencies, the militants and the Ijaw Youths Council (IYC) to jointly provide security to his company now dredging that end of the river Niger.

Sir Chuks said it was not easy bringing the military and the militants together to work on the dredging project saying since the contract was awarded to the company in December 2008, it took him several months to be able to penetrate the area and convinced the militants to allow his workers carryout the dredging work.

Meningitis threaten children in Zangon Kataf

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

MANY children are receiving medical attention at various hospitals following the outbreak of cerebro spinal meningitis (CSM) in Madakiya village in Zangon Kataf local government area of Kaduna State. District Head of Madakiya Dr. David Kanyok called for government intervention, saying that

drugs should be sent to the area as a matter of urgency.

Speaking through his secretary, Mr. Dominic Maza, the district head said government should take prompt action to arrest the situation against the spread of the disease to the neighbouring communities. "Several children have now been taken to the hospital on the report case of meningitis and we are not

sure whether there are drugs in the hospitals or not," he said.

The district head said parents should take their children to the nearest clinics for proper medical checkup, warning that meningitis is a killer disease. North East Zonal coordinator of NEMA Alhaji Mustafa Sulaiman said his agency is yet to receive alert from the Kaduna State Emergency Management Board.

Also speaking on the outbreak, NEMA spokesperson said the epidemic is already in some states, but "we are yet to receive any information with regards to Zangon Kataf."

It was on record that the former minister of state for Health, Dr. Idi Hong before the cabinet dissolved, raised alarm of an impending outbreak of meningitis in about 26 states of the federation this year.

Customs yet to submit files of some pensioners

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE pension files of the over 4000 Customs officers affected by the federal governments' downsizing policy five years ago are still pending at the headquarters of the Nigeria Custom Service Headquarters.

Acting Director of the Custom, Immigration, and Prison Pension Office (CIPPO)

Abdurrashid Mana said this while speaking with journalists after a visit to the Comptroller General of Customs Service Abdullahi Dikko

in Abuja.

He said there is no way the affected officers could get their names into the CIPPO pension payroll and start enjoying their pensions, while their files remain at the Customs headquarters.

Mana said "With the information we received earlier of 2752 submitted list of pensioners by Customs, there are still 802 files remaining at the Nigeria Customs Service office, but we later realised that there are a lot of duplications of names."

He said the Customs service has no sufficient repre-

sentatives at CIPPO, pointing out that those sent by the service failed to report, thereby creating vacuum.

"We don't have Customs officers there to report to the CG from time-to-time."

Responding, Customs CG said "We have sent ten officers to CIPPO since December 17, 2009. I am surprised that these officers are not there; If they are not there, where are they? May be at the border carrying one bag of rice, or shuttling between container terminals and elsewhere within the port. Honestly it is a shame," he said.

Muslim students task Jonathan, ministers-designate

By Zakariyya Adaramola

THE Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria (MSSN) yesterday called on Acting President Goodluck Jonathan and the minister-designates to ensure that Nigerians feel the positive impact of the government in good time.

The MSSN said the Acting President and the new ministers to-be must jettison personal interests for collective and national interest for them to move the country forward

According to the MSSN, it is not an overstatement that good governance requires determination and selflessness.

It said the ministers should imbibe these good attributes - determination and selflessness - while discharging their responsibilities in office.

MSSN, in a statement jointly signed by its Lagos Chapter Amir (president), Qasim Badrudeen, and its Public Relations Officer (PRO), AbdulHakim Ogunmuyiwa, said the new ministers to-be should ensure that Nigerians enjoy uninterrupted power supply.

The MSSN statement read in part: "It is not an overstatement that good governance requires determination and selflessness. We therefore implore the ministers to imbibe these good attributes while discharging their responsibilities."



Governor Jonah Jang of Plateau State

Plateau Achaba riders urge Assembly on rule of law

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

COMMERCIAL motorcycle riders popularly known as Achaba in Plateau State have called on the Plateau House of Assembly to respect the rule of law. They maintained that the passage of the bill for the prohibition of commercial motorcycle operations within Jos and Bukuru metropolis by the Plateau House of Assembly is an attempt to undermine the judicial process already set in motion by commercial motorcyclists. They said this in a letter to the state Attorney General as well as the Speaker of the House through their counsel, Barrister Muhammad Lawal Ishaq.

The motorcyclists had filed a case against the state Assembly alongside the state government and the state Attorney General earlier at a Federal High Court, challenging the bill submitted to the state Assembly by the state government to prohibit the operation of commercial motorcycles within Jos and Bukuru metropolis.

A letter which was signed by Barrister Ishaq said, "Our investigation confirmed to us that the court processes were served on you, you even sent a lawyer to represent you on 9th March 2010 when the case first came up for mention before the Federal High court. But to our dismay, the House passed the bill, which is in contention and which is the subject matter.

"We view this as attempt by the House to undermine the judicial process already set in motion by our clients, who are going to be affected negatively by your action and that of the Plateau Assembly.

"We are therefore compelled to call on you to suspend action on the bill, pending the final determination of our clients' action. Anything short of this will send a wrong signal to the citizens that some people or agencies are above the law".

Efforts to speak to the Chairman of the House Committee on Information Emmanuel Jugul as well as the state Attorney General at the time of filing this report were unsuccessful.

Bassa-Nge opts out of agitation for Okura State

THE Bassa-Nge people of Kogi State have opted out of the agitation for Okura State for fear of perpetual marginalisation by the majority Igala people. Addressing newsmen in Gboloko, Bassa Local Government Area, on Sunday, the Vice-President of Bassa-Nge Development Union, Mr Israel Elukpo said their sojourn so far with the Igalas had not been fruitful. He pointed out that although they were inhabiting part of the Eastern Senatorial District, they were not part of the Igala kingdom and had no cultural affinity with them.

"We want to make it categorically clear the Bassa-Nge people are a Nupe speaking group, distinct in history, culture and ethnic identity from the Igalas. Our settlements along the River Niger make us contiguous to Kogi West and Kogi Central senatorial districts. A sizeable part of Bassa-Nge kingdom is part of Lokoja metropolis. A move to Okura state will mean losing our present capital city of Kogi State," he said. (NAN)

LG funds duly accounted for – Gov Shema

GOVERNOR Ibrahim Shema of Katsina State has said that his administration has properly accounted for all the funds it collected for the 34 local governments in the state. Shema, speaking on the Forum of the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja, said the funds were used to develop the state.

He said the funds were paid monthly into a joint account that was constitutionally created for each state of the federation.

Shema said after all expenditures, including the funding of primary education, the remaining was kept in the accounts of the local governments, with the amounts stated.

He said so far, the state government had deposited up to N12 billion for the local governments. Commenting on the utilisation of the state's share of funds from the excess crude account, Shema said: "We insisted that the local governments must do uniform projects

with them and must do practical projects that people can see, touch, feel and use.

"We agreed with them to come up with areas they want to utilise them; they said Education. It is from this money that they built the girl-child education primary schools," he said.

The governor said that it was also from the funds that the local governments built 30 units of houses as well as three health care centres each. (NAN)

Senators' death: Gombe declares tomorrow work-free

From Aliyu M. Hamagam, Gombe

THE Gombe State government has declared tomorrow work-free day in honour of the two senators representing Northern and Southern Gombe, who died within a spate of three days. This was contained in statement from the office of the state's Head of Service. The statement said, "following the untimely death of Senator Tawar Umbi Wada of Gombe South Senatorial District on Wednesday March 31 and Senator Kawu Peto Dukku of Gombe North Senatorial District on Friday April 2, 2010, the Governor of Gombe State Alhaji Danjuma Goje has declared Tuesday, the 6th of April, 2010 as work-free day".

The statement also added that the state governor had commiserated with the families of the deceased, the people of Gombe State as well as the Senate President on the death of the two senators. Meanwhile, Minister designate, Dr Idi Hong and the Emir of Fika, Alhaji Muhammad Ibn Abali were among the dignitaries, who attended the third dayfid'au prayer of late Senator kawu Peto that took place in his Gombe residence.

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Abuja – 7 April 2010, 11.00-15.00 Transcorp Hilton, Abuja
9 April 2010, 11.00-15.00 Krypton Educational Services

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ADMISSION INTO FULL-TIME HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA, PRE-NATIONAL DIPLOMA AND PART-TIME NATIONAL DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES FOR 2010/2011 ACADEMIC SESSION

FULL-TIME PROGRAMMES

A. TWO YEAR HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA (HND) PROGRAMMES

The underlisted two (2) years Full -Time programmes leading to the award of Higher National Diploma are available.

1. SCHOOL OF APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- i. Computer Science
- ii. Food Technology
- iii. Science Laboratory Technology :
 - a. Biology/Microbiology option
 - b. Chemistry/Biochemistry option
 - c. Physics with Electronics options
- iv. Statistics

2. SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT STUDIES

- i. Accountancy
- ii. Banking & Finance
- iii. Business Administration
- iv. Insurance
- v. Marketing

3. SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- i. Library and Information Science
- ii. Mass Communication
- iii. Office Technology and Management (OTM)

4. SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

- i. Civil Engineering
- ii. Computer Engineering Technology
- iii. Electrical & Electronics Engineering:
 - a. Electronics & Telecommunication Engineering option
 - b. Power and Machine Engineering Option
- iv. Mechanical Engineering:
 - a. Power and Plant Engineering option
 - b. Production and Manuf. Engineering option

5. SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

- i. Architectural Technology
- ii. Building Technology
- iii. Quantity Surveying

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR HND

The entry requirements for all Higher National Diploma (HND) programmes are as follows:

1. Candidates are to possess four relevant O/L credits in SSCE/GCE/NECO/ NABTEB at not more than two sittings.
2. Candidates are required to have completed relevant National Diploma programme at not below LOWER CREDIT classification.
3. Candidates are required to have at least one year post National Diploma relevant industrial Training experience.
4. For details on the entry requirements peculiar to each of Higher National Diploma (HND) programmes, visit the FEDPOFFA website: www.fedpoffa.edu.ng

B. ONE YEAR PRE-NATIONAL DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES IN:

1. BUSINESS
2. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

GENERAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

1. PRE-ND BUSINESS

SSCE/ WAEC / GCE /NECO/ NABTEB "O/Level with at least five (5) relevant credit passes at not more than two (2) sittings.

2. PRE-ND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SSCE / WAEC/GCE/NECO NABTEB O'level with at least five (5) relevant credit passes at not more than two (2) sittings.

For details on the entry requirements peculiar to each of the Pre-National Diploma above, visit the FEDPOFFA website www.fedpoffa.edu.ng

Furthermore, candidates are expected to sit for and pass the JAMB UTME to enable them proceed for the National Diploma accordingly.

PART-TIME PROGRAMMES

A. NATIONAL DIPLOMA (ND) PART -TIME PROGRAMMES

The underlisted three (3) years Part -Time programmes leading to the award of National Diploma are available.

1. SCHOOL OF APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- i. Computer Science
- ii. Food Technology
- iii. Science Laboratory Technology
- iv. Statistics

2. SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT STUDIES

- i. Accountancy
- ii. Banking & Finance
- iii. Business Administration
- iv. Insurance

3. SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- i. Library and Information Science
- ii. Mass Communication
- iii. Office Technology and Management (OTM)

4. SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

- i. Civil Engineering
- ii. Computer Engineering Technology
- iii. Electrical Electronics Engineering
- iv. Mechanical Engineering

5. SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

- i. Building Technology
- ii. Quantity Surveying

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR P/T NATIONAL DIPLOMA

The entry requirements for all National Diploma (ND) programmes are as follows:

SSCE /WAEC/GCE /NECO/ NABTEB O'level with at least five (5) credit passes in relevant subjects obtained at not more than two (2) sittings.

For details on entry requirements peculiar to each of the courses above visit the FEDPOFFA website: www.fedpoffa.edu.ng

ON-LINE APPLICATION

To apply on-line for HND, Pre -ND or Part -Time ND programmes, obtain the FEDPOFFA scratch card at the sum of Five thousand Naira (N5,000.00) from **OCEANIC BANK**. Scratch the grey panel to reveal a PIN number with which you access the FEDPOFFA website for an application form, which you should fill and submit on-line. Our website address is www.fedpoffa.edu.ng.

NOTE: Completion and submission of application form close on 1st June 2010.

SCHEDULE OF SCREENING EXERCISE FOR CANDIDATES

Please find below schedule of screening exercise for applicants:

S/N	CATEGORY	DATE	SHIFT	TIME	DOCUMENTS TO BRING
1	HND	7 th Aug. 2010	MORNING	9am-12noon	(1) Teller of N1,000 (2) Copy of online application form
2	PRE-ND	7 th Aug. 2010	AFTERNOON	12-2PM	(3) 1Passport (4) 2Copies of downloaded completed screening clearance if not submitted
3	PART-TIME ND	7 th Aug. 2010	EVENING	3 -5PM	(5) Writing Materials

Each Candidate is to pay One thousand Naira (N1,000) into Federal Polytechnic Offa Bank Account No 2711770002190 at Skye Bank post Jamb Account as Administrative fee for the screening exercise.

For further information visit www.fedpoffa.edu.ng

SIGNED
ALH. A. O. RAJI
 Registrar

Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com

Iwu quits this week

THIS is total lie and made to force the hands of the Presidency. Iwu's appointment is tenured and a 2/3 of the Senate must vote for his removal before that can be effective.

That said, however, even if Iwu is removed, our electoral woes would increase rather than decrease because of the existence of political cannibals and assassins, ballot box snatchers and stuffers, partisan, ill-equipped and ill-motivated security agencies, do-or-die politicians, and lack of internal party democracy, journalists and media houses on the pay roll of politicians, and corrupt and bought-over labour leadership will still live with us.

Zaiyanu Usman
zaiyanuusmanu@yahoo.com

Pro-Iwu group to register 15m supporters

THE recent sponsored pro-Iwu activities justify more than ever why he should be sacked with immediate effect. Was it the protesters that made him the INEC Chairman in the first place? Or has he begun to use his office and public resources to recruit thugs for such actions? Nigerians shall rise against such insults by public servants exploiting the unfortunate economic status of our youths.

Tasiu Muhd Ringim
tmringim@gmail.com

Ex-militants demand top Cabinet posts

NOW this is ludicrous! Nigeria has not deteriorated to the level that insurgents will proffer national advice...or has it? The Niger Delta militants are now openly black-mailing the country after holding it hostage and I believe they find themselves in a position to do so only because the government legitimized their existence by having a parley with them.

Abdalla Mohammed
neoteny7@yahoo.com

Mega Party to be launched under new name

THERE is a repeat of what happened in 2006 when the opposition were unable to organize themselves behind a formidable front. They went to the elections divided and failed to make any impact on the political terrain. They cried wolf after the election and the same scenario is repeating its self: Atiku eyeing PDP, Gen. Buhari moving to new party, Attahiru Bafarawa lying low, O. Uzor Kalu quiet... The opposition is already in disarray and PDP is waxing stronger.

Muhammad Guiwa
dunгуza3@hotmail.com



PROFESSOR Maurice Iwu, INEC Chairman

It will be the beginning of the march to repair the damaged framework of the Nigerian Project. Getting rid of Iwu is just the first phase in the long process of electoral reform. He should be made to account for the expenditure of the INEC especially of the money

meant for the purchase of the Direct Capture Machines. He must be probed and Ribadu is at the corner. The Igbos in particular must begin to rebuild their image by standing for the truth at all times irrespective of their petty interest. Iwu has not served the Igbos and neither has he served honestly and faithfully the Nigerian nation.

Merem Emeribe
emeokoro@yahoo.com

Thank God, Iwu's tenure is coming to an end. The failure of the acting president to select right person to fill this position will also categorize him as a failed person. So Mr. Acting president, please don't fail. Think well before you make your selection. This is an opportunity to make a

mark and move Nigeria forward.

Yom
yom07@live.com

Good riddance. This is a fitting Easter gift to all Nigerians who expect positive actions from a brand new government.

Jonathan should go ahead and reconstitute the entire INEC filled with people of integrity and not charlatans than can sell their entire village because of money. I want to see Olisa Agbakoba, Femi Falana, Emma Ezeazu, Shehu Sanni, Mathew Kukah, Ledum Mittee, Dr Arthur Nwankwo, Abubakar Umar, etc in the new INEC and please remove all other Resident Electoral commissioners too.

Uzoh Ekulide
ekulide2006@gmail.com



THE late Abubakar Rimi

Rimi dies after encounter with robbers

INNA lillah wa ina ilyhil raji'un. May Allah (SWT) grant his soul eternal rest. Truly, a gem and an outspoken person, a visionary leader and an icon is lost. He has left a vacuum in our political history that will be hard to fill. May Allah give the family the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss.

Naibi
naibizubairu@yahoo.com

Indeed the Death of Alh. Abubakar Rimi is a great loss to Nigeria And Africa in general. My condolences to his Family. May Allah (S.W.A) give them the fortitude to bear the loss, and May Allah grant him aljanna-firdaus. Ameen!

Ak Hopes
akm440@yahoo.com

May Allah reward him with Aljanna. Ameen

Hadi N. Ibrahim
hadiknt@yahoo.com

Innalillahi wa inna ilaihir raji'un. May Allah grant Abubakar aljanna Firdausi. I think this a big lesson to all of us, leaders and the led. The issue of insecurity has become one big monster that refuse to be tamed or those are assigned responsibility refuse taming. Where is the huge money budgeted on security? Is it by buying few vehicles to launch ceremoniously? No! I believe that security is far more than the purchase of vehicles. Surveillance, community politing and perhaps attitudinal change from those responsible is required. One thing that is certain is that one can never be certain who the next victim is: it can be our parents, or our wives or anybody dear to us: It is high for all to have a rethink.

Salisu Umar
salisgaladunci@yahoo.com

Jonathan to meet Obama April 12

WHATEVER the case may be, meeting Obama or any international figure is not the restoration of Nigeria's image in the international scene. The only way out is for our leadership to stop pretending and lobbying anyone and fix our problems because nobody will do it for us. That will be the only thing that will restore our value and will make others lobby us instead.

Usman Ahmed Danbaba
danbaba1986@yahoo.com

CAN condemns Imams' visit to Yar'adua

CAN is right. The Imams are not Public Office holders or nominated/appointed representatives of the political class. Their visit to the president should be seen as a private affair no more, no less. Besides what is the essence of the visit?

Did he speak to any of them or pass any message to Nigerians? It is time whoever is in charge of the Presidents security face up to their task and stop playing silly pranks on Nigerians. As a human being, we empathize with Umaru on his trials but this nonsense must STOP. Allow him to fight for his health first. Any other thing is secondary. Thereafter, those who are after the lucre of office can have a field day whatever the outcome. But don't forget, whether you believe in God or not, one day you must die; then we (I) believe when you die God will ask you to account for the charge entrusted to you! So let Umaru be and do not politicize his ill-health.

Muhammad Nalya
naiyamd@yahoo.com

I am disappointed by this statement. As Christians should we be more catholic than the Pope? This is their business. The Bible encourages us to visit the sick and pray for them as well. On the issue that Christians leaders were not included in the visit, is it a must? This means that when the Imams are going to Saudi Arabia they should invite them also. Please



PRESIDENT Umaru Yar'adua

the bloodshed in Jos in enough for us. Let us all, Christians and Muslim avoid unguarded statements.

Peter Amos
peteramos90@yahoo.com

The issue of seeing the ailing president by one group of Islamic clerics without including their Christian counterparts was certainly wrong for the country has two main faiths and not one. By doing that, they further divide us rather than uniting Nigerians. However, instead of making it a public matter which will enhance hostilities between the two faiths which we do not need at this moment, the Islamic clerics should have been called to explain and apologize for their actions and they should be still called to do so.

Muhammad Rabiu

muhammadrabiu09@yahoo.com

This is getting tiresome. Anytime anyone from across the religious divide does something the other jumps up and condemns it and gives it a religious hue, and then they wonder why Christians and Muslims can't seem to get along. CAN and JN1, you have both failed your adherents. Leave politics to the politicians.

Abdalla Mohammed
neoteny7@yahoo.com

The visit made by the four Muslim clerics to the ailing president, Umaru Musa Yar'adua, is a responsibility mandated to every Muslim and it complies with the saying of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) where He said a Muslim is a brother to all Muslims and a Muslim should show care, concern, visit and pray for his brother Muslim when he or she falls sick. So what they did was honor a religious responsibility and not out of sentiment.

Umar Hamisu
hamisuumar52@yahoo.com

The Imams/clerics told us that the visit was at their instance to ascertain the state of health and pray for the ailing president. If CAN wants Christian clerics to also do the same, they should request for it.

Ibrahim M. Attahir
attahirmi@yahoo.com

NECO: Is this a sign of things to come?

THE current failures at the SSCE exams by students is a manifestation of the collapse of the Public Education System. There are huge contracts awarded on almost daily basis but apparently, the work never gets to be done correctly, thanks to the Political

Patronage Contract System.

This failure at the peak of the pyramid permeated down to the foundation level and basically all public schools are bereft of adequate teaching aids, teachers and infrastructure! Add this to the apathy of the public to any-

thing Government assisted - due to corruption - and the result is all too obvious. The only solution is to guard our votes and ensure that only those voted represent us.

Muhammad Nalya
naiyamd@yahoo.com



By Waziri Bulama

Framework for engagement in Borno politics

Borno, famously known as the home of peace, scholarship and culture, is in the news these days continuously for the wrong reasons. Paradoxically, the picture of Borno today is that of a state in permanent tension and insecurity. Incessant communal and sectarian crises such as the Boko Haram uprising, the gruesome extrajudicial killings associated with it, the unfortunate murder of the young female Youth Corps member Grace Ushang, child-theft and ritual killings, and the climate of siege created by the patrols of the state government's "Operation Flush" squad, and many other volatile issues dominate discourse across the State.

There is deep partisanship in the governance of the state, controlled by a leadership whose mandate has rightly been questioned. The ANPP dominates politics and governance without even one councillor from any other party in the 322 wards of the state. This questionable lopsided arrangement in representation is carried all through the structure of politics in the state up to the national assembly. The resulting social and political exclusion for

“The ANPP dominates politics and governance without even one councillor from any other party in the 322 wards of the state”

the greater majority, accompanied by frustration and poverty, has created a permanent climate of tension, in a region known for centuries as haven of scholarship and commerce, peace and prosperity. This leaves a feeling of disenfranchisement and deprivation.

Most people compare this depressing scenario in the plight of the state to the post-independence era, and the first and second republics, when Borno people made far-reaching contributions to human and capital development, as well as the evolution of politics and governance in Nigeria. Citizens in all spheres of life in Borno State, i.e. politics, public service, business, academia, trade unions etc, look back to the past with nostalgia and pride, and today rue over what went wrong, and consider what can be done to prevent further damage.

At the same time many more people continue asking questions and debating seriously on the missed opportunities and the consequences they portend for the people and the state. It is very important that such discourses, often passionate and rigorous, freely expressed, and in different settings and fora i.e. living rooms, offices, shops, dinners etc, are encouraged and sustained. It is also very significant to keep focus-

ing on the future, rather than the acrimonious present. What's more, ideas and suggestions coming up can be captured and channelled to a coherent framework for generating momentum towards positive change in the state.

The form and focus of engagement to highlight and deal with the multi-dimensional tasks of development are as legion as they are dynamic. Borno State's concerns affect peoples and interests far beyond its geographical confines. It will be imperative to sustain the debate, as staying indifferent will be disastrous.

The crucial first step would therefore be to strive to steer the state politically towards the mainstream of national politics. This will mean bringing the state under the big umbrella of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), which is like one huge national family with a mainstream posture that runs the government at the centre and retains its influence in many states in the North East region and across the country.

A move away from the narrow and confined political field of the ANPP will offer the state the political leverage it requires to generate the broad support needed for tackling its diverse and complex problems of under-achievement and underdevelopment occasioned by opposition politics and isolation. In view of the foregoing, it will be more meaningful to tailor initiatives and ideas towards reinforcing ongoing efforts of the local branch of the PDP in its drive to reposition the party to spearhead drive for change in Borno State.

A framework for engagement or participation can be generated along tested and realistic pathways. To achieve this, discussions in groups must continue in the different formal and informal forums and settings; using insights and accumulated wisdom, such groups can focus on generating ideas for development of the state in the different facets of development; proposals developed can become substance of public sensitization; groups and associations can also be veritable source of pressure and influence on leaders and stakeholders in the political arena, i.e. the President, Ministers, national and regional leadership of the party, etc; at appropriate times, the political and government leaders can be engaged seriously to offer suggestions on forging unity and greater sense of service and higher purpose in decisions affecting the state; groups can also make their contributions even more practical, by pooling resources, within the law, and supporting the activities of the party in the state. This, if handled well could reinforce the party's autonomy and capacity, which are very important towards ensuring transparency and justice in its decisions.

Bulama is a former Chairman of Borno State Urban Development Board (veezier@hotmail.com)



By Abdullahi Garba

Emerging anti-Yar'adua media conspiracy

The lyrics from Third World band go thus "Now that we found love what are we gonna do, with it...!" makes interesting musical melody, especially for those of us who are of the old-school. An opposite reflection of the song, when juxtaposed along the current political situation in Nigeria in relation to the obsessive media campaigns and conspiracy against President Umaru Musa Yar'adua's mandate, now donned by Goodluck Jonathan in an acting capacity, is very much instructive.

Most national commentators and even legal experts are unanimous in accepting the fact that the acting presidency of Goodluck Jonathan is situated on a shaky foundation. This is premised on the provisions of the resolutions, as adopted, which is not only trite but non-existent in all ramifications. Such postulation by the National Assembly contradicts the spirit and letter of our Constitution and progresses to amount to usurpation of the functions of our judiciary, which is saddled with the responsibility to interpret laws as provided for in our statutes.

The emerging media conspiracy is a source of worry for our national cohesion and integration. Basking in the euphoria that the law, even though illegal, suits them, media houses and some active media analysts from a section of

“Most national commentators and even legal experts are unanimous in accepting the fact that the acting presidency of Goodluck Jonathan is situated on a shaky foundation”

the country have continued to legitimise the scenario, painting Goodluck Jonathan as the long-awaited Messiah, while Yar'adua is demonised, reminiscence of the scary pictured two-horned devil and his close associates have acquired new appellations and sobriquets, expressed as Cabal.

Open public protests of sycophantic proportions have been elevated to a significant dimension such that all issues at the front burner must pass through public outcry and kow-tow to the process before such request will attract presidential approval. Those who are supposed to be apolitical and impartial umpires of our electoral system have toed the line of such 'ingenuity'. Maurice Iwu has found, in such a style, the surest way of securing confirmation of his appointment for a second tenure. He has therefore, matched the protesters- media for media, placard for placard, especially in public protests, beating the politicians and Civil Rights activist hands down in their own game.

The electronic and print media have rallied support for Jonathan and at the same time equally ganged up to portray Yar'adua's presidency as history.

Still playing to the gallery, state governors were deliberately sidelined in the selection of ministerial nominees because of their principled stand. The

aim is to pitch them against ministers and truncate their political base. A makeshift unconstitutional Presidential Advisory Committee was put in place to indirectly supervise the Federal Executive Council with all other steps gradually but surely being put in place to obfuscate Yar'adua while his political opponents are deified.

The media in all these seemed to have been recruited to do a hatchet man's job in the destruction process. This heinous act manifested first with a fiction of a story from Next Newspaper insinuating that President Yar'adua had a serious brain damage which has rendered him permanently incapacitated. This story line was rubbished by a BBC interview granted by Yar'adua a few days later.

A credible source attested to fact that the publisher of the Next newspaper was fully appreciated by his sponsors at a brief encounter in a public function.

Channels Television and African Independent Television (AIT) are not left behind in this campaign. The presenter of Focus Nigeria, a programme on AIT who was unprofessionally and unjustifiably critical of government policies and programmes, suddenly disappeared from air, ostensibly due to presidential protests; someone else moderated the programme until the departure of Yar'adua to Saudi Arabia last year. The discussants on the *Sunrise Daily*, every working-day discussion programme of Channels, previously identified with a high degree of professionally, suddenly and inexplicably abandoned such virtues. They are more or less now into opinion polling, perhaps to steer the populace into accepting certain policies and programmes of the acting president. They have now come over with a perfect style of having their personalities chosen in line with the dictates of their own thinking. Letters or mails sent through the e-mail address they provided, which go contrary to preconceived notions, are set aside and therefore can never see the light of the day. Questions asked are usually tailor-measured to propagate and promote this particular agenda.

In spite of the stance of the electronic media on this vexatious issue, including ascribing them guilty of all these submissions, the print media is the worse in this direction. The whole of this country's print media, with the exception of *Daily Trust*, *People's Daily* and to some extent *Thisday*, are pursuing the Jonathan agenda. This permutation is based on facts that tend to associate the newspapers with certain personalities. *Leadership* newspaper for instance reported the National Mosque Imam's story of the meeting with Yar'adua, because of its relevance and national significance. A day later, however, the paper featured a story castigating those it perceived as promoting Yar'adua's position. The succeeding day was further preceded by the same headline story as more controversies surround the Imams' testimonies as paraphrased. Perhaps the less said, the better; everyone by now knows where the paper stands when it comes to matters concerning the Yaraduas and the presidency.

Garba wrote from Tudun Wada, Kaduna South abdullahigarbadlt@gmail.com



Your Letters

Send your letters to letters@dailytrust.com

Old brigade and the elusive presidency

I do not know when persons old rulers like retired General s Buhari and Babangida would understand to leave the stage while the ovation is still loud. Since 1999 elections, Buhari has been trying to rule Nigeria again, but nemesis seems not to be smiling at him any longer. Buhari has taken a ridiculous move, decamping from a known ANPP into an obscure CDC on whose platform he hopes to become the president of Nigeria. But and others like him do not seem to accept the reality that their time is past.

Buhari, together with Tinubu, Atiku, Enahoro and others have been trying to form a mega party with the aim of snatching power from the ruling PDP but their personality ego has killed the promise. One thing has remained their albatross, and that is - who should be the Presidential candidate for the new unnamed political party. We now read about a proposed joint ticket of Buahari/Tinubu for President/Vice President (a Muslim-Muslim ticket, like in the 1993 elections) and the Nigerian populace would reject in its entirety because the Abiola/Kingibe had an all-Muslim ticket yet, they accepted because of the need for power shift from both the North and the military. It was a situation in which the military narrowed Abiola to Kingibe as his running-mate; the masses

voted overwhelmingly for them but it was annulled by a Muslim-led military president, who apparently is nursing some come-back ambition. Atiku is heading back to PDP; Tinubu has insisted that other parties should collapse into AC for any meaningful coalition to emerge. There were many divergent but selfish ideas that killed the mega party; a political association that would have moved the country forward if those old figures agreed to prop-up a neutral person as its presidential candidate. Could someone sound it loud and clear to Buhari, IBB, and the rest that the market has closed? Chief Ogbuagu Chikelu, Nwaniba Road, UYO, Akwa Ibom State ogbuaguchikelu@yahoo.com

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Abubakar Rimi
RIMI'S death has created huge social, political and psychological vacuum in Kano, which will take the state long time before it recovers. Indeed, Kano state has lost a rare icon. May his soul rest in peace. **IBRAHIM Jalo, Potiskum, Yobe State, 08069811515.**

Oh, Rimi!
A true political genius is gone. Rest in paradise. **SULAIMAN Aliyu, Yaba, Lagos, 08061617077.**

Nigeria's loss
THE sudden death of Rimi is a tragic loss to the entire country. His patriotism should be a model to our present day politicians. Indeed God knows why he took him at these trying times of our nascent democracy, **ADIEU. MAXWELL, Sokoto, 08039648802.**

The last of the political ideologists
KANO State politics will never be the same without him. May Allah

forgive him and grant him eternal peace. **AMEEN, UBALÉ, 08033246464.**

A rare gem
INITIALLY, when the sad news was broken to me, I could not believe it. But I remember that all living are mortals, hence felt consoled. His legacies are visible everywhere in the old Kano state. May his gentle soul rest in perfect peace, amen. **ALIYU Karaye, 08036923766.**

I can't believe he said that
A PHCN boss is quoted to have said thus: "I don't believe we have failed Nigerians". Now, tell us what you have done that makes you think so. **MA Babakatun, Life Camp, Abuja, 08023082100.**

Re: Yobe: Reviving the core-values of Kanem - Bornu Empire
I am unaware that core-values of Kanem-Bornu have to do with under development. In Yobe, only last week the only accred-

ited state college resumed work after 9 months' strike under Gov Gaidam's watch, boarding primary schools project, road construction all by MAL stopped. Government of FAF supersedes government of the wealthy, by the powerful, for the influential. Are these core-values of Kanem - Bornu? **Damaturu, ADAM, 08068288467.**

Haba, CAN
YARADUA did not invite the Chief Imam & co. They've paid him a visit and you too can today visit him and pray for him. **07035068882.**

They have a point
I am in support of CAN's protest against the visit to ailing president by Muslim clerics. The president should have been visited by clerics of other faiths as well. He is the leader of a multi-religious nation. Also Islam enjoins fairness in all acts. The visit gave the impression that the president belonged to only a section of Nigerians. **TMK, 08037214347.**



By Kenneth Uwadi

Rating Imo MPs

It was Sunday 4th April 2010 that I went through an online magazine article captioned: *Which is worse, kidnapping or looting?* Yes, I read the article as far as I can gather from several websites written by one Joachim Ezeji. Apparently, Joachim Ezeji has sent another one of his so many write-ups against Imo state government officials and this one is about none other than the Speaker of Imo state House of Assembly Chief Goodluck Opiah.

In rating the performance of the Imo State House of Assembly, I want to say the assembly has performed creditably with respect to the laws being passed and with respect to the performance of each and every member of the assembly as it affects the House standings. As Speaker, it is Opiah's responsibility in conjunction with the principal officers to make committees that is saddled with the responsibility of over seeing the various ministries and parastatals we have within the state. Each and every member of the assembly or Chairmen of committees with its members have been doing their best in visiting various ministries and parastatals to ensuring that the budget implementation is achieved. The basic responsibility of a legislature is to make good laws for the betterment of the citizens of the state and of course, the nation at large. Secondly, to perform oversight functions on the activities of the executive. Opiah has indeed performed well for his constituency and for Imo state.

The Speaker of Imo State House of Assembly, Chief Goodluck Nanah Opiah was elected based on his track records of competence, honesty and integrity. Opiah had a remarkable stint in the private sector before joining politics. He served in various positions of trust and proved himself to be an astute manager of human and material resources. From 1991 to 2003 when he joined politics, he had worked meritoriously with BEWAC Auto Product Plc, an automobile firm in Nigeria, criss-crossing from one branch to another. From a humble beginning as a Senior Sales Executive with the UTC Nigeria Plc, Port Harcourt-Rivers State, he ascended to the post of General Manager, BEWAC Auto products Plc, Port Harcourt. When in 2003, the people of Ohaji /Egbema Constituency were in dire need of a

The Speaker of Imo State House of Assembly, Chief Goodluck Nanah Opiah was elected based on his track records of competence, honesty and integrity. Opiah had a remarkable stint in the private sector before joining politics

patriot, selfless and committed person to represent them in the State legislature, they beckoned on him Opiah, the Speaker of Imo State House of Assembly you are criticizing has receive so many best performing speaker in Nigeria awards including from the Yishak Rabin Centre for African Development. The Speaker who emerged tops among his contemporaries noted that providing a rancour-free atmosphere for governance will enhance socio-economic and democratic growth. According to Opiah who dedicated all his awards to his colleagues, and the people of Imo State, peace is inevitable in human development.

What is wrong with Chief Opiah soliciting for Israel assistance in Imo State? Is it because our leaders in Imo state are looting the treasury of Imo state that is why people are being kidnapped in Imo State? Kidnapping for ransom is almost a national affair. Kidnapping has been reported in so many states of Nigeria. So who is looting what in those states?

Uwadi wrote from Mmahu-Egbema, Imo State.

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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Unwarranted assaults on EFCC personnel

The spate of attacks through outright murder, intimidation and threat to life, on operational staff of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) in recent times is quite worrisome. Last month, a former operative of the agency, Mohammed Danjuma, was shot dead in Abuja by assailants that are yet to be identified, for reasons believed to be connected with his investigate work at the agency. The police are yet to unravel the case.

Last week, another staff member of the commission was killed and a number of others injured in Anara Isiala Mbanjo, Imo State, while returning from the Federal High Court, Owerri, where some accused persons being prosecuted by the EFCC were facing trial. A few days later, a horde of political supporters in Sokoto, prevented the agency's operatives from arresting the former Governor Atahiru Bafarawa, at the premises of the Federal High Court, Sokoto where he was standing trial for alleged fraud. The court had revoked his bail. Several officials of the commission have on several occasions cried out over threats to their lives.

The campaign to intimidate and browbeat the EFCC, in apparent effort to deter its officials from fighting corruption, the number one cancer eating away the soul of our nation and retarding her progress, is indeed a troubling development. It is comforting however that in response to the acts of intimidation, the Chairman of the agency, Mrs. Farida Waziri, recently addressed the press, where she said very forcefully that her organisation would not be intimidated by those seeking to cow it. We are satisfied with her resolve because the war against corruption must be fought unrelentingly, no matter the hostility of those who perpetrate or benefit from graft.

We however urge Mrs. Waziri, and the appropriate organs of government, to take such reasonable measures that will adequately protect EFCC officials and give them the confidence to press on in the war against corruption, no matter the odds they might face.

While it is true that when a war is declared against corruption, corruption will fight back, Mrs. Waziri and her staff must reflect on the method they employ in carrying out the anti-graft war. We call for this reflection because there is some perception in several quarters that the EFCC is not being fair and just in its approach, but is becoming a political or partisan tool in the hand of senior government officials. The agency must do everything in its power to do its duty properly in order to dispel that perception. We suspect that the attacks some officials may have suffered could be acts of vendetta by those who feel that they have been unfairly or unjustly treated by the EFCC.

Whatever may be at the root of the acts of hostility against the Commission and its officials, we call on the EFCC to be absolutely non-partisan, and create the perception and reality of that virtue. It should not only be non-partisan it should also clearly be seen to be so by all in the polity. The organisation must insulate itself from politics and refuse to be used by politicians to settle political scores.

It is important that the EFCC adopts this posture especially now as we approach another round of general elections in the next few months to come. All eyes will unsurprisingly be on the agency to see how it operates in this period.

Politicians who want to fend off the threat of opponents may be tempted to use extra-political means to have unfair advantage. Using anti-crime agency like the EFCC will indeed be great temptation. The EFCC should resist.

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The Imam's visit and the Christian 'terrorist'

If we required further proof that Nigeria is becoming hopelessly polarized along ethnic and religious lines, two events removed all doubts last week. The first was the near tragedy involving a private vehicle driven by a clearly demented citizen who drove his vehicle into a packed plane belonging to Arik Air on the tarmac of the Calabar Airport.

The second was the widely reported visit of three Islamic clerics to ailing president Umar Musa Yar'adua. It was the first publicly acknowledged sighting of the President since he disappeared into a Saudi hospital nearly four months ago.

Apparently, in the first incident, the driver of the projectile – which, in this instance, happened to be a rickety vehicle, drove into the undercarriage of the plane shouting "Jesus is the redeemer! Everyone should repent and follow him, because I will come back and complete the attack!"

From the content of the messages I received, the attack qualified be classified as a terrorist act, and I couldn't agree more since the lives of approximately 200 passengers and crew were clearly at risk, for the duration of the lunatic act. And I should know a thing or two, about terrorism.

Long before 9/11 and Osama Bin Laden came to define the subject matter, I took a course on 'International terrorism' as a 'free elective' in 1982 as an undergraduate. At that time the Venezuelan, Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, also known as 'Carlos the Jackal' laid the benchmark for international terrorists. Not even the Black September, which was allied to Yasser Arafat's Fatah organization, Italy's Red Brigade, or Germany's Baader-Meinhof Group, came close in terms of notoriety.

And Carlos, now serving a life sentence at the La Sante Prison in Paris, was born a Christian. The fact, obviously, never prevented him from championing the cause of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), an organization dominated by people living in occupied land who happened to be Muslims!

He earned his name after the attack on the OPEC headquarters in Vienna in which three people died but not before he had taken a posse of Oil Ministers led by the Saudi Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani hostage. Carlo's father, a rich lawyer, could afford to train his son in the best schools abroad, but his son still opted for the Patrice Lumumba University in Moscow. He was expelled in 1970 and quickly joined the guerrilla training camp run by the PFLP.

Today, the menace of Carlos, the Red Brigades, Baader-Meinhof Group, and even the IRA may have declined, but their contribution to the subject matter is not lost to humanity. Long before 9/11 and its immediate aftermath, when the reaction of right-wing elements in Washington equated terrorism with Islamic fundamentalism, terrorists were also driven by ideological and political considerations.

The foot soldiers of the Irish Republic Army (IRA) were Chris-

Muhammad Al-Ghazali

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tians. They fought a cause that was political in nature and were regarded as terrorists by the British establishment a mutual agreement was reached to end the terror campaigns that killed Lord Mountbatten and almost claimed Margaret Thatcher. If we stretch the matter further, even George Washington, and the earliest American nationalists that resisted English colonial rule, was also a terrorist. Before Israel was carved out of Palestine, its leaders waged a merciless terror campaign against the British occupying powers, and the people whose land it summarily occupied after three successive wars.

Therefore, the definition of ter-

suggest that the visit was anything other than a spiritual visit.

In any case, would they have reacted the same the same way if the ailing President were Christian? My bet is that if Jonathan was the sick President, the visiting clerics would have hailed from his particular church, and not even the CAN headquarters and nobody would have raised an eyebrow.

But we live in extra-ordinary times, obviously. People grasp at straws for political capital. There is no hint anywhere that the Imam of the National Mosque Ustaz Musa Mohammed, or the two individuals that accompanied him, have tainted themselves with politics.

Yar'adua is a Muslim, after all. Even healthy Nigerians require prayers from time to time, never mind the President of an entire nation who had been ill for several months! From what the clerics said, they visited the president merely to pray for his quick recovery, like so

Yar'adua is a Muslim, after all. Even healthy Nigerians require prayers from time to time, never mind the President of an entire nation who had been ill for several months!

rorism, like beauty, truly resides in the eyes of the beholder, or the people or groups most likely to lose or benefit from its aftermath. That explains why I was unwilling to share in the surprise expressed by the vigilant folks who inundated me with text messages expressing regret over the scant media coverage of the terror attack on the Arik Air plane by a Christian zealot.

I am not surprised the attack has not negated anything close to the type of media frenzy created by the Mutallab affair. It all conforms with a clear pattern we experienced after the killings in Jos, months ago, in which Christians were clearly the perpetrators, compared to saturated media coverage experienced a few weeks ago, when Muslims apparently retaliated.

Even the brutal slaughter of defenceless Nigerians broadcast on *Al-Jazeera* television network failed to attract commensurate outrage and condemnation in the local media apparently because of the identity of the victims.

Expectedly, the same tendency seems to be at play over the reported visit of Muslim clerics to the ailing President Umar Yar'adua over the weekend. Against the views expressed in media the past few days, I refuse to see how the visit could possibly destabilize Nigeria expect those expressing the fears know something the rest of us don't know.

I refuse to concur with the CNPP and Afenifere who concluded that the visit was capable of destabilizing Nigeria. Unless there is conclusive proof that the President turned down a similar visit from the leadership of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), which I doubt, there is absolutely no reason for anyone to

many hypocrites continue to claim they do on a daily basis. They only expressed surprise at the state of his recovery. What is wrong with that? Is anyone wishing the president dead?

The next logical question, of course, is why the media is perpetually skewed against one particular religion, or part of the country on issues of such national importance. I reflected on the same issue a few weeks ago when I felt the media should shoulder part of the blame for our rabid under-development. The past few weeks have sadly confirmed my views.

Today, with each passing day, in Nigeria, it is not only obvious that the pen is mightier than the sword, those who pay the piper are apparently dictating the tune, with gusto. The critical issue, so glaring to behold, is the matter of ownership, both of the media, and the mindset of its practitioners. They continue to contribute to our underdevelopment by suffocating the truth.

I cannot escape my cosmopolitan outlook to life being an essential part of my early education, but I am becoming increasingly frustrated by the antics of so-called intellectuals who have failed to liberate their minds from village mentality.

The way I see it, this nation can only develop if our so-called intellectuals and elites purge themselves of their primitive impulses and begin to see the entire nation as their constituency. Anything otherwise will only achieve temporary gain and permanent misery for all. There is no reason why Nigeria cannot be like Malaysia, whose leaders routed underdevelopment despite their religious and ethnic diversity.

Congratulations to a Friend and Colleague

Your appointment as the Registrar of Bayero University, Kano is surely a testimony of your hardwork, dedication and selfless service toward the development of the institution and its host community.

To this, we wish to identify and congratulate you on this noble achievement. We therefore pray that the Almighty Allah will continue to guide and protect you.

Ameen.

*Once again
Congratulations!!!*



Alhaji Sani Ibrahim Aminu

Registrar, Bayero University, Kano

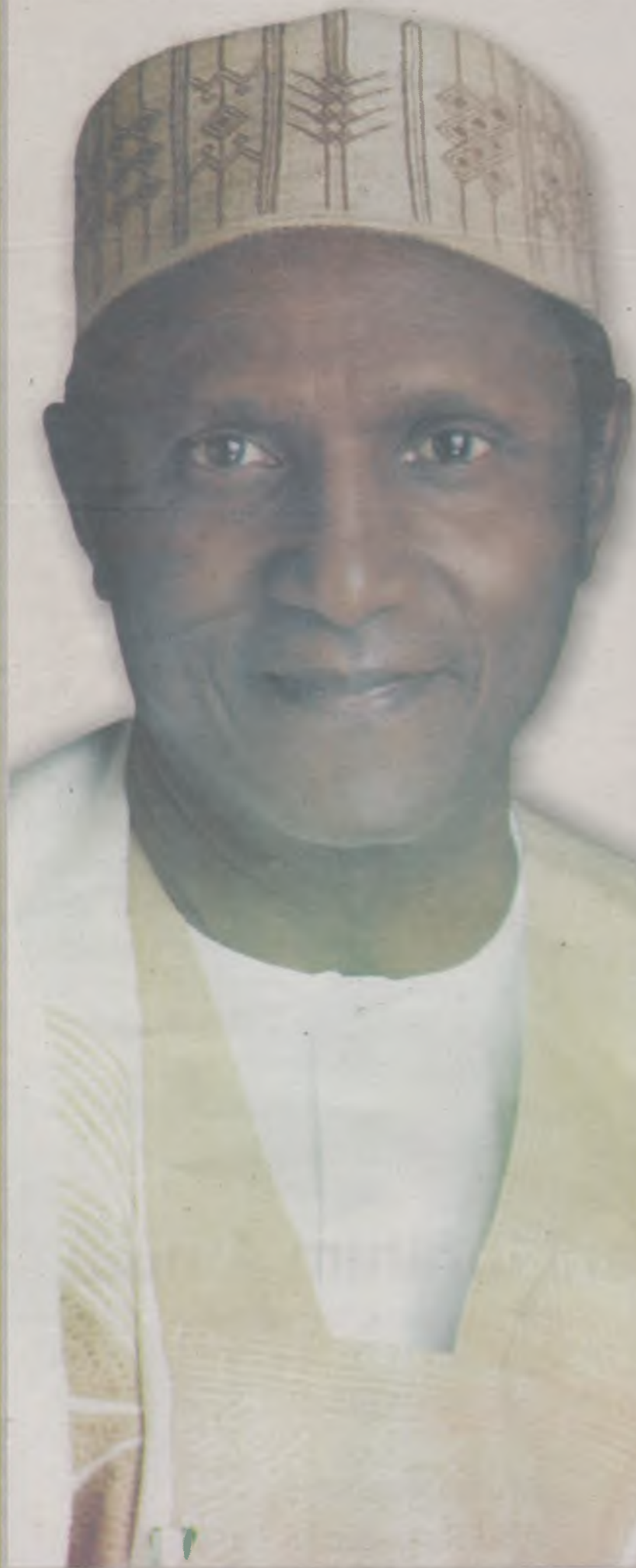
Signed:

Lamis S. Dikko
Ismaila A. Galadanchi

Mustapha Jamo
Abdulmumin M.Bello

OUR FRIEND, UMARU MUSA Yar'adua

President, Commander In Chief Of The Armed Forces Of The Federal Republic Of Nigeria



Nigerians,

The dissolution of his cabinet under any guise is inexplicable when in 1976, after the assassination of General Murtala Mohammed, his successor; General Olusegun Obasanjo NEVER dissolved the Supreme Military Council nor the Federal executive Council till the end of the regime in 1979, so why the dissolution of the cabinet by Dr Goodluck Jonathan and subsequent speedy confirmation of new nominees with a few months to party primaries and the elections?

The answer may be the unrelenting and desperate bid to remove our friend, Umaru from power by all means. Besides, Umaru is very much alive despite the machinations of some and is making a swift recovery for which we thank God.

We recall a former Minister of Defence in former President Obasanjo's cabinet who fell critically ill with an unknown medical condition but who returned to office and is now a major stakeholder in the Jonathan 'acting presidency'.

As Ambrose (Gwinet) Biercen once said about politics; "Politics: a strife of interests masquerading as a contest of principles. The conduct of public affairs for private advantage."

Professor Dora Akunyili best described our friend, Umaru as follows: "...everybody knows that he is a fine gentleman and with beautiful spirit".

(Vanguard, March 30, 2010)

FRIENDS OF UMARU YAR'ADUA

INTERNATIONAL



GUINEA Bissau Prime Minister Carlos Gomes Junior (right) with the chairperson of the African Union Commission Jean Ping (centre) and the President of the Economic Community of West African States, Victor Gbeho.

UN, AU envoys take 'firm message' to G/Bissau troops

A mission from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the United Nations and the African Union has taken a "firm message" to mutinous troops in Guinea-Bissau, a UN source said yesterday.

"The delegation from ECOWAS, the African Union and the UN arrived yesterday (Sunday) in the afternoon and left in the evening. It gave a firm message to express the consternation of the international community over the events of April 1 in Bissau," said a member of the UN team in Bissau contacted by telephone from Dakar.

An uprising by mutinous troops on Thursday led to the incarceration of the chief of army staff, Gen-

eral Jose Zamora Induta, while Prime Minister Carlos Gomes Junior was placed under house arrest and threatened with death.

But the army in the small former Portuguese colony in West Africa declared its continued loyalty to Guinea-Bissau's political leaders, under the military leadership of former deputy army chief, General Antonio Indjai.

After talks with President Malam Bacai Sanha on Friday, Gomes told journalists: "I can assure you that institutions will return to their normal functions."

Sunday's joint foreign mission was formed by ECOWAS commission chairman James Victor Gbeho, AU commission

chairman Jean Ping, and the UN special envoy for west Africa, Said Djinnit, the UN source told AFP.

The executive secretary of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, Domingos Simoes Pereira, "who was here in Bissau, joined the team," the source added.

The delegation met President Sanha, Prime Minister Gomes and the new military strongman, Indjai. The source said the team "heard out the Guinea-Bissauans on the events (of April 1) and expressed the readiness of ECOWAS, the UN and the African Union to work to end the crisis" in the coup-prone state.

A further mission to

Bissau is planned "for discussions with the various parties," the UN source said, without giving a date. The poverty-stricken nation of about 1.6 million people has seen repeated coups since independence in 1974.

The last crisis erupted in March 2009 when President Joao Bernardo Vieira was murdered by troops, apparently in revenge for the killing hours earlier of the armed forces chief.

The country has been overwhelmed by the international drugs trade, becoming a key transit point in cocaine smuggling between South America and Europe. Its top national export earner is cashew nuts.

Army retakes airport after clash in north Congo

UN-BACKED government forces retook a Congolese provincial airport from rebels yesterday, an army officer said, following heavy fighting since Sunday in which two UN workers and several soldiers and police died.

The attack on Mbandaka, capital of Congo's northern Equateur province, marked the spread of an insurgency that began over fishing rights and underscored the central African nation's continued dependence on peacekeepers ahead of a gradual withdrawal expected to start in June.

"We have taken back control of the airport. It is now in our hands," Congolese General Janvier Mayanga told Reuters by telephone from Mbandaka yesterday.

Sudan army denies attacking rebels in Darfur

A Darfuri rebel group in peace talks with the Khartoum government accused the military yesterday of attacking its positions and violating a ceasefire, an allegation the army denied.

"Khartoum has been attacking our positions in northern and western Darfur since Sunday," Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) spokesman Ahmed Hussein Adam told AFP.

"Ten civilians were wounded," said Adam, who is in the Qatari capital, Doha, where representatives of the Sudanese government and the JEM are holding peace talks. The attacks were a "violation of the ceasefire," said Adam about a truce struck between the two sides in February.

He also charged that the government "was not serious about the peace proc-

ess." An army spokesman dismissed Adam's account as "completely inaccurate."

"We did not conduct any attacks. And JEM is not supposed to have a presence in the areas where he says we attacked," Sawarimi Khaled Saed said.

"If that is the case, it would constitute a violation of the February agreement," he said.

JEM and the Sudanese government signed in Feb-

ruary a framework peace accord in Doha providing for a ceasefire in Darfur, and both sides were due to reach a final peace agreement in mid-March.

The Khartoum government also signed a framework peace deal in Doha with the Liberation and Justice Movement, another rebel group that forms an alliance of splinter factions, with a full deal expected by March 31.

NAIJA fare

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FOR FLIGHTS FROM 20TH APRIL
TILL 30TH JUNE

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APPRECIATION

The families of **Alhaji Lawal Idris** and **Alhaji Aminu Abdullahi** wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to all those who attended the wedding fatiha of our children **AISHA LAWAL IDRIS** and **ALIYU AMINU ABDULLAHI** which took place on Friday, April 2nd 2010 at 10am in Kaduna. The list of the dignitaries and special guests who came to support us on this joyous occasion will be too long to compile but the presence of each and every one of you was noted and fully appreciated. We hope you all arrived safely at your various destinations and thank Allah SWT for journey mercies.

We thank all those who contributed in so many ways with their kind gifts and wholehearted support for making the event very successful and memorable to us all. We also express our gratitude to those who were unable to attend but sent goodwill messages and their prayers which we greatly appreciated.

May Allah in his own mercy answer all our prayers and may our children be guided by Allah in this great task of marriage. Amin.

May Allah reward you abundantly and bless you all.

**ALHAJI LAWAL IDRIS AND
ALHAJI AMINU ABDULLAHI
FOR THE FAMILIES**

International

Cuba will resist hunger strike 'blackmail'

RAUL Castro called mounting international pressure over Cuba's human rights record one of the strongest assaults its communist government has ever faced and vowed not to yield to the "blackmail" of a high-profile hunger striker. In a 45-minute nationally televised speech, Cuba's president said his government has the right to beat back any efforts to destabilize it.

"We will never yield to the blackmail of any country or group of countries, no matter how powerful they may be, whatever happens," said Castro, who replaced his older brother Fidel, first temporarily, then permanently, following his emergency intestinal surgery in 2006. "Let them know that if they try to corner us, we will defend ourselves,

first of all with truth and principles."

Cuba's human rights situation has become increasingly tense since the Feb. 23 death of Orlando Zapata Tamayo after a long hunger strike in jail. Another man, freelance opposition journalist Guillermo Farinas, has refused to eat or drink since shortly after Zapata Tamayo's death — though he is allowing himself to be fed intravenously periodically at a hospital near his home in Santa Clara, a city in central Cuba. Castro did not mention either by name, but clearly referred to them, saying Farinas' efforts were sponsored by forces in the United States and Europe out to topple Cuba's government, and that they had been glorified by "Western media."



CUBA'S President Raul Castro stands next to a painting depicting Fidel Castro and Argentina's born-revolutionary hero Ernesto 'Che' Guevara during the closing ceremony of the Union of Young Communists congress in Havana.

Strong quake kills 2 in Mexico, rattles US states

AFTERSHOCKS rattled the southwest Mexico-US border yesterday morning in the aftermath of a major earthquake that killed two people, blacked out cities and forced the evacuation of hospitals and nursing homes.

Sunday's 7.2-magnitude quake, centered just south of the US border near Mexicali, was one of the strongest earthquakes to hit region in decades, shaking at least 20 million people.

It had a shallow depth of 6 miles (10 kilometers). But the human toll was minimal in large part because the energy from the quake moved northwest of Mexicali toward a less populated area, said Jessica Sigala, a geophysicist from the US Geological Survey.

"We were just kind of lucky that the energy went the other way," Sigala said. "With every earthquake, the earth starts moving a certain direction. It started south of Mexicali and the rupture moved northwest."

Building construction has also improved in northern Mexico, a region with a history of quakes, said Carlos Valdes, chief of the Mexican National Seismological Service.

"Construction codes prevented more serious damage," Valdes said. "People see that it always shakes and have improved their construction capacity. Then when the construction codes are implemented, there is stricter control, especially in larger structures."

Russia eyes \$5 billion in arms sales to Venezuela

RUSSIAN may sell \$5 billion worth of weapons to Venezuela, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said yesterday after a visit to the South American nation. Putin met Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez in Caracas on Friday to discuss oil, defense and nuclear energy cooperation, although no new arms agreements were signed. The United States has frequently expressed concern about Russian weapons sales to Venezuela, one its most prominent foes in the region.

Chavez says his growing arsenal is aimed at countering a planned increase in the US military forces in neighbouring Colombia, Washington's closest ally in Latin America. "Our delegation has just returned from Venezuela and the overall volume of orders could exceed \$5 billion," Putin was quoted as saying by Russian news agencies at a meeting with arms industry officials.

Putin said the figure included \$2.2 billion in credit lines for Russian arms received by Chavez during his eighth visit to Moscow in September, including T-72 tanks and the S-300 advanced anti-aircraft missile system, RIA news agency reported. The reports did not give any further details. In recent years, Venezuela has bought more than \$4 billion worth of weapons from Russia, from Sukhoi jet fighters to Kalashnikov assault rifles.

cedpa

THE CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND POPULATION ACTIVITIES

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position: Local Service Delivery Specialist

Location: Sokoto, Nigeria and Bauchi, Nigeria

Salary: Negotiable, per experience and qualifications

Background

The Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA) is an international non-profit organization committed to improving the lives of women and girls worldwide. CEDPA works hand-in-hand with women leaders and local partners to design and implement programs in governance, leadership capabilities, gender equality, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS, and girls' education. In addition to our headquarters in Washington DC., CEDPA operates offices in India, Nepal, Nigeria and South Africa.

Gender and Local Advocacy Specialist

The Local Service Delivery Specialist will function as a member of a team implementing the USAID funded local governance and civil society program in Nigeria. The Leadership, Empowerment, Advocacy and Development (LEAD) program is a five-year program to build partnerships between civil society, state and local governments and the private sector to improve state and local governance capacity in Bauchi and Sokoto states, and to build the capacity of local governments to be more responsive to community needs. He/she will be responsible for ensuring that gender considerations are addressed throughout program activities and overseeing the community mobilization and advocacy portfolio which aims to engage communities in demanding improved services.

Required Knowledge and Experience:

- Solid understanding of service delivery systems at the state and LGA level
- Solid understanding of the processes through which service delivery (and particularly health) system strengthening occur

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

- Design participatory and gender sensitive processes that enable communities to identify and articulate service delivery needs particularly as they relate to health care, education, water and sanitation.
- Design and strengthen partnerships that match LGA, private sector and civil society services with articulated community needs in health, education, water and sanitation.
- Conduct gender disaggregated beneficiary assessments to identify the public service needs of different constituencies and to see if public sector expenditures are in accordance with those needs.
- Promote, conduct, design community-based activities to improve service delivery by engaging beneficiaries in the design of service improvement activities
- Identify ways to improve service delivery by addressing gender considerations including:
 - Constructively engaging men and boys in MCH/FP/RH services
 - Identifying and articulating the educational needs of girls and women
 - Reducing time spent in water collection
- Coordinate and oversee activities related to:
 - making LGAs more responsive to gender considerations and the needs of women (gender needs assessments, gender budgeting, designing participatory stakeholder engagement processes); and
 - building the capacity of NGOs to advocate for LGA resources that improve health and social outcomes for women.
- Work collaboratively with other members of the LEAD technical team
- Contribute to project reporting and documentation
- Represent CEDPA on LEAD with partners and communities at the highest standard to ensure strong acceptance and implementation support for activities

Requirements:

- Masters degree and or Bachelor's degree with five years experience working on gender capacity building and civil and local governance.
- Extensive experience in the area of participatory and gender needs assessments.
- 3-4 years previous experience in mobilizing communities effectively and leading advocacy efforts.
- Strong communication and organizational skills.
- Project management skills and ability to work with diverse teams.
- Bilingual -Hausa speaker is a must.

Application Instructions

To apply for this position please send your CV and cover letter by mail to Resumes@cedpa.org with "Nigeria Local Service Delivery Specialist Position" on the subject line. Please note only finalists will be contacted.



THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF TAXATION OF NIGERIA

(Chartered by Act No. 76 of 1992)

Presents

MANDATORY PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME (MPTP) 2010 KADUNA ZONE

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

- To expose participants to current issues and trends in tax management.
- To enlighten participants on the challenges of tax credit and refund.
- To educate and update participants' knowledge on the increasing need to deploy knowledge of Information Technology to improve administration and revenue generating capacity.

Topics & Facilitators

DAY 1

(A) Contemporary Issues in Tax Management

By Mr. Friday Akpan, ACTI

Lecturer in Taxation/Oil and Gas Accounting
Nigerian College of Accountancy, Jos

(B) Tax Credit and Refund System

By Mr. Linus Igboyi, ACTI

Messrs Lini Gboi & Associates,
Tax Practitioners.

DAY 2

(C) Taxation and Information Technology

By Mr. Kayode Olushola Fasua, ACTI

Senior Lecturer in Management Information System.
Nigerian College of Accountancy, Jos

Those Eligible To Attend

The MPTP is compulsory for every member of the Institute. Professionals who intend to improve their knowledge on the above topical issues are also eligible to participate in this capacity-building programme.

Date: Wed., 14th & Thur., 15th
April, 2009. **Venue:** Banquet Hall, NAF Club, Rabah Road,
Kaduna, Kaduna State.

Time: 9:00 a.m. Daily **Programme Fees:** N20,000 (Members) N30,000 (Non-Members)
(To cover programme materials & lunch only)

Method of Payment

Participants are advised to make payment to Account No. 00960310000083 in any branch of United Bank of Africa Plc. Nationwide. Payment could also be made at the Institute's Secretariat.

- Note:**
- MPTP attracts 30 credit hours yearly and is compulsory for all members;
 - Members who do not earn up to the stipulated credit hours stand the risk of their name being deleted from the membership register; and
 - All payment tellers should be sent to the Secretariat Abuja liason office for issuance of official receipt or to the venue of the programme.

For registration enquiries, contact: Lizzy: 08023244395 or Adeyinka: 08085508143

Upcoming Event

12TH ANNUAL TAX CONFERENCE

Date: 5th - 8th May, 2010 **Venue:** Nicon Luxury Hotel, Abuja

For Registration Ronke: 08037848138

For further details, contact:

Registrar/Chief Executive

3rd & 4th Floors, 11, Ikorodu Road, (Opposite CPI-Moore Limited), Maryland, Lagos State.

Tel: (234) 01-4935054, 7741273, Fax: 4935059, Email: citn@citn.org, Website: www.citn.org

Abuja Liaison Office: 1, Bechar Street, Opp. Nigeria Custom Service, Wuse-Zone 1, Abuja. Tel: 09-6705066



BAYERO UNIVERSITY, KANO

(Office of the Registrar)

PRE-QUALIFICATION AND TENDER FOR 2010 CAPITAL PROJECTS TO BE CARRIED OUT AT BAYERO UNIVERSITY, KANO

1. Bayero University, Kano intends to carry out the under-listed works at its' various campuses.
2. Tender documents for 2010 Capital Projects are ready, therefore interested and capable contractors are invited to purchase, fill and return them together with pre-qualification documents. The pre-qualification documents are to consist of the following:-
 - i. Evidence of Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission
 - ii. Tax Clearance Receipt/Certificate for the last three (3) years
 - iii. List of Plants/Machinery and Equipment owned or to be leased with evidence.
 - iv. List and type of personnel working for the company.
 - v. List of verifiable and similar projects completed within the last 3 years with evidence.
 - vi. List of on-going projects with their costs and evidence of award/payment.
 - vii. Relevant information concerning means of contact e.g. telephone, e-mail addresses of the company to be provided and
 - viii. Photocopy of receipt as evidence of payment of tender processing fees.
3. The completed tender and the pre-qualification documents should be submitted within Twenty One (21) days from the date of this publication.
4. The tender processing fees are to be paid to the Bursary Department of the University.
5. Submissions would not be accepted after the expiry date.
6. The projects and their Tender processing fees are as follows:-

S/N	PROJECTS 2010 CAPITAL	TENDER PROCESSING FEES N
1.	Construction of 500 Capacity Theatre at New Campus	100,000.00
2.	Rehabilitation of Students Halls of Residence	50,000.00
3.	Rehabilitation of Academic Buildings	50,000.00
4.	Rehabilitation of Roads on both campuses	100,000.00
5.	Supply and installation of Teaching and Research Equipment to various Departments	50,000.00
6.	Construction of Department Office Block	100,000.00

Signed
Sani Ibrahim Amin
Registrar



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Federal Secretariat, Phase III, Abuja

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR THE PROVISION OF PRE-CONTRACT AND POST CONTRACT CONSULTANCY SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

The Federal Ministry of Health is desirous of providing Quality Care Centres in ABUTH Zaria, UNTH Enugu and UCH Ibadan, the ministry hereby invites interested and reputable CONSULTANTS with relevant experience and good track record.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

Provision of pre contract and post contract Consultancy Services in the following fields

- a. Architectural Services
- b. Civil/Structural/ Biomedical Engineering
- c. Mechanical / Electrical Engineering
- d. Quantity Surveying
- e. Project Management

Interested Consultants are required to submit their firm's profile which must include but not limited to the following:

- a. Evidence of incorporation with CAC
- b. Evidence of 3 years current tax clearance
- c. Evidence of the firm's corporate registration with the appropriate professional body
- d. Evidence of the registration with the principal partners with the appropriate professional body
- e. Current practice licence
- f. Evidence of qualification staff- staff profile
- g. Details with evidence of previous jobs executed in the last three years
- h. Evidence of Head office location

SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

The completed pre-qualification documents should be enclosed in an envelope, sealed and marked "PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR QUALITY CARE CENTRES"

The Honourable Minister
Federal Ministry of Health
Federal Secretariat, Phase III,
Abuja

The completed pre-qualification documents should be deposited in the Tenders Box in Room 308, 3rd Floor, Federal Ministry of Health, Federal Secretariat, Phase III, Ahmadu Bello Way, Central Area, Abuja, on or before Monday 19 April, 2010 at 11.00 a.m.

Opening of the submitted documents will be the same day in the presence of bidders or their representatives who choose to attend at the Ministry's conference room on the 6th floor at 12.00 noon.

Tenderers should note that only pre-qualified companies would be invited to submit financial bids. The Federal Ministry of Health reserves the right to reject any or all pre-qualification documents.

Signed
Permanent Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Health



COUNCIL OF REGISTERED BUILDERS OF NIGERIA (CORBON)

(ESTABLISHED BY BUILDERS REGISTRATION ACT CAP B.13 LFN 2004)

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT, ABUJA
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Tel: 0803-608-1310; 0805-854-4565; 0802-851-5568

PUBLIC NOTICE
THE 10TH INVESTITURE CEREMONY OF REGISTERED BUILDERS

The Council of Registered Builders of Nigeria (CORBON), pursuant to Section 10(1) of the Builders Registration Act Cap B. 13 LFN 2004, hereby publish for the information of the general public and stakeholders in particular that the persons listed below have met statutory requirements for registration as FULLY REGISTERED BUILDERS and are therefore qualified to practice the building profession as may be regulated from time to time.

All Builders are reminded of stern disciplinary regulatory actions on those who do not strictly adhere to the Builders Code of Practice, best practices and bridging the difference between quacks and professional Builders.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| 1. PAPKA, Stephen | 61. ESALOMI, Christopher Asanimo | 121. SAHEED, Tairu Ajibola |
| 2. IDOWU, Sunday Adesanya | 62. ADAGA, John Shinshima | 122. NSHOL, Paul Golupwi |
| 3. EKUNDAYO, Solomon Olabode | 63. DAGANA, Samson | 123. AIOBANA-OMOLE, Aina Evelyn (Mrs) |
| 4. OKAFOR, Leonard Chigozie | 64. HRH Oba ASUNMO, Ganiyu Balogun | 124. ADIGWE, Reginald Chukwukanero Oba |
| 5. BECKLEY, Gabriel Kayode | 65. NDOM, Clifford Tom | 125. OGWUREMI, Femi Ojo |
| 6. KUROSHI, Peter Ayinde (Dr) | 66. ESJET, Ubong Unyime | 126. GAFAR, Olayiwola Saka |
| 7. ADETUNLA, Samuel Omotayo | 67. ONIRETI, Bisi Thompson | 127. MARTINS, Segun Mokube |
| 8. AKINPELLI, Samuel Olatanji | 68. MOYO-FALAYI, Ayotunde Clement | 128. EMEBO, Ifeanyi Ikechukwu |
| 9. ARIBISALA, Kehinde Olufemi | 69. UDUNNI, Patrick Ejimafor | 129. ARDO, Abdulazeez Auwa |
| 10. BODEDE, Samuel Olumide | 70. EMAN, Joel Elisha | 130. AGUWA, Mong Emele |
| 11. DURUJAIYE, Bashir Olaribigbo | 71. JIYA, Solomon Gana | 131. STANLEY, Andrew Miya |
| 12. ADELAJA, Pedetin Abidemi (Mrs) | 72. MOMODU, Ikepehai | 132. ADEYEMI, Babatunde Alex |
| 13. OKEDARA, David Kolawole Olufemi | 73. OMOZOKPIA, Peter Augustine | 133. OMOTOSO, Francis Adebayo |
| 14. ARANNILEWA, Emmanuel Olusegun | 74. ENAHORO, Churchill | 134. HAMADINA, Idrisu Uba |
| 15. FASHOGBON, Micheal Olajide | 75. BELLO, Muhammad Babatunde | 135. ABDULSALAM, Dalhatu |
| 16. FALEYE, Olusoji Olalekan | 76. MUHAMMED, Baratai D. | 136. ANI, Johnson |
| 17. OGEDEGBE, Josephat Oda | 77. ODUNMBAKU-WILSON, S. Olayiwola | 137. ONANWU, Faith Osagioduwa (Mrs) |
| 18. OGUNKELU, Benedict Oluwaseyi | 78. BELLO, Ayotunde Taofeek | 138. ONUORAH, Jonas Ikechukwu |
| 19. DOSUMU, Timothy Segun | 79. USMAN, Nuruddeen | 139. DOGUN, Solomon Eyeta |
| 20. ONAADE, Faticia Iyabode (Mrs) | 80. CHIEKWETRO, Arisa | 140. MUSA, Abdulrazzak Okatope |
| 21. WRIGHT, Segun | 81. SHEHU, Hassan Abubakar | 141. MSHELGARU, Isa Hassan-Enuwa |
| 22. ADETOLA, Abiodun Oluwaseyi (Mrs) | 82. KWON, Bitrus Davou | 142. UGBAH, Ukpoireghe Ibiaday (Mrs) |
| 23. AROMASODU, Jibril Adebola | 83. ABBA, Umaru Hina | 143. OBASANMI, Martins Ayokunle |
| 24. OWOLABI, Tajudeen | 84. OSO, Joseph Jimoh | 144. SA'AD, Mohammed Mustapha |
| 25. OLUUDIRAN, Michael Olusegun | 85. ADEKUNLE, Favour Taiwo (Mrs) | 145. OGUNDEJI, Babatunde Michael |
| 26. BABALOLA, Isaac Oludare | 86. ERHWHA, John Efenudu | 146. SULAMAN, Kazeem Busayo |
| 27. BANKOLE, Muraina Adeniyi | 87. ATIKU, Durojaiye Taofeek | 147. AKINPADE, Joseph Ayobami |
| 28. OLA, Babatope Olusegun John | 88. AJANI, Moses Ayoade | 148. ONYENSOH, Raymond Iheanyi Jamike |
| 29. OTEHIA, Adebayo Olaniran | 89. ATTAHIR, Muhammad Sani | 149. SAJO, Ladan Bunza |
| 30. ALADEOKIN, Joseph Oyelakin | 90. OBIWELAZOR, Joseph Ndubusi | 150. UGOCHUKWU, Robert Uwaezuoke |
| 31. DARAMOLA, Rasaki Omolaja | 91. KUMZHI, Gabriel Hanvyek | 151. OLUUMYMA, Oluwale Ajayi |
| 32. OLUOTOYE, Ademola Tokunbo | 92. OJOKO, Edo Oga | 152. ALAKA, Oluumuyiwa |
| 33. AKINTOYE, Moses Akinlara | 93. OGUNLEYE, Babatunde Temitope | 153. OBASA, Oluwale O. Samuel |
| 34. OYEGBILE, Rufus Adeyemo | 94. OLALEMI, Folami Fatal | 154. SADIKU, Abdul Ojo |
| 35. AKINLADE, Abiodun Abdulfatani | 95. ONIGWE, Benjamin Nnamdi | 155. OKEYUGBO, Adebola Mathew |
| 36. AWOBUSUYI Duro-Tayo | 96. ADEGBUYI, Raphael Olusegun | 156. ALEBIOSU, Adeniyi Adetayo Multiyu |
| 37. AZAKA, Festus Ogwa | 97. MUSA, Mukhtar Muhammad | 157. IDU, Paul Ocheoche |
| 38. FADERO, Samuel Folorunso | 98. KALEJAYE, Christopher Oludayo | 158. OGUNBUSOLA, Solomon Akinwale |
| 39. ADEPARUSI, Emmanuel Ibukun | 99. ADESULU, Adeleke Oluwatimileyin | 159. GYADO, Martin Tema |
| 40. ADENIJI, Wusamot Alao | 100. ABOLADE, Adekunle | 160. FAGBOHUN, Joel Olaleye |
| 41. AYEGBUSI, Oluwaseun Tunde | 101. MUHAMMAD, Alhassan Enagi | 161. IGIRIGI, Kokonobo Watson |
| 42. ADELEKE, Olufemi Ademola | 102. OKURE, Sunday Okure | 162. Anyebe, Agada Simon |
| 43. ALAWODE, Benjamin | 103. AKUNGU, Celestine Tyoapnye | 163. EKOH, Mark Monday |
| 44. BANKOLE, Babatunde Haroun | 104. AYODELE, Clement Sunday | 164. FATOKUN, Otakunle Olanrewaju |
| 45. ASHIRU, Shuaibu Olaniranmi | 105. ABDULLAH, Mohammed Bojude | 165. BABA, Hassan Mohammed |
| 46. OSHO, Adedayo, Olusola | 106. ZUBAIRU, Tijani Onuvajok | 166. SHU'AJIBU, Mustapha Dabai |
| 47. DARAMOLA, Olusola (R.I.P.) | 107. MABADEJE, Nojeem Idowu | 167. OKWARA, Phillip |
| 48. AGIDANI, Solomon Umoru | 108. OLOWOYEYE, Otarenwaju | 168. OGUNBANWO, Oduwaye Oluseyi |
| 49. AKINDEKO, Daniel Feyisara | 109. OGUNDIPE, Festus Olukayode (R.I.P.) | 169. MOHAMMED, Tanko Abdullahi |
| 50. JOSHUA, Opeyemi | 110. FAJOBI, Abiodun Ajani | 170. ANOWAL, Solomon Ikechukwu |
| 51. EDUN, Michael Akanbi | 111. OLOWU, Adekunle Oluwaleka | 171. UNOKIWEDI, Patric Anyibufolu |
| 52. MUKHTAR, Auwal | 112. AKPAN, Joseph Asuquo | 172. EKAINU, Eche Godwin |
| 53. EJIM, Sylvanus Nkediilim | 113. ELOM, Eze John | 173. AJAYI, Dauda Opeyemi |
| 54. IROGBU, Innocent Onyemaechi | 114. OHUABUNWA, Ugochukwu Ahmed | 174. SANI, Sausu Abdullahi |
| 55. DIM, Samuel Ikechukwu | 115. ARACHIE, John Chukwudi | 175. IGBASAN, Oluwatoyin O. Abisogun |
| 56. OLADAPO, Fredrick Temidayo | 116. OMONIYI, Folade Tunde Femi | 176. ANIYI, Victor Oladejo |
| 57. ALIYU, Abdulkadir Abdullahi | 117. ELAMAH, Daniel | 177. OBI, C. Justice |
| 58. MBA, Mecha Uka | 118. OLAWUYI, Ajibike Olufunmilola (Mrs) | 178. AJILA, Hellen Titilayo (Mrs.) |
| 59. ALAEZI, John Okwe | 119. TUNJI-SULE, Ramota Morenike(Mrs) | 179. OMOBOYE, Abiodun Okugbenga |
| 60. SHEHU, Bappah Mohammad | 120. UMOH, Okon | |

All the successful candidates are mandatorily required to present themselves for investiture/induction ceremony which includes: Presentation of Certificate, Licence, Seal, Stamp, Administration of Professional Oath of Practice, etc. as scheduled below:

Date: Friday, 16th April, 2010 **Time:** 10.00am prompt
Venue: NAOWA Multipurpose Centre, Mambilla Barracks, Asokoro-Abuja.

B. GENERAL INFORMATION

- (a) Builders are reminded that the issuance of Annual Practice License is based on the following:
- Attendance at Mandatory Training Development Programme
 - Payment of Annual Practice Fee which is currently N10,000.00 per annum.
 - Consistency in practice and Good Conduct.
- (b) The Template on Builder's Contract documents is MANDATORY for all Registered Builders at a cost of N5,000.00 only.
- (c) The list of Builders licensed to practice till March 31st, 2011 shall be published within the next two weeks.
- Congratulations**

Bldr. Aliyu A. Ova, fniob, fmp.
Registrar



NIGER STATE GOVERNMENT
NIGER STATE FADAMA CO-ORDINATION OFFICE
THIRD NATIONAL FADAMA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (NFDP III)



NIGER STATE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (NIGER STATE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT)
P.M.B 152 FARM CENTRE, TUNGA, MINNA NIGER STATE
NIGERIA

(NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)

This invitation for bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this project that appeared in DG Market of the World Bank on 19th June, 2009 and daily trust of July 3, 2009.

The Federal Government Of Nigeria has received a credit from the international Development Association (herein referred to as IDA) towards the cost of National Fadama Development Project III, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit for payment under the contract for procurement of Computer and office machines. Niger State is one of the thirty Six participating states on the project.

The Niger State Fadama Co-ordination office now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of low listed equipment.

Lot	Description	Qty (Unit)	Delivery Period	Bid Security
1	Computer Systems	10	60 days	Three percent (3%) of bid price
2	(A) Laser jet printer (Small)	10	60 days	Three percent (3%) of bid price
	(B) UPS	10	60 days	Three percent (3%) of bid price
	(C) Photocopier	2	60 days	Three percent (3%) of bid price

Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive bidding process as specified in the World Bank Guidelines for procurement under IBRD loans and IDA credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as define in the guideline.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below between the hours of 9:00 am – 4:00pm (Monday to Thursdays) and 9:00 am – 1:00pm (Fridays)

A Complete set of bidding document in English Language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address given below and upon payment of a non- refundable fee of ten thousand naira (N10,000.00) paid in cash or bank draft. The Bidding documents should be collected by hand from the project office of NSFCD or can be forwarded to the bidders by Courier Services on request.

Bids must be delivered to the project at the address stated below on or before 12:00 noon (Local Time) on May 3, 2010. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security as mentioned in the table above or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 12:00 noon local time on Monday, May 3, 2010.

Signed
State project Co-ordinator
Niger State Fadama Co-ordination Office
Niger State ADP
Farm Center, Tunga, Minna
Niger State - Nigeria
Tel: 08034536293/08036780510

SAVE NIGERIA COALITION (SNC)

TIME FOR A TRULY DEMOCRATIC & GENERATIONAL STRUGGLE

Save Nigeria Coalition (SNC) hereby makes a passionate appeal to bona fide pro-democracy activists, comrades and the youth across the length and breadth of our nation to arise and defend our democracy as we are in the dawn of what must become a democratic and generational struggle.

This appeal has become urgent as the tragic outcome of the recent power struggle within the corridors of power of the Presidency which spilled onto the streets in the form of rallies, marches etc has resulted in the surreptitious entry of septuagenarian generals on the political terrain in a cavalier manner and indeed within the Jonathan cabal since Professor Dora Akunyili introduced the word cabal into our political lexicon.

The septuagenarian generals are General Aliyu Gusau, the National Security Adviser (NSA), General Theophilus Danjuma, chairman of the Presidential Advisory Council (PAC) and of course, General Olusegun Obasanjo. Incidentally, the Senate President who just chaired the screening committee that deserves an award for screening thirty eight ministers within two days is a retired general albeit not a septuagenarian.

Civil society and democrats, what have we let ourselves in for? Their antecedents are known in roles in various coup plots in our chequered democratic struggle from 1975 to date but we will offer a brief summary of the septuagenarian generals' roles in the polity:

1. General Yakubu Gowon who is now a self-styled 'eminent personality' had to be removed from power by a coup led by Generals Murtala Mohammed, Obasanjo, Danjuma and others, due to his reluctance to hand-over power to civilians after an eight year rule like an Emperor. Some may recall his motorcade with horses, motorcycles, the road closures for hours, school children lining the routes in the blazing sun waving Nigeria's flag in their aching hands.
2. General Obasanjo became Head of State in 1976 after the assassination of General Murtala Mohammed and handed over to Alhaji Shehu Shagari but later became a very vocal critic of the Shagari government and contributed in no small measure to the collapse of the second republic by a coup led by Generals Abacha, Buhari, Babangida and others with support of some retired generals.
3. General Buhari ruled from 1983 – 1985 and has been a presidential candidate in elections from 1999 to date.
4. General Ibrahim Babangida became Head of State in 1985 and had to be forced to step aside after eight (8) years but still nurses a presidential ambition.
5. Late Chief Mohsood Kasimawo Olawale Abiola won the freest and fairest election in the history of Nigeria but was denied the Presidency by the generals. Please recall General Obasanjo's public and harsh criticism of Chief Abiola at the time so one can imagine the zeal with which he must have worked to ensure MKO never became president.

6. General Theophilus Danjuma was a beneficiary of late General Abacha's regime as he was given an oil block that has yielded so much money that he does not know with to do with over five hundred million dollars (\$500, 000,000) which is part of the proceeds.
7. General Olusegun Obasanjo became president in 1999 by military arrangement and 'elections'. General Danjuma threatened to go on exile if his colleague, Obasanjo did not win the elections. Great esprit de corps.
8. In 2006, general Obasanjo embarked on the third term project at a time General Aliyu Gusau was his National Security Adviser (NSA). Thankfully, their efforts failed and the generals were demystified but must have plotted their dramatic revenge which is unfolding.
9. We had a brief respite from 2007 – 2009 when the generals were sidelined by President Yar'adua but they are now back in full force thanks to the Acting President.

We have taken great pains to go down memory lane to awaken the consciousness of Nigerians to the fact that these septuagenarian generals have been the ones dictating the affairs of this nation directly or by proxy for far too long and in this period, a generation has been wasted.

The Oxford dictionary defines a generation as 'an average period, usually considered to be 25 – 30 years in which children grow up, become adults and have children of their own'. By this definition, it is obvious that Generals Obasanjo, Danjuma, Babangida and Gusau have lived their lives at the expense of a generation.

Their return via the Acting President, Dr Goodluck Jonathan is a blow to the democratic and generational struggle in Nigeria. What manner of advice can they offer in a democratic and generational struggle?

A case in point is General Danjuma's order to Dr Jonathan to act decisively and one can presume that the dissolution of President Yar'adua's cabinet and constitution of his own must be one of such acts and the outrage at the composition of the cabinet is a reflection of the poor quality of advice the Acting President is receiving at this time. The widely reported military style dismantling of the administrative, political and security infrastructures of President Yar'adua is ill advised as it is a distraction from governance and the good will he enjoyed may be lost.

Our advice to civil society is that we close ranks and ensure that we halt this retrogression and begin to lay the foundations for a solid democratic process with minimal interference by the same group of septuagenarian generals whose names appear like a recurring decimal in ignoble roles.

To the youth, Benjamin Disraeli once said; 'The Youth of a nation are the Trustees of Posterity'. Please join the struggle to avoid the wastage of further generations.



**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
TRANSPORTATION SECRETARIAT
FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION.**

P. M. B. 24, GARKI NIGERIA. TEL: +234-9-672-4360

**INVITATION FOR PROVISION, INSTALLATION AND MANAGEMENT OF BUS
SHELTERS IN FCT THROUGH PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP).**

The FCTA, through Transportation Secretariat is embarking on the provision, installation and maintenance of bus shelters for commuters in the FCT.

Consequently, the Secretariat is inviting competent and interested bidders for Expression of Interest for provision, installation and maintenance of bus shelters for commuters in the FCT. The project is to be implemented through Public-Private Partnership (PPP).

2. THE SCOPE OF THE PROJECT INCLUDES:

- i. Construction of bus shelter
- ii. Installation of bus shelter
- iii. Earthworks
- iv. Provision and placing of concrete interlocks
- v. Maintenance of bus shelters

2. PRE-QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

Interested bidders must submit the following documents:-

- (a). Evidence of registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC).
- (b). Tax Clearance Certificate for the last three (3) years.
- (c). VAT registration and evidence of past VAT remittances.
- (d). List of names of key professionals to be attached to the project and their qualification. Enclose photocopies of professional certificate where applicable.

- (e). Evidence of location of workshop to effect maintenance/repair works.
- (f). List of plants and equipment for repair and maintenance works.
- (g). List of similar and other jobs successfully executed with their locations.
- (h). Audited A/C of the bidder for the last three (3) years and bank name for verification.
- (i). Evidence of Financial Capability and Banking support (original)
- (j). Evidence(s) of compliance with the provision of the Pension Reform Act. 2004.

Please, note that the original documents (a)-(c) must be produced for sighting during the opening session, while their absence will signify none responsiveness of bid.

3. The proposal should be arranged in order of the specified criteria, loose bound and enclosed in a sealed envelope clearly marked at the top right hand corner **"EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR PROVISION, INSTALLATION AND MANAGEMENT OF BUS SHELTERS IN FCT"**.

4. The pre-qualification bid must be returned to FCTA Tenders Board Secretariat, **Room 043 (former Public Building), Area 11, Garki, Abuja on or before 12.00noon, Thirty (30) days from the day of this publication.** All bids will be opened at Archives and History Bureau Building, near AGIS, Area 11 Garki Abuja on the same date at 2.00pm in the presence of all bidders or their representatives in attendance.

NB: This is not an invitation to tender. Full tendering will be applied only to bidders that have been pre-qualified and found capable of executing the project.

Olusegun Awolowo Esq.
*Secretary, Transportation
Transportation Secretariat.*



NATIONAL MATHEMATICAL CENTRE

SHEDA-KWALI ABUJA

ADVERTISEMENT

VACANCIES IN THE POSTS OF SOME PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL MATHEMATICAL CENTRE ABUJA

Applications are hereby invited from suitably qualified candidates for appointment to the following positions in National Mathematical Centre (NMC).

1. POST OF LIBRARIAN

Duties

The Centre Librarian is responsible to the Director General for the administration of the Mathematical Sciences Library and the coordination of Library Services in the Centre. The NMC Library is essentially a reference Library to the Nigerian and West African Universities in the Mathematical Sciences.

Qualifications/Experience

Applicants must possess the following:-

- a. A minimum of Masters Degree in Library and Information Science from a recognized University. The candidate must have a minimum of 25 years post graduation experience in an academic library and must have worked as Deputy University Librarian or equivalent for at least 5 years. He must also show evidence of research publications in library and information science, and have a thorough understanding of modern technologies in library operations and must be computer literate.

2. POST OF BURSAR

Duties

The Bursar is the Chief Finance Officer of the Centre. He is responsible to the Director General for the day-to-day financial administration of the Centre. He is also responsible for maintaining the Centre's accounting system and the production of financial statements and relates with External Auditors and regulatory bodies on financial matters.

Qualifications/Experience

Applicants must possess a good Degree in Accountancy with a minimum of second class lower from a recognized university plus the final professional examination and membership certificate (ACA, CAN, ACCA, ACMA, CPA) of a recognized Accountancy body in Nigeria, namely,

- a. Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, ICAN
- b. Association of National Accountants of Nigeria, ANAN
- c. Association of Certified Chartered Accountants, ACCA
- d. Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, CIMA
- e. Certified Public Accountants, CPA etc.

Applicants are required to have not less than 25 years post-graduation and 10 years post professional qualification cognate experience in a University or comparative institution where he or she must have served as a Deputy Bursar or equivalent for not less than five years. Applicants must be computer literate and have a working knowledge of Computerized Accounting System.

Basic Salary

Librarian - CONTISS 11 for University Librarians
Bursar - CONTISS 11 for University Bursars

Other Conditions of Service

The appointment shall be for a period of four years renewable for a further period of four years and no more. Other Fringe Benefits and Allowances are as currently applicable to the positions in the Federal Universities as prescribed by the Federal government of Nigeria and as determined from time to time by the Governing Council of the National Mathematical Centre Abuja.

Method of Application

Application should be submitted in twenty (20) copies together with detailed Curriculum Vitae which should include the following information:-

- i. Full Names (Surname First)
- ii. Place and Date of Birth (including Day, Month, and Year)
- iii. Sex
- iv. Marital Status
- v. Nationality
- vi. Number and Ages of Children
- vii. State of Origin (Attach Indigenes Certificate)
- viii. Local Government Area
- ix. Home Town
- x. Present Contact Address
- xi. Institutions Attended with Dates
- xii. Academic and Professional Qualifications Obtained including Places and Dates obtained (attach copies)
- xiii. Working Experience
- xiv. Publication with Dates
- xv. Name and Address of Spouse
- xvi. Name and Address of Next of Kin
- xvii. Extra Curricular Activities
- xviii. Names and Addresses of three (3) referees for the post (one of the referees must be a professional or authority in the University or Institutions)

Candidates are advised to request their referees to forward the confidential reports of them direct to the Director General, National Mathematical Centre, Sheda-Kwali Abuja

Applications are to be submitted under confidential cover in sealed envelope marked at the top left hand corner, "LIBRARIAN" or "BURSAR" (as the case may be), and addressed to:

**The Director General
National Mathematical Centre
Private Mail Bag 119
Garki
Abuja**

Closing Date

Four weeks from the date of this publication. Only applications of shortlisted candidates will be acknowledged.

**Professor Sam O. Ale OFR, NPOM, mni-
Director General
1st April, 2010**

BUSINESS

0805 1000 536

FOCUS ON MICRO CREDIT

Today we bring you special reports on the challenges facing micro finance banks in Nigeria. We also interviewed operators of small businesses to get their pulse on the scheme and how they are faring. The micro banks, set up in 2005 to pump liquidity into the small and medium scale sector of the economy, are facing serious challenges and there is lingering fear that they may not deliver, and so the aims of fighting poverty and unemployment may still remain miles away in the country's journey to industrialization.

-Business Editor

How CBN failed micro banks

By Jibrin Abubakar

ALTHOUGH the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has carried out far-reaching reforms in the commercial or universal banks, it has however yet to do so in the Micro Finance Banks (MFBs).

Operators of MFBs who spoke to *Daily Trust* say unlike the commercial banks they do not enjoy any window of credit from the Central Bank.

In the same vein, they don't have access to funds from the public sector.

Our reporter says the universal banks can draw from Expanded Discount Window (EDW) and are also exposed to many other monetary transaction to shore up their financial base.

The MFBs are barred from trading in monetary securities with the apex bank. They are however expected to grow micro credit which stood at 0.9 per cent in 2005 to 20 per cent in the year 2020.

According to the operators, the Central bank is yet to disburse the N50billion contribution by states via a one per cent mandatory deduction from their budgets in line with the framework that set up the micro finance banks in 2005.

Another problem that is yet to be tackled by the CBN is the issue of proliferation of unregistered micro banks and other mushroom financial institutions.

Some cooperative groups are creating perception problem for the micro banks, Daily



CBN Governor Sanusi Lamido Sanusi

Trust learnt.

There are presently 815 registered MFBs in the country. But the CBN had expressed concern over the emergence of fake MFBs in the country. "In fact, we have started something about the unregistered MFBs. CBN has issued a public disclaimer to protect unsuspecting Nigerians", CBN's spokesman Muhammad Abdullahi said.

Meanwhile, a source in the

CBN told *Daily Trust* that the MFBs seem to have lost the script and that the apex bank is considering outsourcing the regulation of the small banks.

Last year, the Integrated Micro Finance Banks closed shop due to liquidity problem.

There have also been reports that some MFBs are asking for collateral before

granting loans to small businessmen, an act that is against the law that set them up.

Mr. Henry Nwawuba, an executive director in the Fortis Micro Finance Bank told *Daily Trust* in an interview: "We are very happy with what is happening particularly in the area of corporate governance. But it will be nice to address the issue of unregistered or unlicensed financial institutions. There are some cooperatives that are creating perception problems for micro finance banks. They are not MFBs but they are basically multipurpose thrift and saving organisations.

"They are trading and masquerading as micro finance banks to the point that the public are unable to differentiate between micro finance banks and cooperative society. We would like the CBN to address this issue because it is creating a perception problem for Nigerians."

The Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) had also said that it was overwhelmed by the number of microfinance banks in the country; a situation which has made the regulation of the subsector complicated, Jacob Afolabi, a deputy director, in NDIC said.

He said unlike the regular deposit money banks, the NDIC does not know the location of all the existing microfinance banks.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Arik Air

PH-Abuja: 08.45, 12.12.50, 17.00 (Mon-Fri), 08.45, 17.30 (Sat), 14.40, 17.30 (Sun);
 Abuja-PH: 07.15, 11.20, 15.30 (Mon-Fri), 07.15, 16.00 (Sat) 14.40, 17.30 (Sun);
 Lagos-Kano: 12.20pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Kano-Lagos: 02.35pm (Mon-Fri/Sun);
 Abuja-Kano: 03:35pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Kano-Abuja: 05:20pm (Mon-Fri/Sun);
 Abuja-Gombe: 11:10am (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun); Gombe-Abuja: 12.30pm (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun); Lagos-Yola:
 Lag-Abj 04:50pm, via Abj-Yola 06:45pm (Mon-Fri/ Sun); Yola-Lagos:
 Yola-Abj 08:40am, Abj-Lagos 10:20am (Mon-Fri/Sat);
 Lagos-Maid: Lag-Abj 03:50pm, via Abj-Maid 06:00pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Maid-Lagos: Maid-Abj 07:30am, via Abj-Lag 09:15am (Mon-Fri/Sat); Abuja-Sokoto: 11:10am (Mon-Fri); Sokoto-Abuja: 12:50pm (Mon-Fri)
 Abuja-Akure: 02:10pm (Mon, Wed and Fri); Akure-Abuja: 08:50am (Mon, Wed and Fri); Lagos-Kwara: 07:30am, (Mon-Fri) 07.30, 03:50pm Sat 08:00am, 11:45am Sun; Kwara-Lagos: 4:10pm (Mon-Fri), 01:10pm, 05:30pm Sat 09:45am, 05:00pm Sun
 Abuja-Kwara: 03:25pm (Mon-Fri); Kwara-Abuja: 01.30pm (Mon-Fri); Lagos-Jos: 09:05am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); Jos-Lagos: 11.00am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
 ABV-QOW 02:30pm (Mon-Fri), 11:30am Sat 03:20pm Sun; Lagos-Kaduna: 10:20am, 04:10pm (Mon-Fri), 10.20 (Sat/Sun); Kaduna-Lagos: 12:10pm, 06:00pm (Mon-Fri), 12.10 (Sat/Sun); Lagos-Warr: 07:30am (Mon/Fri) 07:30am, 03:50pm (Sat), 08:00am, and 11:45am (Sun)

Aero Contractors

Lagos-Kad: 08.00am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
 Kad-Lagos: 09.40am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
 Lagos-Jos: 11.15am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
 Jos-Lagos: 13.15pm (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
 Lagos-Abj: 06.50; 13.30; 16.30; 19.45 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 12.30 (Sun) 16.45 (Sat). Abj-Lagos: 07.30; 13.30; 19.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat); 10.30; 14.30; 19.30 (Sun) 18.30 (Sat); Lagos-Ben: 07.45; 11.00; 15.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun) 12.30; (Sun); 15.30 (Sat).

Trust Index

Inflation	→ 12.3%
GDP	→ 6.90%
Budget	→ N3.1tr
External Reserves Acct	→ \$41bn
Excess Crude Acct	→ \$3.2bn
Poverty Ratio	→ 54.4%
Monetary Policy Rate	→ 6%
Banks	→ 24
Oil Price	→ \$85 a barrel
Power Supply	→ 2,500MW
Oil output per day	→ 2.6mbd
Broad Money Supply	→ N10,796,734.5m
Credit to Private Sector	→ N10,018,035.3m
Inter-Bank Rate	→ 1.1600%
Treasury Bills	→ 2.02%
Deposit Rate	→ 12.28%
Prime Lending Rate	→ 18.38%

CBN

31/3/2010

CBN EXCHANGE RATES

BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES

	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)
CFA	0.2842	0.2942	0.3042
DANISH KRONER	26.6742	26.7647	26.8552
EURO	198.6635	199.3379	200.0122
POUNDS STERLING	223.351	224.1092	224.8673
RIYAL	39.28	39.4134	39.5467
SDR	223.6309	224.39	225.1491
SWISS FRANC	139.0541	139.5261	139.9981
US DOLLAR	147.3	147.8	148.3
WAUA	223.3905	224.1488	224.9071
YEN	1.5762	1.5816	1.5869

BUYING	
DOLLAR	N150
EURO	N203
POUNDS	N231

SELLING	
DOLLAR	N151
EURO	N205
POUNDS	N234

Source: S&P Bureau de Change, Wuse Zone 4, Abuja.

Business

Focus on micro credit

Unlicensed cooperatives disturbing micro banks' business - Fortis

Mr. Henry Nwawuba is an executive director at the Fortis Micro Finance Bank. In this interview, he says the proliferation of thrift based cooperative groups is creating bad impression of the micro finance banks in Nigeria. He also speaks on collateral and why the CBN should disburse the N50bn promised by the government and step in to control nefarious activities of unlicensed financial institutions.

By Jibrin Abubakar

MANY Nigerians are still unable to benefit from the services rendered by the MFBs, while other MFBs are asking for collateral. What is your reaction to this?

You are absolutely correct. In fact the policy says we should provide collateral free lending. And in Fortis, we look at cash flow unlike in the universal banks. Collateral is what you fall back on in case of default. We look at ourselves as the best business support bank of Nigerian origin. What we look at predominantly in Fortis is cash flow and not collateral. You also look at character and the nature of business. We also concentrate on women. But before we give out loans we assess, evaluate and verify. The process is rigorous.

Can you tell us about your operation?

Fortis started operation on 22nd of October in 2007. We are unique because we have a particular bias on some businesses with emphasis on micro credit and going into small businesses basically made up of women, artisans and cooperatives.

How would you describe your outreach?

At the moment, we are operating in FCT. We have about 11 business offices. We are in FCT because that is the licence that we have for now. We have a partnership with a commercial bank in case our customers need to trans-

act out of the FCT.

What is your capital base like now?

We have a unit licence and over time we have had the cause to increase our capital base. We have gradually and consistently been increasing our capital and shareholder base over the years. We started with the mandatory N20 million for the unit licence and as at December last year we increased our authorised share to N1.2billion.

So far, how many clients have you and what has been your relationship with them?

Our customer base is growing. In the beginning when we started we were growing at about 2,000 a week and it's been growing consistently. You know micro finance bank is a game of number. This is different from universal banks which deal in volume.

There is a report that says you need to have up to 70,000 customers before you can say you have started the journey. We are hungry to grow our capital base like others. Of course like others in Nigeria we have our challenges. One of them is extra over heads perhaps you know have been there.

You also have costs. You know all the banks are offering almost the same services, so to compete you have to introduce other unique services. In Fortis, we want to support businesses and so we have open shop in all the major markets. In supporting

businesses, the businesses are getting more sophisticated. Some of them go to China, some to Dubai and some have supplies from Lagos. There is also staffing challenges. It is very difficult to find trained and competent staff on MFBs, and when you have done that and train them and retrain them, you will see the commercial banks showing up and taken away these guys and doubling their salaries. The next day you are back to square one and start looking for competent hands. You now start training them again and start investing in human capital. Another problem is power. We have to run on diesel in our offices to keep our networks.

What is your staff strength like?

We work with NDE (National Directorate of Employment), where they afford graduates the opportunities to come here for training and we give them a period of 90 days or three months to serve in Fortis where we pay them on an agreed sum. These people are screened by the NDE. And at the end of that those that are found worthy are retained.

We also do the same for NYSC members. Under this scheme we have probably trained about 500 people. Only people that deserve are retained while others can keep that in their CVs, at least they have the experience and that may make them more marketers. But we have about 300 staff strength. As the business grows some of the



MR. Henry Nwawuba

dynamics will grow.

Do you have liquidity problem? I asked this question because I know that you are suppose to benefit from the N50billion set aside by the government to promote micro banks.

The CBN and NDIC have really been supporting the banks in terms of training and examinations. On the N50billion, I think the regulatory framework that set up one percent of states budget would be earmarked for on-lending through micro finance banks.

The commercial banks were also expected to gather certain percentage of their profit to support micro credit. We learn that the money has been gathered but has not been disbursed. We have been waiting for disbursement. We are hoping that the money will soon be made available to us for on-lending.

What is your assessment of Central Bank reforms of the banking sector?

We are very happy with what is happening particularly in the area of corporate governance. But it will be nice to address the issue of unregistered or unlicensed financial institutions. There are some cooperatives that are creating perception problems for micro finance banks. They are not MFBs but they are basically multipurpose thrift and saving organisations.

They are trading and masquerading as micro finance banks to the

point that the public are unable to differentiate micro finance banks from cooperative society. We would like the CBN to address this issue because it is creating a perception problem for Nigerians.

How much have you disbursed so far to customers and how do you want the CBN to address the intrusion of cooperative groups in the activities of micro finance banks?

One of the objectives of the regulation that set up the micro finance banks was to increase micro credit in the economy from 0.9 in 2005 per cent to about 20 per cent lending from micro finance banks by 2020. Indeed we are trying to play our card along that direction. I remember within the first year we started our business; we came out to announce that we have hit a one billion dollar mark. You see lending is something that is also dynamics. It goes up and down.

The peak periods are always festive periods. But what we have done was to concentrate on cooperatives to make them bankable. For the confusion by cooperative groups, the first thing is to adhere to the prudential guidelines of the CBN. The CBN wants your business to always be there. We are looking to our regulators to step in to say there is a difference between a licensed MFBs and cooperatives that is not licensed, masquerading and collecting money from people. For now it's been relatively stable.

“But it will be nice to address the issue of un-registered or unlicensed financial institutions. There are some cooperatives that are creating perception problem for micro finance banks. They are not MFBs but they are basically multipurpose thrift and saving organisations.”

Business

Focus on micro credit

Customers count losses as TRIMM Cooperative collapsed

The Micro Finance Banks (MFBs) are not comfortable with the activities of cooperative societies. They are accusing them of passing the wrong signals to the public who mistake them for micro finance banks. This, they say, is affecting their business. *Daily Trust* reports on TRIMM Multipurpose Cooperative Society Limited which collapsed recently.

By Tina A. Hassan

THE collapse of TRIMM Multipurpose Cooperative Society Limited came as a shock to many of its members who lost huge sums of their savings.

Prior to its collapse on November 30, 2009, the Cooperative was adjudged to be one of the best as it has enjoined the confidence of its members through several of its packages which include a good return on fixed term deposit.

Confusion now grips depositors with the troubled Cooperative's branch in Abuja and they have appealed to the federal government to assist them in recovering their money.

Observers said the collapsed of Trimm is fallout of the crisis that rocked the banking sector which also affected cooperatives as well.

When the Central Bank of Nigeria started its current reforms in the banking sector last year by sacking managing directors of troubled banks, the panic withdrawals from banks also affected the TRIMM, some people said.

About 160, 000 members of TRIMM withdrew their money and this negatively affected the Cooperative which led to its collapse.

According to a pioneer staff of the cooperative who pleaded anonymity, some of them predicted the fall of the cooperative because of different management policies which deviated from the core values of the organization that took it to its height.

He said the management ventured into different areas that do not in any way contribute to the cooperative, but rather, added more cost to the running of the organization.

He said: "Initially, the management was made up of only the Secretary General and a few members who were also going to the field but later they introduced different management staff and were employing staff anyhow."

"They went into an arrangement with Oceanic bank and purchased exotic cars for themselves, bought a property to house the Kano branch, ventured into transportation business and bought buses which later crumbled, they opened a farm along Keffi-Abuja road and made several wrong policies."

He put the blame on the problem of the organization totally on the part of the management



MR. Esin Edet CEO TRIMM Multipurpose Cooperative Society, presenting a prize to a customer when the going was good.

who lost focus along the line after attaining remarkable success.

Another staff of the Cooperative in Abuja head office said the problem started in their Kaduna branch which was the backbone of the organization.

The staff said a similar organization in Kaduna had liquidity problem and could not meet the demands of its customers.

"Immediately that organization had problems, the news went round town and our members panicked and started withdrawing their money in large numbers. When the Kaduna branch could not meet up with the rush, our branches in Abuja sent them some cash but that still could not help the situation until the problem gradually got to the head office," the staff said.

Rachael Owen, a business woman living in Kubwa, a suburb of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), said she deposited N5 million before the closure.

She said her first deposit was N1 million in July, while the last one was in August 2009, adding that her last deposit was expected

to mature in January this year.

She began patronizing the company after friends convinced her that TRIMM had been existing for years without having any serious problem.

Another member of the cooperative who simply identified her name as Rachael said she lost N5 million after the cooperative collapsed.

Ekaete, a restaurant operator said she had 3.5 million in deposit with TRIMM but was shocked and frustrated when she realized her money is trapped in the bank after the management and staff all went into hiding.

They explained that the company promised to pay 3 percent interest for each N1m every month to depositor in a fixed deposit account after a period of three to six months.

Efforts to reach the management of TRIMM Cooperative were unsuccessful. Telephone calls to the Chief Executive Officer of the company Mr. Edet Esin was not successful as his mobile phone could not be reached.

A consultant to the company

who did not want his name in print confirmed to our reporter that the cooperative was in trouble due to bad investment decision. He said over N1 billion might have been lost.

TRIMM has branches in eight states and the FCT and its branch in Kaduna is said to have thrived until the crisis came knocking and it was forced to close.

A close source to the management of the cooperative told *Daily Trust* that the cooperative would soon be back on stream with more efficient machinery to deliver efficient service to its customers.

The source who spoke on condition of anonymity did not disclose when the operations on the new TRIMM would begin but instead said: "I can assure you that TRIMM would soon be back because I am aware that the management is trying to put fund together to raise it back and address the problem of the members it is owing and it is only the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mr. Edet Esin that can say when it would be opening."

When *Daily Trust* visited

the branch of the cooperative in Nyanya, it was deserted. People around the area said it has not been functional for months.

Another source in the Cooperatives Department in the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources said the company is not directly registered under it but under the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

When our reporter visited the office of the Chief Registrar of Cooperatives, Federal Capital Development Authority Mr. Alex Njoku, he was not available to comment but a source confirmed that the Chief registrar and other stakeholders have set up a committee to look into the issue with a view to reviving the cooperatives and attending to members whose monies are still with it.

Management staff of the cooperative are said to have gone underground dodging members of staff.

Spokesperson of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission Femi, Babafemi said he is not aware of the issue and declined further comments.

Death of Abubakar Rimi



RIMI'S official photograph as governor of Kano state in 1979.

“A firebrand in his own right, Rimi was nominated by Malam Aminu Kano's earlier platform, the Northern Elements Progressive Union (NEPU), to stand as its candidate for election into the Federal House of Representatives in 1964.

Muham Rimi: A

By Ibrahim Auduson

RIMI'S biggest electoral victory was in 1979.

The candidate for Governor of Kano State of the Peoples Redemption Party (PRP), Alhaji Salihi Ilyasu, had been, unexpectedly, disqualified by the Federal Electoral Commission (FED-ECO). Malam Aminu Kano, the stormy petrel of Northern politics and leader of PRP cast around for a replacement.

A firebrand in his own right, Rimi was nominated by Malam Aminu Kano's earlier platform, the Northern Elements Progressive Union (NEPU), to stand as its candidate for election into the Federal House of Representatives in 1964. Rimi's radicalism was already evident even in those days; to silence him, the powerful Northern Peoples Congress (NPC) government threw Rimi in jail before the elections. The NPC candidate, Alhaji Inuwa Wada, was elected instead to represent the constituency.

So when a substitute for the disqualified PRP candidate Salihi Ilyasu was being sought, Aminu looked no farther than the resourceful Rimi.

With the much-needed support of Malam Aminu Kano, leader of the Talakawa, the coast was clear for Rimi to win a clean victory at the polls and become Kano State's first executive civilian governor in 1979.

Along with his then ideological soul-mate, Alhaji Abubakar Balarabe Musa, who also won on the PRP platform as Kaduna State governor, Rimi was a colourful but in-your-face politician who was headed for a clash with established order on account of the policies he promised to implement as governor.

Deploying the populist ideals of his mentor Malam

Aminu Kano, he abolished cattle tax and other low-level fiscal measures that both said were a yoke on the neck of the ordinary citizen.

But Rimi would have none of his mentor's pragmatism and simple and frugal lifestyles.

His lack of pragmatism brought into conflict with the feudal system he so much detested but knew so well he could not upstage. When he tried it, even he realised he had gone far enough.

Rimi was so confident that he had the masses behind him in whatever he chose to do; he ignored the fickleness of the political terrain of the time.

“It was a novel move, one that would have been revolutionary in the nation's electoral process if he had succeeded; unfortunately for

It was that confidence that drove him to break away from his mentor to go his separate way. It was that confidence that convinced him that even without the Malam's support and blessing, and without the PRP platform, he would win re-election in 1983. He joined Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe's Nigeria Peoples Party (NPP). To demonstrate that he was stickler for the law on procedure for elections, Rimi first resigned his post as governor in order to work for his re-election.

It was a novel move, one that would have been revolutionary in the nation's electoral process if he had succeeded; unfortunately for

Muhammadu Abubakar A light goes out

him, he was unsuccessful. He lost the election, and never got a second term. Later that year, the military struck in one of its rash of coups, seizing power from the civilians in December.

Rimi was virtually in the political wilderness and on the sidelines of national affairs, not playing any major role in the activities of the National Republican Convention (NRC) and the Social Democratic Party (SDP) of the period. That was until another coup that brought General Sani Abacha to power, after General Ibrahim Babangida stepped aside in 1993, following the debacle

ally), the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) that he turned to be able to have a footing in Kano State. Still his ideological dispositions brought him conflicts with the principal officials of the party, including the attempt by the party to amend the country's constitution and wangle a third term in office for then President Olusegun Obasanjo, a move that Rimi vehemently opposed, relentlessly for power shift to the north in 2007, and presenting himself as likely presidential candidate.

He briefly left the PDP as a result of the quarrel that ensued, and joined the Action

level move, one that would have been a primary in the nation's electoral process had succeeded; unfortunately for Rimi, it was unsuccessful. He lost the election, and never got a second term.

Over the June 12, 1992, presidential election, and the result of which the military had annulled. Abacha named him Minister of Communications.

However, while Rimi had a national outlook in politics, he acted locally, preferring to secure a strong base in Kano before venturing outside. Here, he encountered opposition in the return to democracy in 1999.

Despite his oft-stated disdain for political associations that he claimed oppressed the poor, for instance vowing never to be part of the defunct National Party of Nigeria (NPN) after leaving the PRP, it was to the NPN successor (at least ideologi-

Congress (AC) party.

Unabashedly pro-North without necessarily seeking to alienate other regions, Rimi never felt constrained to speak out against policies he considered retrogressive or not people-centred. He was unwavering in his quest to tell Nigerians that he had qualities that previous leaders had failed to use to advance the cause of the nation.

Restless, Rimi seemed to be everywhere at the same time. Because he possessed some intrinsic quality of frankness, Rimi would be at home discussing politics with Ndi'Igbo as he would in the south-west.

His sudden death, by heart



PAYING a courtesy visit to Emir of Kano Ado Bayero.



PRESENTING an award to Senator Sabo Bakin Zuwo, his successor who was honoured by the Kano state chapter of NUJ in 1980.

failure, on Sunday at age 70, was like a candle going out, and plunging the political

landscape into darkness.

He was brash, no doubt; perhaps even naive because

of his mercurial politics. He was also a colourful politician who brightened the political

space he occupied. It is a loss for the country, a greater loss for the North.

Business

Focus on micro credit

'I save N30,000 every month'

By Yunus Abdulhamid & Usman A. Bello

LUCKY Stephen is a 14 year-old shoemaker in Dutse Alhaji, an Abuja suburb about 20 minutes drive from the city centre.

He is smallish, obviously looking smaller than his age. His deft and dedication to his chosen trade never fail to attract the attention of passersby at the road side shop who watch him put leather pieces together into shoes.

Diminutive Lucky who hails from Minna, Niger State is in primary 5 at the Local Education Authority (LEA) Primary School, Dutse Alhaji. He goes to school in the morning and return at 1 pm before going to the shop. This has been his routine in the past three years.

He told *Daily Trust*: "I have been learning this job for three years. Although, I still have three years to complete my apprenticeship but I already know how to make shoes.

"I am learning this trade in order not to suffer in terms of employment when I grow up. I know when I become an adult; it would be difficult for me to concentrate to learn it."

His parents have separated. While the father lives in Minna, the mother who takes care of him now lives in Dutse-Alhaji. Lucky is the first of his mum's three kids.

"I will like to be a graduate but definitely do want to throw this job away. I hope to face my studies after the two years I have left here and later establish my own shoe-



LUCKY Stephen says he enjoys shoe making.

PIC: YUNUS ABDULHAMID

making factory," he said

smilingly.

Lucky's master is 28 years old Ejike Eze. He hails from Enugu State.

He spoke glowingly of Lucky who he said mans the shop on his behalf each time he travels. Sometimes, he is away for three to four days in Eastern Nigeria but Lucky is always able to cope with the pressure of customers and job demands.

Ejike also told *Daily Trust* of his humble beginning in the business of shoes making.

"I started with N4,000 as my working capital. My father bought me a machine of N10,000 which later crashed. But I was able to replace it from my earnings from the job.

He said he wanted to further his education after secondary school but lack of finance from his parents stopped him. He made the sacrifice

siblings to be able to go school.

Now, the sacrifice seemed to be paying off even though he still dreams of going back to school.

"I have plans to expand this business but there is no sufficient money for that now. I have younger siblings who depend on me for their financial needs, including school fees etc.

I am the eldest of my parent's children and I do not have other people to rely upon," he says.

The shop he opened four years ago is not faring bad.

"I used to make like N30,000 monthly on the average. That is not part of my expenses like accommodation and feeding. I get that fixed with the money I get from mending shoes for customers.

"For the new shoes I make, it takes me like

three days to cut the materials of 30 pairs into shape. Within four days, I will finish putting the parts together and are all ready for sale."

Buyers come in numbers. "Customers used to come and most of them are from Wuse, Kubwa and other neighbouring settlements. They buy for their personal use.

"Depending on the material I used in producing them, some cost N1,200 for a pair, others goes for N1,500 and even N2,500. It costs me like N700 to finish the type that I sell for N1,500. The N2,000 could cost me N1,200 to make."

He has some words of advice for unemployed youths: "Education is not everything we need. If I were in the shoes of educated unemployed youths, I would learn a trade thereafter, to put body and soul together."

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"I have plans to expand this business but there is no sufficient money for that now. I have younger siblings who depend on me for their financial needs, including school fees etc

Business

Focus on micro credit

I don't know anything about micro banks — Shoemaker

Suleiman Zubairu from Birnin Gado in Kano State is one of many able bodied youths that parade the streets to mend or shine people's shoes on a daily basis to make a living. In this interview, he bares his mind on his work and how he intends to take it to the next level.

By Sunday Williams

HOW do you feel with your work?

Well, even though I don't have a shop for now I'm happy going up and down doing my work. Some people relegate this work thinking that there is nothing in it. For instance, I have a friend that I'm staying with, he used to think negatively about the job until one day I showed him N10,000 from my savings and he couldn't believe me.

He begged me to borrow him something from that money but I refused and urged him to start something too. Now he is selling water in wheel truck and is happy with his life too.

How much do you make in a day?

In a good day, I make between N500 to N800. There is one of my friends who started like this but today he has a shop, has built a house in Kano and is living here in his house with his family.

How much does one need to start this shoemaking business?

For my kind of work that is going round the streets, you need like N3,000 to buy the necessary tools like brushes, different colours of polish, tool box etc, but if you want to operate from a shop, you may need N50,000 because you will need to rent a shop. On how I raised my capital, I did that by working jobs in construction sites and washing people's clothes.

Do you have a plan to rent a shop?

Yes. As I said my friend I told you about, you will make more money if you have a shop where people can be bringing their shoes for you to work on or you can even make some pairs yourself.

Do you know about microfinance bank?

No.

What request do you have for the government?

I want the government to assist me with at least N100,000 to rent a shop, buy some tools and employ those that are not doing anything.

What are your future plans?

I want to grow to the level that I will be able to own a shop. Part of my savings now is towards that because when you have a shop, you will make more money before one year. I also want to marry.

What are your challenges?

The only challenge in this our works is when you don't go out because once you go out, you will definitely get something.



SULEIMAN doing what he knows best.

I prefer being a bricklayer to a dressmaker — Catherine

By Yunus Abdulhamid

IN Dawaki, a small settlement which is fast expanding in the suburb of Abuja is a working place for Ms Catherine, a bricks layer who prefers her work to dressmaking.

After much persuasion, she agreed to speak to Daily Trust. She revealed to Daily Trust she is an orphan from the Tiv extraction of Benue State. Unlike some young ladies who would opt for prostitution, she decided to earn a living with brick making. Her parents died many years ago, she said. "I came to Abuja in search of money," she said.

Her name is Catherine (surname withheld). Her traditional name is Asula. Although, she declined to disclose her age, she looked to be in her early twenties. She stopped going to school when she was in Junior Secondary School 3, since 2003. That was when she could not find anyone to foot her bills at school.

On the average, "I make 300 to 400 blocks a day," she told this reporter. Each costs N13 to N15 depending on the sizes. All things being equal, Catherine makes the number of bricks that can fetch her some N4,000 to N4,500 daily.

She learnt how to make mud bricks from her immediate younger brother, Omoh. For the past one year, she has been doing this job every day,

she says.

Catherine still dreams of going back to school. Was there nobody, perhaps, an uncle or aunt who should have helped her through school? She said with emphasis: "Where I come from, they don't do that. Even now, if I can get the money, I will go back to school."

There are so many jobs out there that the female folks engage in. Although, it is not a taboo, but making bricks for the building of houses is certainly not one of them. What could have made this young lady prefer doing this job which requires physical strength to learning a trade like seamstress or hair dressing?

She said: "I prefer doing this job to tailoring. My State-Benue is the food basket of the nation and back in the village; I used to work hard in the farm. Doing this job is not so stressful for me."

This reporter observed a tiny swamp near the site where she gets water to mix the sands after they have been dug. Several other male folks doing the same job were in the vicinity working through the mud.

The patch of land where they excavate for sand before making them into bricks lay between Dutse-Alhaji and Dawaki, two Abuja suburbs that are getting close to merging as one with the rate of development.



CATHERINE at work.

Business



FROM left: Mrs. Elizabeth Adegbite, President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), Mr. Wale Tinubu, Group Chief Executive, Oando Plc and Mr. Bolaji Osunsanya during the institute's visit to Oando recently at the company's head office in Lagos.

'N40bn slash won't affect budget performance'

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

LAGOS state Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget, Ben Akabueze has said the N40 billion slash from the budget proposal presented to the State House of Assembly will not affect implementation of the 2010 budget.

Equally, the Commissioner said the year 2010 N389.571 billion Lagos Budgets will have input from the World Bank, although he did not disclose what the bank contribution would be.

However, Akabueze explained that the World Bank contribution to the budget tagged: "Budget of Consolidation" will be a catalyst for achieving the aims and objectives of the budget.

He said the state will continue to ensure better and more effective use of the Public Sector Budgeting module of the Oracle System as a strategic component of his Ministry's service delivery to ensure expenditure control and monitoring.

The Commissioner made the disclosure last week during an inter-ministerial Press Briefing to mark the third year of Fashola administration in Lagos. He said in 2009 the state had an ambitious programme designed to accelerate growth and directly confront poverty with budget size of N405.000 billion but succeeded in recording only 73% performance as at 31st December.

Avian influenza is not over — FAO

By Tina A. Hassan

THE Avian influenza pandemic is not yet over in Nigeria says the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO).

Chief Technical Adviser of the Emergency Centre for Trans-boundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) of FAO Dr. Tesfia Tsegai said this in Abuja during the launching of products from FAO-media fellowship project.

He said despite successes recorded in bringing the disease under control, Avian influenza can still be found in some very remote rural settlements.

The media fellowship project seeks to promote interaction between media persons, veterinary experts and the rural poor who interact with birds as part of everyday with a view to creating awareness on issues bordering on animal and human health.

"Media fellowship is about giving voice to ordinary Nigerians especially rural dwellers to talk to the media on their experiences with birds and Avian influenza," he said.

Country Representative of FAO in Nigeria Dr. Helder Muteia said many countries are still battling with Avian influenza but Nigeria has been able to bring it under control and has not recorded any new outbreak since July 2008.

Muteia observed that history has shown that successes must be recorded and properly managed for sustainability.

Media products that were launched included documentaries, in photograph, film and radio.

"There are documentaries that reveal the complex relationship between birds and their human neighbours, there are radio and television programs that reveal the immense contribution of birds to the livelihood of Nigerians and pictures as well," he said.

Participants visited selected communities across Nigeria affected by the disease and documented the experiences of the locals and cultural practices involving the use of birds in Nigeria.

Ten media persons were awarded fellowship certificates after participating in the project.

Oil now over \$85

UNITED States of America crude futures hit an 18-month high yesterday, climbing towards \$86 per barrel on expectations of faster-than-expected economic recovery and increasing demand for fuel.

Data on Friday had showed U.S. employers created jobs in March at the fastest rate in three years. Non-farm payrolls rose 162,000, only the third increase since the U.S. economy fell into recession in late 2007 and the largest since March 2007.

U.S. manufacturing is also expanding at its fastest pace for more than five years, while Chinese manufacturing is picking up and Japanese business sentiment is also improving.

U.S. crude oil for May delivery rose to \$1.02 per barrel to a high of \$85.89 in early Asian trade before slipping back to around \$85.37, up 50 cents. The market was closed for a three-day weekend including the Good Friday holiday.

U.S. crude has risen almost 2 percent in the first five days

of the quarter, versus a rise of 5.5 percent through the whole of the first three months of the year.

Brent crude rose 40 cents to \$84.41 per barrel.

The strong payrolls, positive manufacturing data and signs of rising fuel demand are all likely to support oil prices and cement crude in a new, higher range, analysts say.

Last Thursday, crude oil settled at \$84.87 after upbeat U.S. economic data signalled better oil demand ahead, prompting fund buying as the new quarter began.

In industry news, U.S. Tesoro Corp said on Sunday crude oil intake at its Anacortes, Washington, refinery was down to about 70 percent of its 120,000 barrel per day (bpd) capacity after a deadly explosion and fire on Friday.

Sustained demand for gas oil have triggered a surge in buying of crudes with high yields of gas oil and diesel in the Asia-Pacific market as demand led by Chinese buyers absorbed May-loading supplies. (Reuters)

NAFDAC shuts down fake 'pure water' factories in Zaria

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

THE National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) has sealed six water production plants in Zaria for producing and selling unregistered packaged water to unsuspecting members of the public.

The Kaduna State Unit Head of the Agency, Mr. Innocent Ahemen who disclosed this to newsmen said the closure was as a result of the failure of the owners of the plants to register with the agency and maintain stipulated rules of sachet water production.

"The raid was facilitated by the Agency's surveil-

lance operation. Our staff swung into action leading to the arrest and closure of the illegal water production outfit that have refused to register with the Agency," he explained.

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Business

Focus on micro credit

Nigeria to get special regulators for micro banks

By Idris Ahmed

THE Central Bank of Nigeria is working out modalities to get special and competent financial firms to regulate the activities of the over 800 Microfinance Banks in the country, a source in the CBN told *Daily Trust*.

This is because the Microfinance Banks have lost focus and therefore needed to be refocused and closely monitored so that they can lend money to operators of small businesses in the rural, semi-urban and urban centres, the source said.

Some operators of Microfinance Banks have accused CBN

of not doing enough to educate people on the differences between Cooperative Society and MFBS, saying many Cooperatives operate like MFBS and depriving them of customers.

But CBN said operators of MFBS lost focus.

"When they were commissioned, CBN and a German firm wanted to collaborate and train them but some people who did not have genuine interest to operate Microfinance Banks infiltrated the system", the source said.

He said operators of MFBS are not expected to go about with big cars to market their products, "but when the fake operators entered them they took the business off their hands."

"Central bank is considering a new option to deal with this. CBN is thinking of outsourcing regulatory power to competent firms to regulate and monitor the Microfinance Banks", he said.

On the allegations that CBN is not compelling state governments to remit one percent of their annual budget to Microfinance Banks as stipulated by the CBN, the source said that CBN cannot force the states to do that.

"What CBN is using is moral suasion; it cannot compel states to pay the one percent to the Microfinance. It is supposed to be a counterpart funding. CBN is meeting with the state governors to discuss the important of this with them", he said.

I don't believe in microfinance banks — Petty trader



CLOTHES at the drycleaner's.

By Tina A. Hassan

MICROFINANCE banks are obviously not popular among petty traders and small scale businesses contrary to the purpose for which they were established.

Mr. Emmanuel, (second name withheld) is a business man who runs a laundry shop in Dutse, Bwari Area Council in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). He says he does not patronize microfinance banks because he does not believe in any of them.

Asked why he would not approach any of the micro banks for finance to boost his business, he said his experience in the past in the hands of the Federal Government has made him not to trust any organization when it comes to financial support.

He said the government

had made him spend the little money he had under a lie that they were conducting capacity training workshop for low income earners with promise of equipping them after the program but in the end, nothing came out of the training instead they were extorted of their money and their time was wasted.

"They promised us heaven and earth that after the training we would get equipment but at the end of it, nothing happened," he lamented.

He said major challenges facing small businesses are the start-up capital which largely depends on the type of business.

"As a normal human being, the first challenge is that of capital especially in an environment like the one I am in now. There are lots of difficulties in keeping the

business going.

"Another big challenge that we are facing now is that of power because as I am working now, I have to use a generator throughout the day's work and this is because our country is not balanced.

"I spend not less than N2,000.00 every day on diesel and the washing machines are very expensive going, which for as high as a hundred thousand naira. This is apart from the detergent I use and the dryer which cost as much as N110,000.00."

Mr. Emmanuel explained that most of his customers owe him because they usually give their clothes to be washed on credit and many of them are slow in paying up their debts so he has to wait until they pay.

Because most small

businesses do not actually get money from microfinance banks, some of them say they resort to small contributions from family members and other business partners and they are forced to form small groups to source for money as a local corporative.

Salisu is a secondary school graduate and a small business owner who dispenses Petrol to fellow businessmen like tailors, salon owners, restaurant operators among others, he joined the business of selling fuel.

Narrating his experiences and what led him to selling the product, he said he hails from a poor family in one of the northern states and after he completed his secondary school education, there was no money to further his education so he had to go out and fend

for himself as well as send money home from the proceeds of the business.

Another business owner Tijjani who works in an aluminum shop explained that he started learning his trade after his secondary school because there was no one to sponsor his education.

He said it is very difficult to start a business if you don't have enough capital especially if you are from a poor home because nobody would be willing to support you or borrow you any money.

"I am lucky that since I started my business, I have not had any problem with any of my customers even though there is a school for this type of my business, I did not go, but I learned from my Oga before I started my own and no bank has given me any money."



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FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT SECRETARIAT

Kapital Road, Area 11, PMB 24, Garki, Abuja Nigeria

INVITATION FOR TENDERING EXERCISE OF 2010 STATUTORY PROJECTS IN THE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT SECRETARIAT

(a)

The Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) through the Agriculture and Rural Development Secretariat [ARDS] has provision in the FCT 2010 statutory budget and which in the part or whole of it for the procurement of the under listed projects.

Reputable and competent Contractors/Suppliers are hereby invited to submit tender (Technical and Financial) for these Projects;

GROUP A WORKS

- I Construction works and provision of Access road to FCT Fishing Festival Village at Yaba
- II Construction works and Provision of infrastructure in the FCT Fish Farm Estate at Bwari
- III Construction of four earthen ponds and four concrete fish tanks in the four Zones of FCT-ADP
- IV Completion of Construction Works and Provision of Infrastructure in the FCT Fish Farm Estate Kwali
- V Rehabilitation of Wash Bores in the Gurara flood plain
- VI Construction of Water Borehole for Plant Nursery sites for Fruits and Vegetable Development Programme
- VII Barbed Wire Fencing of Plant Nursery at Bako
- VIII Forestry Nursery Development (Renovation of Dilapidated Nursery Sheds) at Bako, Bwari, Kuje and Karshi.
- IX Provision of additional Infrastructure to the Area 11, hatchery (Access Road, Channelization etc)
- X Establishment of Farm Centre at Bwari (Including Fencing of the Center, Construction of Admin. Block, Construction of Gate House, Secondary Production Centres etc).
- XI Construction of Nursery Shed Green House at Bako

GROUP B GOODS

- I Procurement of Drugs, Vaccines and Working Materials for FCT Livestock Mass vaccination and treatment campaign
- II Procurement of Veterinary drugs and Equipments
- III Procurement of Fogging Machines and Utility Vehicles
- IV Procurement of a small Capacity rig (Hydra drill)
- V Procurement of Equipment for brown sugar processing in FCT-ADP/SFGRAD Collaboration programme
- VI Procurement of Demonstration Equipment for Women in Agriculture
- VII Procurement of Abattoir Sanitary inputs/Equipments
- VIII Procurement of Fisheries inputs
- IX Re-Request of livestock Management inputs (feeds and equipments) under the Strategic National feed security programme
- X Avenue Plantation of Trees along the 27km Iugbe – Airport Road and 40km Kubwa – Zuba Express Way.
- XI Milk Bulking and Processing Programme in FCT.
- XII Procurement of Fogging Chemicals
- XIII Procurement of Inputs for Out – Grower Seeds Multiplication
- XIV Procurement of Materials for Skill Acquisition Programme.

GROUP C CONSULTANCY SERVICES

- I Re-Survey Works for Internal Routes and Block Demarcation (Blocks B and C) at Paikon-Kore Graving Reserve Gwagwalada
- II Stock Assessment Survey (Baseline Survey) of Lower Usuma Reservoir in Collaboration with National Institute for Fresh Water Fisheries Research (NIFFR)

(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR TECHNICAL BIDS

Prospective companies with proven capability, relevant experience and good track records must forward copies of the following pre-qualification documents. (All originals are to be made available for sighting during the Tender Opening).

- i. Evidence of Registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)
- ii. Articles and Memorandum of Association of the company including company profile (name, address, telephone numbers and e-mail address).
- iii. Tax Clearance for the last three years and VAT Certificate.

- iv. Interested companies should have up to date returns with CAC, and be inform that due diligence could be conducted.
- v. List of verifiable documentary evidence of similar jobs successfully executed within the last three (3) years including letter of awards, completion certificates and evidence of payments received.
- vi. Evidence of company's Audited Account for the last (3) years from a qualified Accounting Firm.
- vii. Sworn affidavit in line with provision of section 16 sub-section 6 (e-b) in the Public Procurement Act. 2007.
- Viii evidence of remittance of contributory pension dues in line with section 16 sub- section 6 (d) in the Public Procurement Act. 2007.

GROUP "A"

All interested companies in "Group A" must in addition to the above general requirements provide;

- i Comprehensive list of equipment to be used for the project and state whether the equipments are leased, hired or owned including relevant evidence.
- ii List of key Personnel/Officers to be attached to the project stating their Roles, Designation, Qualifications and experience. Enclose endorsed photocopies of professional certificates of the respective officers where applicable.

GROUP "C"

All interested companies in Group C must in addition to the above general requirement provide the CVs of key personnel stating their professional qualification, working experience and any relevant information.

(c) COLLECTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS:

Prospective tenderers are requested to obtain tender documents from **Due Process Unit of Agriculture Rural Development Secretariat, Area 11, Garki – Abuja**, upon presentation of evidence of payment a of non-refundable Tender Fee as prescribed below:-

Fidelity Bank (CBD) FCT Treasury Account No. 051503010000426:

- i Construction Projects N10,000,00 [Ten thousand naira only].
- ii Supply/Consultancy Services projects N5,000.00 [Five thousand naira only].

(d) SUBMISSION

The Technical and Financial documents should each be sealed and labeled (Technical and Financial bids as appropriate) separately, and the two envelopes be put in another envelop that should also be sealed and labeled as appropriate indicating the name of the project. The Tender documents (financial bid) should be submitted in three [3] copies [one original and two other copies] and all copies are to be duly endorsed by the bidder. The document is to be dropped in: **The Tender Box at the Office of the Secretary, ARDS Tenders Board, Room 053, Engineering Block Annex, Area 11 Garki, Abuja, not later than 10th May, 2010.**

The representatives of the bidding companies are invited to witness the opening of the tenders on the same day at 10th May, 2010.

Please Note:

- i All submissions must be specific and clearly state area of interest.
- ii Non-compliance with our written guidelines may lead to disqualification of the tender.
- iii Only pre-qualified companies shall proceed to the next procurement phase.
- iv Late submissions will be rejected
- v Prospective bidders are required not allowed to bid for more than one project in each of the group above and to ensure that their Technical submissions are arranged serially as requested above.
- Vi ARD Secretariat is not bound to accept the lowest or any other tender.
- Vii Members of the Civil Society organization are invited to attend the opening. They are however to abide by the Code of Conduct issued by the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP)

Signed
Management

DIGEST

MS sufferer treated with bee stings

SAMI Chugg, 45, was diagnosed with MS in 1998 and it slowly began to attack her ability to move.

The incurable disease stops the body's nerve cells communicating and she was soon so ill she was permanently bed ridden.

Sami, a charity worker from Bristol, was plagued by numbness and she could barely walk or leave her room.

But she is now back on her feet after trying a treatment called Bee Venom Therapy (BVT).

The treatment involves holding a bee in a pair of tweezers and deliberately stinging an area of skin on the patient's body.

Experts believe the venom in the sting helps ease the pain of MS symptoms and also stimulates the body to fight back.

Sami says she was stung around 1,500 in eighteen months and says it has given her her mobility back.

She said: "When I started the BVT I couldn't get out of bed or get out of my room - it was really grim.

"Most people would be terrified by the prospect of being stung by a bee. But when you have a condition like MS, that involves the numbing of the body, any kind of sensation is welcome - even if it's from a bee sting.

"You use a pair of tweezers and get hold of a single bee. Then you

gradually desensitise your body to the sting by injecting it in and out of your skin a few times.

"You have to build it up slowly - you start with two, then four, then six. Ten to 14 was my average for each session.

"It had an immediate effect because it has a kind of psychological, mental effect. I used to feel elated for about two hours after the treatment."

Bee Venom Therapy, or Apitherapy, uses the stings of live bees to relieve symptoms of MS such as pain, loss of coordination, and muscle weakness.

Researchers suggest that certain compounds in bee venom reduce inflammation and pain and a combination of all its ingredients helps the body to release natural healing compounds.

The alternative treatment remains unproven by evidence-based medicine but it has been used to treat other wasting diseases and arthritis.

The therapy begins gradually as the body needs to be desensitised to the stings, but eventually multiple bees are used at one time and are left in the skin for up to 20 minutes.

Sami was treated twice a week and was stung at least 1,500 during her 18-month course of the treatment.

She said: "There are three loca-



A multiple sclerosis sufferer has treated her debilitating condition with a course of 1,500 bee stings.

tions we used for the stings, above the shoulders, the middle back, and then the lumbar area. It's all centred around your spine.

"It's changed my life and my approach to life. It is manna from

heaven."

Multiple Sclerosis is a disease in which the fatty myelin 'sheaths' around nerve cells are progressively damaged leading to a variety of symptoms including pain

and physical and mental disability.

Sami now campaigns for the "Safe Land for Bees" project working to raise awareness of the decline in bee populations.

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

Men aged 60 have highest self esteem

RICH married men who are approaching retirement have the highest self esteem, scientists have discovered.

Researchers found that confidence is lowest amongst young adults, but increases with age until it peaks around sixty.

However, after this, retirement and failing health cause a decline in self regard, researchers said.

The study looked at 3,617 American men and women aged 25 to 104 between 1986 and 2002, and rated how their self esteem changed during this period.

Women were found to be less confident than men, only catching up in confidence when they got to their 80s or 90s.

Those with better education, income, health and employment status were also likely to report higher levels of self esteem, especially as they age, the study found.

And those in happy marriages also had higher levels of self esteem.

Study leader Ulrich Orth said: "Specifically, we found that people who have higher incomes

and better health in later life tend to maintain their self-esteem as they age.

"We cannot know for certain that more wealth and better health directly lead to higher self-esteem, but it does appear to be linked in some way.

"For example, it is possible that wealth and health are related to feeling more independent and better able to contribute to one's family and society, which in turn bolsters self-esteem.

"Self-esteem is related to better health, less criminal behavior, lower levels of depression and, overall, greater success in life.

"Therefore, it's important to learn more about how the average person's self-esteem changes over time."

The study, published by the American Psychological Association, asked participants to rate their agreement with statements such as "I take a positive attitude towards myself", or "At times I think I am no good at all" to measure their level of confidence.

They were also asked about their ethnic background, education, income, work status, and relationship satisfaction, as well as whether they had experienced stressful events, such as losing a parent or child.

Black people and white people were found to have similar self esteem until they reached old age, when black people were more likely to lose confidence.

People in happy relationships had higher levels of self esteem, but also experienced the same drop in confidence when they passed sixty as those who were in unhappy relationships.

Study co-author Kali Trzesniewski said: "Although they enter old age with higher self-esteem and continue to have higher self-esteem as they age, they decline in self-esteem to the same extent as people in unhappy relationships.

"Thus, being in a happy relationship does not protect a person against the decline in self-esteem that typically

occurs in old age."

The researchers claim that that the peak in confidence around the age of sixty was due to feelings of security and stability.

Researcher Richard Robins said: "Midlife is a time of highly stable work, family and romantic relationships. People increasingly occupy positions of power and status, which might promote feelings of self-esteem.

"In contrast, older adults may be experiencing a change in roles such as an empty nest, retirement and obsolete work skills in addition to declining health."

But he added that thanks to medical advances, people may remain healthier longer, and be able to work for longer as a result.

He said: "It is possible that the decline in self-esteem might occur later in life for baby boomers."

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

Sign Language



Just push, oops, PUSH to open
Photo location: North Beijing shopping centre, by Steve Kyte
Culled from telegraph.co.uk

SUDOKU

The Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 square grid made up of smaller 3x3 square grids (regions). The numbers already present within the puzzle are "given"- these are there to start you off. The aim is to complete the puzzle by filling the empty cells. Every digit from 1-9 needs to fit in each row, column and region of 9 squares. Each row, column and region must contain just one instance of each number, 1-9.

121

								4
		3	7					2
	5	8		1				7
	7		8		5			
5		1	9	3	6	4		8
4				8		6	1	
	8				7	5		
2								

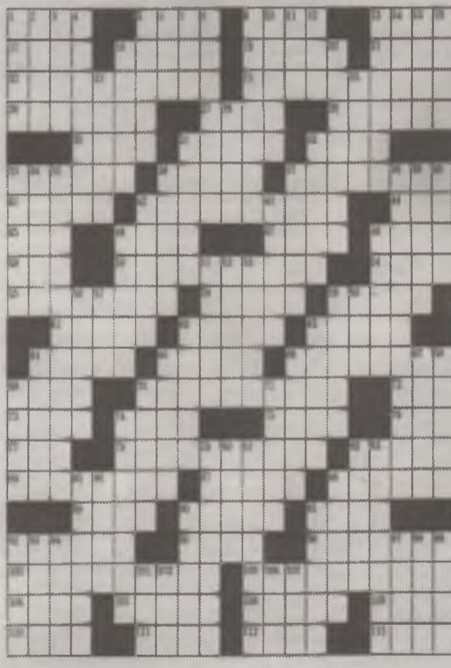
Solution to Sudoku 120

3	4	7	2	1	9	6	8	5
2	9	5	8	6	4	3	1	7
6	1	8	5	3	7	2	4	9
7	8	1	9	4	2	5	3	6
9	5	3	1	7	6	4	2	8
4	2	6	3	5	8	9	7	1
5	3	4	6	8	1	7	9	2
1	6	9	7	2	3	8	5	4
8	7	2	4	9	5	1	6	3

EASY CROSSWORDS

25

- ACROSS**
- 1. Gulp down
 - 3. Marsh bird
 - 9. High up
 - 12. Flap: slang
 - 17. 1847 South Sea adventure
 - 18. Exotic figure
 - 19. Spirals strongly
 - 21. Parroted reply
 - 22. Top brass prison: 2 wds.
 - 24. Conference menu: 2 wds.
 - 26. Helm permeage
 - 27. Idyllic spot
 - 28. Fabricator
 - 30. Secluded
 - 31. Blush in hue
 - 32. Overhaul
 - 33. Resource you can't give in person
 - 36. Mango exporter
 - 37. Cricket term
 - 41. In parts
 - 42. Penthouse?: 3 wds.
 - 44. Eskimo kate
 - 45. Robert Morse role
 - 46. Lasted
 - 47. Intermittent periods
 - 48. Discharge
 - 49. Sphere
 - 50. Child prodigy: 2 wds.
 - 54. Attaches (a codicil)
 - 55. Tree layers
 - 58. Wickwork branch
 - 59. Coastal driver
 - 61. Europe-Asia boundary
 - 62. Obstructions
 - 63. Horn-shaped structure
 - 64. Humus
 - 65. Taming
 - 66. Fishing pro
 - 68. Pen pal?
 - 70. Trendy tab?: 3 wds.
 - 72. Group of French vineyards
 - 73. Frontier post
 - 74. Wined
 - 75. Bulldog band
 - 78. Pillar, e.g.
 - 77. Bug without antennae?
 - 78. Weary womanizer?: 3 wds.
 - 82. Turn aside
 - 84. The Roof of the World natives
 - 87. Souppon
 - 88. Curious humor
 - 89. Ralls
 - 90. Ingle object
 - 91. Orange-red gem
 - 92. Comes to mind
 - 95. Trail left by a ship
 - 96. Bamboozed
 - 100. Magic mix?: 2 wds.
 - 103. Jitter?: 3 wds.
 - 106. Hamburg's river
 - 107. African outcrop
 - 108. Place in the 1836 news
 - 109. Escapade
 - 110. Saags
 - 111. Fishes for grubs
 - 112. Weaving pattern
 - 113. More
- DOWN**
- 1. Short cuts
 - 2. Skip
 - 3. Theater box
 - 4. Draved (off)
 - 5. Buffalo athlete
 - 6. Bruin greet
 - 7. King, at Cannes
 - 8. Like a scruff
 - 9. "Run -!"
 - 10. Dramatic device
 - 11. Wrangle
 - 12. Cry of pain
 - 13. Incoerciveous beast
 - 14. Sorrow (for)
 - 15. Astir's strength
 - 16. Broadcast
 - 18. Proxy holder
 - 20. Instigates
 - 23. Fettering chains
 - 25. Arabian stream bed
 - 28. Research compilation
 - 31. Gluts
 - 32. Laughing
 - 33. Some saxes
 - 34. Yankov sign
 - 35. Spurn bar snacks?: 3 wds.
 - 36. Sylvan males
 - 37. Blow away
 - 38. Forging buddy?: 2 wds.
 - 39. Leave out
 - 40. Road features
 - 42. Spread array
 - 43. Entertains
 - 46. Integrated system
 - 48. Accrue, as interest
 - 51. Son of Osiris
 - 52. Missouri tributary



Solution to Easy Crosswords

24

S	L	A	G	C	H	U	G	S	C	R	A	M	C	A	L	M	S	
L	A	R	A	H	O	N	E	P	A	U	L	A	A	B	O	I	L	
I	N	A	D	V	A	N	C	E	A	S	S	A	Y	P	I	N	T	
T	A	B	I	N	G	A	A	N	T	E	M	E	R	I	D	I	E	
B	O	G	P	A	I	N	E	O	R	A	T	E						
S	W	I	L	L	E	D	T	R	E	S	B	A	D	M	A	N		
H	O	M	E	S	O	C	H	E	R	A	P	R	I	L	O	V	A	
E	M	M	A	B	L	O	O	D	L	U	R	I	D	P	R	A	M	
B	E	E	R	I	O	U	S	C	O	D	E	D	G	E	N	I	E	
A	N	D	H	O	R	N	C	H	O	I	C	E	R	A	I	L	S	
I	B	I	S	T	R	A	I	P	S	E	W	A	R	N				
C	L	A	R	E	A	D	O	R	N	S	D	R	I	B	G	A	M	
L	U	T	E	S	G	O	O	D	S	F	I	A	T	A	S	T	O	
A	C	E	D	G	A	W	K	S	S	I	N	G	S	S	T	O	P	
N	I	L	B	O	R	N	E	S	U	R	G	E	S	S	H	A	N	E
G	E	Y	S	E	R	D	O	W	S	E	S	P	H	E	R	E	S	
U	R	G	E	D	T	O	A	D	S	I	A	N						
D	E	L	I	B	E	R	A	T	I	O	N	T	A	L	K	T	I	E
E	M	O	T	E	O	R	I	O	N	E	A	R	L	Y	B	I	R	D
E	I	D	E	R	S	E	N	S	E	S	I	N	E	A	M	M	O	
D	R	E	S	S	E	D	G	E	D	P	R	O	D	T	E	A	M	

News Extra

Eugene Terre'Blanche killing – white supremacists vow revenge

President Jacob Zuma tries to calm racial tension as far-right group ramps up language of race war

A white supremacist group in South Africa on Sunday vowed to exact revenge for the death of their leader as the country's president, Jacob Zuma, sought to calm growing racial tensions.

Eugene Terre'Blanche, leader of the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB) movement, was found bludgeoned and hacked to death on Saturday at his farm in Ventersdorp. Two black farm workers involved in an apparent wage dispute were arrested at the scene.

The AWB has since ramped up the language of a race war. Its spokesman, Andre Visagie, said: "The death of Mr Terre'Blanche is a declaration of war by the black community of South Africa to the white community that has been killed for 10 years on end."

Visagie warned other countries to avoid sending their football teams to the World Cup in June as they would be travelling "to a land of murder". He added: "We will decide upon the action we are going to take to avenge Mr Terre'Blanche's death."

The AWB accused Julius Malema, leader of the youth wing of the ANC, of having blood on his hands. It blamed the killing on the



EUGENE Terre'Blanche at a meeting with the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging movement in 1994.

recent apartheid-era protest song proclaiming the words "shoot the boer".

Malema expressed fear that his life was at risk, citing a right-wing conspiracy. Last week the

ANC said it was concerned about a text message in circulation which appeared to offer a bounty for his death. The ANC has defended the song as no more than a way to remember a history of oppression, but a party spokesman told the *Guardian* it would now re-examine the issue in the light of recent criticism.

On Sunday at Ventersdorp, in South Africa's North West Province, AWB followers clad in paramilitary khaki laid flowers at the gate of Terre'Blanche's farm.

South Africa's *Sunday Times* reported that the 69-year-old was killed by two farm workers who

claimed that he refused to pay them their monthly salaries of 350 rand (£32) each. The workers, aged 21 and 15, reportedly smashed a window to enter Terre'Blanche's home and killed him with a knobkerrie (wooden club) and a panga (broad-bladed knife). A police source told the *Sunday Times* the pair alleged Terre'Blanche had threatened to kill them when they went to his farm for their money. "They claim they killed him in self defence," the officer said.

The men, who were said to have waited for police to arrive and arrest them, are due to appear in court today.

The killing sparked fierce debate on race relations in a country where white farmers have become increasingly vocal, claiming thousands of them have been murdered since the end of white minority rule in 1994.

Last month former president F W De Klerk wrote to Zuma warning that Malema was creating an increasingly febrile mood. He said: "All this is beginning to create a volatile atmosphere in which any additional intemperate statement or action might spark an unfortunate incident."

Frans Cronje, deputy director of the South African Institute of Race Relations, said: "It could be an explosive case, especially if the ANC don't back down."

Zuma appealed for calm following the "terrible deed". In a statement he asked South Africans not to allow "agent provocateurs" to take advantage of the situation by "inciting or fuelling racial hatred".

Jackson Mthembu, an ANC spokesman, also denied any causal link between the "shoot

the boer" song and the murder of Terre'Blanche. But he also appeared to shift the party's position: "The ANC is prepared to look at whether it is appropriate to continue singing it in this manner. We will ... look at what we can do."

Songs of protest

Many songs in South Africa refer to the armed struggle against apartheid. During last year's election campaign Jacob Zuma sang Umshini Wami (Bring Me My

The men, who were said to have waited for police to arrive and arrest them, are due to appear in court today

Machine Gun). The song Ayasab' Amagwala (The Cowards are Scared) rose from the conflict between exiled African National Congress guerrillas and white farmers defending the land.

The song raised controversy in 2002 when a crowd chanted "kill the boer, kill the farmer", at the funeral of Peter Mokaba, an ANC Youth League leader. It became contentious again when Julius Malema led a rendition. Its lyrics include: *aw dubul'ibhunu* (shoot the boer) *dubula dubula* (shoot shoot).

Culled from guardian.co.uk

PIC: AFP

Eugene Terre'Blanche's life and times

31 January 1941 Born in Ventersdorp.

1973 Founds the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging party (AWB).

1980 Registers AWB as a political party, Die Witvolkparty (White People's party).

1983 Stands trial on terrorism charges, receives a suspended sentence.

1989 Accusations linking Terre'Blanche with journalist Jani Allan cause a schism in AWB. The scandal scuppers his intention to run as a political candidate.

1991 Charged with assault of an elderly black man at a farm near Ventersdorp.

1993 Convicted of public violence and fined 10,000 rand (£910), for sparking a riot in 1991 that led to three deaths.

1997 Sentenced to six years for the attempted murder of his black security guard, Paul Motshabi, who was beaten in March 1996, and of assaulting gas station attendant John Ndzima by setting his dog on him.

1998 Appears before South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), accepting responsibility for an AWB bombing campaign during the 1994 elections that killed 21.

1991 Granted amnesty by the TRC over his role in the 1991 riot, and for tarring and feathering a professor in 1979; features in Nick Broomfield's controversial documentary *The Leader, His Driver and the Driver's Wife*.

2000 Serves five months of his one-year sentence for the attack on Ndzima

2001 Jailed for the attempted murder of Motshabi after his appeal fails.

2004 Released from jail after serving half of his six-year sentence; comes 25th in a TV poll of great South Africans.

2009 Announced plans to apply to the UN for an independent Afrikaner republic.

3 April 2010 Killed at his farm outside Ventersdorp.



THE bed where Eugene Terry'Blanche was killed.

News Extra

More than 100 Chinese miners trapped for a week in a flooded shaft have been pulled out alive yesterday, in what was described as 'one of the most amazing rescues in the history of the industry'.

There were loud cheers from the hundreds of rescue workers who had raced to save them and almost given up hope, with a spokesman for the team describing it as a 'miracle'.

A live state television broadcast counted off the number of survivors brought above ground - 114, as of 2:15 p.m. local time, 6.15am GMT - as miners wrapped in blankets were hurried to waiting ambulances and onto nearby hospitals.

The sudden surge in rescues was a rare piece of good news for China's mining industry, which is widely regarded as the deadliest in the world.

'A miracle has finally happened,' said rescue headquarters spokesman, Liu Dezheng, after the first nine miners were taken out shortly after midnight.

'We believe that more miracles will happen.'

The stream of survivors started about two hours later and rescuers burst into tears and hugged each other.

'This is probably one of the most amazing rescues in the history of mining anywhere,' said David Feickert, a coal mine safety adviser to the Chinese government.

The miners were on their eighth day underground when rescuers were finally able to reach them.

As the wave of rescues began, state television said rescuers were preparing to pull as many as 70 to 80 miners out of the mine, though conditions underground remained complicated by high murky water. A total of 153 workers had been trapped.

Families of the survivors were thrilled when the men finally emerged.

Long Liming, who received a call from his rescued brother-in-law Fu Ziyang, said: 'He called and managed to say my sister's nickname, 'Xiaomi,' so we know it's really him and that he's alive.'



FAMILY members grieve as they await news of the miners still trapped

More than 100 Chinese miners pulled out alive

...A week after being trapped in flooded mine

A doctor then took the phone and said Fu had to rest, Mr Long said.

'He was trapped underground for so long, so he's very weak. But we are very relieved to know that he made it out safely,' he added.

The first rescue early yesterday had seemed beyond hope for days before crews finally heard tapping from deep underground on Friday.

The miners had been trapped since March 28 when workers digging tunnels broke into a water-filled abandoned shaft. Rescuers then scrambled to understand the complicated situation underground. Some workers appeared to be trapped on upper platforms of the mine by a

v-shaped shaft that was swamped with water.

The challenge had been to pump out enough water to even enter the mine safely.

Divers who entered on Saturday afternoon came back within a couple of hours, saying the black, murky water made reaching the platforms very difficult.

It was unclear yesterday how deep into the mine the rescued workers had been found.

'The miners in the lowest levels will be in the most extreme danger,' said Mr Feickert.

'Just think of a tall building, with people on different floors, if that suddenly filled up with water.'

Some of the soaked miners had hung from shaft walls by

their belts for days to avoid falling into the water when asleep.

Hundreds of rescuers were underground with hopes that glimpses of swinging lights and new tapping sounds meant even more survivors could be found.

Mr Liu said the first batch of nine rescued miners were in a stable condition.

The state-run Xinhua News Agency said all nine were conscious and could say their name and hometown, but their bodies had suffered from being soaked for so long. Television footage showed at least one miner was brought out barefoot.

Liu Qiang, a medical officer involved in the rescue, said the survivors had hypothermia, severe dehydration and skin

infections from being in the water so long. Some were also in shock and had low blood pressure. China Central Television said one of the newly rescued workers was still holding his mining lamp when he was brought out.

A preliminary investigation by the State Administration of Work safety last week found that the mine's managers ignored water leaks before the accident.

China's coal mines are the world's deadliest.

Accidents killed 2,631 coal miners in China last year, down from 6,995 deaths in 2002, the most dangerous year on record, according to the State Administration of Coal Mine Safety.



RESCUERS clap as a survivor is brought from the flooded coal mine in China yesterday



MEDICS get to work on a survivor. Many were suffering from hypothermia from being in the water for so long

News Extra

Baby in car seat burns to death after being placed on cooker

A five-month-old baby burned to death after being placed on top of a cooker that accidentally switched itself on.

Chase Finch was asleep in his car seat when he was placed on top of the electric cooker's glass top surface.

While the two adults in the house in Newton, Iowa, chatted outside, one of the burners switched on and set the plastic car seat on fire.

The child burned to death within minutes.

The horrific details of the accident were revealed by U.S. authorities after they said no charges will be brought against the adults looking after the baby.



THE five-month-old baby burned to death after he was placed in his car seat on an electric cooker at this address in Newton, Iowa

An eight-month investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives determined that the control for the cooker knob could have been bumped into the 'on' position by the car seat being placed on top of the cooker.

Many American cookers have the controls on a panel at the back of the burner, while most in the UK have front mounted controls.

The tragedy occurred last August when Jason Barton, 29, brought the baby back to his home.

He had been asked to look

after the newborn boy by his ex-wife Bonnie Barton, 27.

He placed the baby on top of the cooker as there was a dog in the house and didn't want the animal bothering the sleeping baby.

Barton went outside to chat with his friend Brandon Avila.

Avila told investigators: "Jason looked up at the window and saw that the blind had fell. We kind thought the dog had did it or something, and then I saw it had completely fell, and I'm like, 'Oh

While the two adults in the house in Newton, Iowa, chatted outside, one of the burners switched on and set the plastic car seat on fire. The child burned to death within minutes.

my God."

"Jason bolted toward the door, went inside and when he came back out, the smoke just came rolling out.

"He was freaking out, saying, 'The baby! The baby! The baby! There's fire! The baby's on fire!'"

Forensic experts recreated an exact model of the kitchen using the same cooker to see what would happen when they placed a similar car seat on its top.

When placing the infant seat there, investigators discovered that the knob that controlled the left rear burner could be bumped into the on position.

They also simulated a rocking motion - similar to movement by a child in the car seat and that motion also caused the knob on the left rear burner to turn on.

Investigators determined that contact between the seat and knob most likely turned on the stove and that once the seat was in place, it completely obscured the knob and all indicator lights, which could have provided a clue that the burner was on.

The recreation of the fire revealed that the seat took five minutes to become completely engulfed in flames.

In announcing no charges would be filed in the case, police described the baby's death as 'an unfortunate accident'.

All the president's emails: Michelle Obama, David Axelrod, Joe Biden

In a unique experiment in democratic transparency, Barack Obama - a BlackBerry owner, and the first American president to use email while in office - has agreed to copy G2 in on his otherwise highly confidential electronic communications. Each week, we present a selection from recent days:

To: Michelle Obama <first-lady@whitehouse.gov> Subject: Re: Are you . . . OK? You seemed weirdly light-headed at breakfast

Ha, yes, I'm fine, I promise. Just sort of . . . giddy, you know? We pass the biggest social reform in a generation and then, WITHIN DAYS, like some sort of thank-you gift from heaven, it's revealed that the Republican National Committee spent almost \$2,000 at a lesbian-and-bondage themed nightclub in Los Angeles. AND then that they

sent out a fundraising newsletter accidentally urging donors to call a phone sex line. You know, just occasionally, I actually *like* this job... xxB

To: Michelle Obama <first-lady@whitehouse.gov> Subject: Re: Re: Are you . . . OK? You seemed weirdly light-headed at breakfast

Oh, man, wait, it gets even better! Turns out Sarah Palin's new "interview" show on Fox News is in trouble for trying to use re-purposed footage from some



other interview with LL Cool J, presumably because she couldn't be trusted not to ask him why he'd decided to "do that whole being African-American thing", or suddenly break out into a rap about Jesus being patriotic, or

something. I feel like celebrating. First I'm going to challenge Axelrod to a basketball game, which is always hilarious, and then - cocktails? xxB

To: David Axelrod <davi-

daxelrod@barackobama.com> Subject: Re: Re: basketball

Jeez, what a stick-in-the-mud. OK, how about this: we'll have a 30-minute conversation about potential legal challenges to healthcare reform, and our continued efforts to sell it to a sceptical public, and *then* I'll destroy you on the court. OK? Barack

To: VPOTUS <joe.biden@whitehouse.gov> Subject: Re: I gotta say . . .

Hey now, Joe, let's not get carried away. Yes, the launch of the iPad probably *is* a "big fuckin' deal", but please don't imagine that the surprisingly affectionate response to your healthcare gaffe last week gives you licence to throw the f-word around. And while we're on the subject of technology: we need to have a word about your use of Chatroulette. We've been getting complaints from the public. My office, five minutes' time? BHO.

ENVIRONMENT environment@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079

Climate change: 'Big trouble ahead'

By Nasir Imam

CLIMATE change has been described as real and the beginning of the worst to expect because even if today all the greenhouse gases are stopped, it will take the next 50 years before we start seeing its impact.

Dr. Victor Fodeke, Head, Special Climate Change Unit, Federal Ministry of Environment, Abuja, said in the next 50 years scenario if all the greenhouse gases

were stopped, the temperature will increase and will be about 2.5 degrees above the pre-industrial era and that are not a good thing for the world.

"Climate change is an ecological emergency. The emergency is here right now. You can see that many flights were cancelled in Lagos and many parts of the country last week. Lake Chad is fast dwindling and it may dry up. We have seen that the rainfall that we expect is no longer falling.

"It is clear to us now in Africa that the climate system has changed. It's been said that the consequences are going to be worse on Africa and even West Africa is going to be far worse. And Nigeria is going to be far worst hit.

"So, from the impact we are seeing now, it looks as if climate change catastrophe is here. Climate change is an ecological emergency. The emergency is here right now," Dr. Fodeke said.



THOUSANDS of cars, many of them still roadworthy, are stored at Thurleigh airfield in the United Kingdom

Perfectly driveable vehicles waiting to be scrapped

SITTING nose to tail on a disused airstrip, these cars form a tiny part of the massive backlog of vehicles destined for the scrap heap.

The number standing idly on the runway has swelled to around 14,000 as mechanics struggle to cope with the popularity of the UK government's scrappage scheme, which ended last week.

The former airfield in Thurleigh, Bedfordshire, is one of a number of 'holding areas' packed with vehicles sold through Lord Mandelson's £400million incentive scheme.

Under the policy, manufacturers matched the £1,000 per car put up by the Treasury - giving customers a £2,000 saving on a new vehicle.

The £28million haul will eventually be sent to a licensed scrappage yard where the

cars' oil and petrol will be removed and parts recycled before the shells are crushed.

Almost all of the 400,000 vehicles sold through the scheme are still roadworthy and many could be driven for another five years, according to experts.

However, the vast collection --which includes a fine range of BMWs, Volvos and Peugeots - must be destroyed under the scheme's rules.

The effects of oil spillage

By Mustapha Suleiman

FUNDAMENTALLY an oil spill is the release of liquid petroleum hydrocarbon into the environment on account of human activity as mentioned bef. Oil spill is one of the foremost ocean pollution causes and even though there are oil spills on land, the term oil spill is mostly associated with marine oil spills. The oil can be of any type, like crude oil, by-products of refined petroleum products or the refined petroleum products themselves like gasoline or diesel fuel. Oil mixed in waste or oily refuse is also spilled in the ocean. Recently it has become a serious environmental issue because of its impact on the environment. Therefore, here is more on oil spills in the ocean.

Oil spills in the ocean is totally hazardous as oil has substances which are harmful for marine life. Just as there are oil spills on land, which affect the soil, oil reaching the ocean bed is not actually a very good occurrence. Read on to find out more about oil spills in water bodies.

Ondo oil palm consultants sacked

From Leye Adewumi, Akure

ONDO State Government has terminated the contracts of the consultants; Messers Modell Consultants and Mogaji Consultants employed by the Olusegun Agagu's administration to manage the state owned Araromi-Ayesan and Okitipupa Oil Palm Company.

The State commissioner for Commerce and Industry, Mr. Akin Akingbesote who disclosed on Thursday in Akure said the running of the once booming oil palm companies into debt of close to N1 billion had occasioned the sack.

Akingbesote had assured that efforts were on by the present administration in the state to turn around the fortunes of the companies and make it viable as envisioned by its founding fathers.

He said that Modell Consultant, which was hired by the last administration to transform the company, has not done anything meaningful to justify its retention, rather it had embarked on recklessness in its handling of the companies, thereby leading the Okitipupa Oil Palm PLC to incur a huge debt which is now threatening to make the company to go under.

Private sector invests N6bn on Lagos waste mangt

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

THE Lagos State Waste Management Authority [LAWMA] has said that over N6billion has been invested by private sector in the management of waste in the state.

Managing Director of the agency, Mr. Ola Oresanya, who disclosed this at a

Waste to Energy Roundtable in Lagos last week, said the development was a pointer to the fact that the private sector is doing enormous work in managing waste in the state.

He said the state government would not rest on its oars in providing an enabling environment that would leverage the private sector to continually invest in turning

waste in the state to gold.

According to him, the state government cannot create wealth out of waste alone without forging partnership with the private sector.

The LAWMA boss who said waste disposal vehicles in the would wear a new look in June due to the partnership with

the private sector, also disclosed that his agency has taken its campaign on clean environment to neighbouring countries like Ghana, Republic of Benin and Sierra Leone.

He said other states in the country like Ogun, Edo and Akwa Ibom have also benefited from this campaign in recent time.

Environment



environment@dailytrust.com

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'Legal system, challenge to hawking in FCT'

By Usman A. Bello

THE Director Abuja Environmental Sanitation Board (AEPB), Dr Shehu Abubakar Yabo, in this interview speaks on the challenges militating against effectively cleaning the city and how the board intends to solve them

arrangement to also open a place in Dei Dei so that whoever that want to hawk can go there and hawk freely without being arrested. There is enough space for them to carry out their trade but hawking in the streets of Abuja will not be allowed.

Going round the city, you see excreta all over the place, how do you hope to solve the problem?

Almost on daily bases, I have been complaining and campaigning against taxi cab in the city. Most of them don't have places to

sleep so they sleep in their vehicles by the side of the road defecating and urinating indiscriminately all over the parks. That is a dangerous trend and we should not allow it. Am calling on the residents to help the board because we can't do it alone

and we have no capacity to cover the entire city. We have signed a memorandum of understanding with a company under Public Private Partnership (PPP) to build additional 100 toilets in the city and by the time we have that in place,

there will be enough toilets to go round the districts and it will be solve. Now the available toilets are not enough but that does not means somebody should be rude and un-ruling. We are doing all within our reach to ensure that the trend is stop.

What are your major challenges in renewed efforts to stamp out hawking and other nuisance in the city?

The challenges I am facing at the moment in the fight against hawking is the newspapers vendors and car wash operators at various junction in the city. Like I said earlier, any kind of trading by the junction will not be allowed in the city because it is very dangerous and most of them have been knocked down while running after vehicle. So that was why we decided to put a ban on hawking by the junction including Newspaper vendors, AMAC motorist ticket's officials and other kind of trading. We asked Newspaper vendors revert to the locations identified for them and be selling there and that if they are not enough, they should go to bus stop but they keep selling at the junction. We allow them to operate at the bus because it convenient, safe and better security wise.

Arresting hawkers and destitute seems not be effective in the fight against them. What is responsible for that?

Many factors are working negatively against our efforts in that regards. First, the legal system is not helping our fight against them in the sense that we would arrest hawkers and arraigned them before a mobile court and the court will only fine them N1,000 or N2,000. This situation does not in any way help our course or deterred them from coming back to the street. As soon as they paid the fine, they will go back to hawking the next day. Some of them have been arrested and arraigned severally. However, poverty is also a factor but we don't have to allow illegality because of poverty. A situation where people came from sokoto, Eboyi, katsina, Akwa Ibo and other states to hawk and begin the city will not be tolerated because it is illegal.

How do you hope to solve the problem?

We intend to open more markets in the city so that traders can have a place to sell their goods without restriction. And not only that, we are working with a company under Public Private Partnership (PPP)



MY CONSTITUENCY LEGACY



Constituency legacies are those humanitarian projects initiated, implemented and bequeathed to the deserving communities as related to our elected political office holders. As the nation draw closer to another elective year, it becomes imperative that lawmakers will be taking inventory and account for the stewardship of services they rendered to uplift the well being of their people. As it affects the federal lawmakers, quite a good number have demonstrated kindness and generosity vis-a vis their electioneering promises. They are trailing the blazing of good representation through provision of constituency projects and contribute to debates, bills and other sundry issues of national importance.

To celebrate our National Assembly representatives, **Media Trust Limited**, the publishers of *Daily Trust*, *Weekly Trust*, *Sunday Trust* and *Aminiya* newspapers, is packaging a special project on the above subject [MY CONSTITUENCY LEGACY]. The aim is to applaud and highlight the contributions of individual lawmaker who has demonstrated kindness to his/her people. Given the foregoing, federal lawmakers are invited to participate in the project as a way of showcasing their contributions [Constituency projects] executed to the admiration of their various constituencies.

For participation/enquiries, please contact :

Leke Adelere on 08059100282

Lilian Tanimola 08052377534.

The date of publication is from Monday, May 17 to Saturday, May 31, 2010.

Thank you as we anticipate your participation.

Management

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Gombe State Government of Nigeria

OBITUARY

With gratitude to the Almighty God for an eventful and exemplary life, His Excellency, Alh. (Dr.) Muhamma Danjuma Goje (Sarkin Yakin Gombe), Governor of Gombe State, on behalf of the government and the entire people of the state, wishes to commiserate with The Senate President, His Excellency, Sen. David Mark GCON, members of the National Assembly and the entire Nigerians over the demise of Distinguished Senator (Barr.) Tawar Umbi Wada whose sad event took place on Wednesday, 31st March, 2010 after a brief illness.

The Late Senator Wada's steadfastness and the contributions he rendered in moving our state and, indeed Nigeria forward will remain indelible in our minds.

We pray that the Almighty God in his infinite mercies will grant repose to the soul of the Late Senator and give his family the fortitude to bear the loss. The citizens of Gombe State and, no doubt, all Nigerians will forever remember the late Senator Tawar Umbi Wada's invaluable contribution to the development of Nigeria's democracy and the progress of our people.

SIGNED

Abubakar Sule Bage

Secretary to Gombe State Government



LATE SENATOR (BARR.) TAWAR UMBI WADA
SENATOR, GOMBE SOUTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT



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Executive Governor, Kwara State
Chairman Governors Forum of Nigeria

Chief Host
Rt. Hon. Gabriel Suswan
Executive Governor, Benue State

Date: 12th - 15th April 2010 Summit
Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm daily
15th April 2010 Award Night
Time: 6:00pm
Venue: College of Medical Sciences Auditorium
Benue State University Makurdi



Hon. Agbar Emmanuel
Zonal Chairman North Central
08627517772, 08627463334



Gombe State Government of Nigeria

Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Raji'un

On behalf of the Government and people of Gombe State, His Excellency, Alh. (Dr) Muhammad Danjuma Goje (Sarkin Yakin Gombe) Governor, Gombe State, wishes to commiserate with The Senate President, His Excellency, Sen. David Mark GCON, Members of the National Assembly and all Nigerians over the sudden death of Distinguished Senator Kawu Peto Dukku, whose sad event took place on Friday, 2nd April, 2010 after a brief illness.

Late Senator Kawu Peto Dukku had been a symbol of unity, peace and political accommodation in Gombe State in particular and Nigeria as a whole.

Late Senator Dukku's contribution to the promotion of democracy and the delivery of democratic dividends to the citizens of Gombe State and Nigeria as a whole will forever remain ever-green in our collective memory. May Allah (SWT) grant his soul eternal rest in AL-JANNAT-FIRDAUSI, AMEEN.



LATE SEN. KAWU PETO DUKKU,
(SENATOR, GOMBE NORTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT)

SIGNED

Abubakar Sule Bage

Secretary to Gombe State Government

CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513
email: citynews@dailytrust.com

13-year-old girl found wandering in Abuja

By Misbahu Bashir

A 13-year-old girl, Shamsiyya Jibrin, was yesterday morning seen wandering aimlessly along Obafemi Awolowo road at Utako, Abuja, in a hungry state.

The girl told our reporter that she works for a woman, who cooks food at Utako Motor Park and hardly feeds well.

According to her, she absconded from her mistress restaurant because of the suffering she undergoes working from sunrise to sunset without food.

She said her parent is in Ara village in Keffi Local Government of Nasarawa State and was brought to Abuja by her mother to work as a domestic help for the woman six days ago.

"The woman says I eat too much food and don't do enough work, hence she gives me little food but this morning before I left, she gave me a cup of Akamu which is not enough for me," the girl said.

The girl disclosed that she was in a primary school at home before her mother brought her to Abuja to work for N150 per day.

"We came to Abuja last week for



SHAMSIYYA Jibrin at Utako yesterday.

a naming ceremony in my uncle's house in Idu Karmo and I was left in the care of a woman," she said.

A policeman, who was touched by the girl's story, took her along with the reporter to trace the uncle called Abubakar.

The uncle admitted that his sister, who is the girl's mother, attended a naming ceremony in his house and left for Ara two days ago.

"I am not aware that the little girl was left in Abuja," Abubakar

said but the police at Idu Police Outpost informed him to bring the girl's mother to them today so that she can collect her daughter.

The police also vowed to investigate the complaint of hunger by the girl.

Bwari traders complain of market site

By Hussein Yahaya

TRADERS at the Bwari weekly market yesterday complained of lack of lock-up stores in the new market sites along SCC road in the outskirts of the town.

Our reporter learnt that officials of Bwari Area Council had directed the traders to move from the old market site to the new one with a promise to provide them with lock-up shops as soon as possible.

Some of the traders said the council has not shown any sign that they will fulfil their earlier promise to build the shops soon.

Most of them expressed fear that the market site will be difficult to trade in during the rainy season, adding that rain will destroy their goods.

A trader, Aoudu, said he might likely stop coming to the market once the rain starts.

He said most traders have gone back to their former shops in the old market because of the open nature of the market.

On her part, Mrs. Jane Bitrus called on the council authority to fulfil their promise by building shops in the market.

The press secretary to Bwari Area Council chairman, Daodu Dasha, had earlier promised that the new market will be provided with the necessary facilities when completed.



CHILDREN at a sporting event in Abuja recently.

'One chance' gang robs woman on Easter day

By Ogechi Ohalee

A lady identified as Shade was on Sunday night robbed of her money and belongings along Jabi road, Abuja by men inside a private vehicle that was used for commercial purpose (one chance).

The lady who were in tears, said she entered the vehicle from Area one to Kado, adding that the car stopped at Jabi.

"One of the passengers in the car brought out a dagger, while another snatched her bag and I was asked to come down of the vehicle, waving and with a smile on my face," she said.

The lady said when she tried to refuse, one of the passengers slapped her across the face, while others pushed her off the vehicle and she sustained bruises.

Commercial drivers, who rushed to her aid, were seen advising her not to enter unpainted cabs again.

Trader charged with inciting disturbance

By Usman A. Bello

THE police recently arraigned a 42-year-old trader, Ikechi Maduako, before an Abuja magistrate for allegedly inciting the public against a public officer on duty.

Police prosecutor, Francis

Tanko, told the court that the accused of Block B6, shop 14, Wuse Market, mobilised people from the market, who tried to attack Festus Ngboimman, a policeman, when he went to the market for official assignment.

He said during the scuffle, the

accused person's brother, who is presently at large, slapped the policeman, while the accused aided him to escape.

When the content of the First Information Report (FIR) was read to the accused, he pleaded not guilty and requested for bail,

which was not objected to by the prosecutor.

Magistrate Aminu Ari granted the accused bail in the sum of N100,000 with two sureties in like sum.

The case was adjourned to April 28 for hearing.

Cab drivers complain of low patronage

By Hussein Yahaya

TAXI operators spoken to in the Federal Capital Territory yesterday complained of low patronage during the Easter celebrations.

Some lamented that their businesses were greatly affected as many residents travelled out.

A cab driver, Mr. Nuhu Aliyu, said the situation became bad on Friday and Saturday, as many residents remained indoors, making business dull for taxi drivers.

"Even on Sunday, when many people came out to catch their funs at various

parks, there was no business as many of the fun seekers came with their vehicles," he narrated.

Michael John, another cab driver at Bwari, said he went to town on Friday and made only N700 after buying fuel, compared to the N6,000 he makes on a normal day.

However, commercial bus drivers viewed the situation slightly different as some of them said they had to reduce transport fares by about 40 percent.

Mr. Azeez Sanni said buses drivers were forced to reduce their fares because of scarcity of passengers.

CORRIGENDUM

RE- BORNO STATE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND RURAL ELECTRIFICATION (invitation for tender)

In the advert with reference above which appeared in the Weekly Trust of 3rd April, 2010, Page 12, we erroneously wrote:

1. 150AH batteries for Social lights
2. 120AH batteries for Social lights

The specifications should have been:

1. 150AH batteries for SOLAR lights
2. 120AH batteries for SOLAR lights

The errors are highly regretted.

-Management

VACANCY! VACANCY!! VACANCY!!!

An Indigenous Healthcare and Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Company with more than 40 products range invites credible and target oriented Applicants for the following position:-

1. AREA MANAGERS:- (EASTERN STATES)
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3. SALES CANVASSERS:- (NATIONWIDE)
4. ACCOUNTANTS:- FOR OFFICE OF
i. Internal Auditor ii. Credit Control
5. DRIVER MECHANIC (LAGOS)

QUALIFICATIONS

For Position 1

B.Sc Biological Sciences, Social Sciences or any field of study with passion for Sales of Pharmaceutical products.
*Ability to deliver on set targets * Not more than 30years of age.

For Positions 2 and 3

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Social Sciences or Chemistry.
*At least 1 or 2years experience in Marketing & Sales, evidence based performance in Pharmaceutical products is an added advantage.
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*Maths, *Banking & Finance, Business management with 3 years experience.
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Must resides in Alimosho L.G.A.

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All candidates must be Computer Literate, Valid Drivers License.

Method of Application:

Interested applicants should forward their detailed application within 2weeks from the date of this publication to :

E-mail :- pharmavacancy@yahoo.com or P.O.Box 133, Ibeju, Lagos.
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

'Abuja airport road expansion now 20% complete'

By Nasir Imam

THE Federal Capital Development Authority's (FCDA) Director of Engineering, Sylvester Ugonabor, has disclosed that Lot 1 of the Abuja airport road expansion project is already at 20 percent completion, while lot 2 is at 12 percent.

Engr. Ugonabor stated this during an inspection tour of ongoing projects in the FCT by members of FCDA's board.

He said provisions would be made

for four service roads of about 4 kilometres by May 2010 in order to take care of traffic while construction work lasts.

According to him, part of the project would be the provision of pedestrian bridges for people to use in crossing the roads and barriers put in place on the roads to ensure that pedestrians make use of the pedestrian bridges.

The contractor lamented to the board members that he had been saddled with some challenges, including

resettlement and relocation of villages, telecommunication cables and masts which had contributed in slowing the pace of work.

In his remarks, the board's Chairman on infrastructure, Chief Olisah Metu, expressed satisfaction with what they had seen on ground and assured the contractors that the board would work tirelessly to ensure that budgetary allocation for the projects is not tampered with, as funding has been found to be a major challenge.



REVEREND Father Michael Gokum and other parish members during a party at SS Peter and Paul Catholic Church Nyanya on Saturday.

FCT residents list demands from new minister

By Hussein Yahaya

RESIDENTS of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) have started to make their demands from the new minister of FCT, whose name is expected to be made public this week.

A survey conducted by our reporter yesterday showed that many residents want the incoming minister to embark on the rapid transformation of satellite towns within the terri-

tory as well as rehabilitating roads in Karu, Nyanya, Kubwa, Bwari among others.

Some residents also spoke on the needs to pay more attention to the on-going road expansion projects on the Kubwa-Abuja expressway and Airport road.

Other residents talked about employment opportunities for youths and called on the minister to ensure that both Aso FM

radio and television station are back on air.

Mr. Saka Umoru, a civil servant, advocated for basic infrastructures in satellite towns.

He lamented that previous FCT administrations paid little or no attention to developing satellite towns in the territory, noting that much of their efforts are targeted at the city centre where only the rich lives.

"Most satellite towns lack good roads, good

health care facilities, potable water, stable electricity and good accommodation," he added.

Mr. Jude Joseph called on the new minister to closely monitor contractors handling major road expansion projects so that they hasten work to stop traffic jams experienced daily.

Other respondents spoke on the need to improve on security in the territory and to pay more attention to public schools.

HEALTH REPORT

Fresh onslaught against maternal mortality in Sokoto

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto.

WORRIED over maternal mortality in Sokoto State which has so far claimed the lives of many women, the government has launched renewed onslaught to save women.

Statistics put maternal death rate in north-western Nigeria at 1,025 per 100,000 live births, which made it imperative for the concerted efforts to fight the scourge in the region.

The streamline the scourge, a retreat was held for government officials from various sectors of the state to impact them with leadership skills and technical capacity to design and implement social policy especially in maternal health in sokoto.

The participants, at the end of the retreat were convinced that a multisectoral approach was necessary in addressing maternal mortality in Nigeria.

The retreat was organised by Kano-based Development Research and Project Centre, (DRPC) which believes that developing leaders in maternal and child health would go a long way in addressing the maternal health challenges.

For some of the participants who initially felt their official duties had no relationship with maternal health, the retreat served as an eye opener.

They not only acknowledge how much they have been inspired to contribute their efforts towards checking maternal health challenges but were also set to map out individual and collective strategies towards combating them in their different capacities.

One of the retreat facilitators, Malam Umar Kawu, a Lagos based Independent Management consultant pointed out that as key government officials who are central in the planning and implementation of policies, it is valuable to build their capacity on leadership and maternal health so that they would serve as 'messengers' of maternal health in their official capacity and at individual levels.

Therefore, the selection of the participants from different sectors other than health alone was a delib-



NO woman should die giving life: Spread the news

erate attempt to ensure that information about the maternal health and its challenges is widespread.

"Maternal mortality is everybody's problem. You cannot isolate those in health alone to address the problem. Everyone must come to address the challenges", Kawu who took the participants through transformational leadership skills said.

Another facilitator at the retreat, Malam Abubakar Sokoto of the National Institute for policy and strategic Studies, (NIPSS) says emphasis is on positive change in the prevailing maternal health situation and calls for collective acts of transformation in that direction.

"We need to work as a team to address this problem and for team work to succeed, people must work together," he states.

Also Dr. Sagir Saleh of the Faculty of Medicine, Bayero University, Kano who facilitated the session of 'Applying transformational leadership to maternal health problems of Sokoto' adds "we require a holistic approach

to solving maternal health challenges and problems. That is why we included everybody here."

He emphasized, "Maternal health is a great issue that concerns each and every one of us. Women who die from pregnancy and childbirth are our mothers, sisters, daughters, wives, relations, neighbours friends, etc."

Maternal mortality, Dr. Saleh points out is a public health problem. A human rights issue, not a problem of health workers alone"

He notes that Nigeria accounts for 10 percent of global estimate of maternal mortality, even as he says the estimates of maternal deaths are under reported by as much as 50 percent because most deaths often go unreported.

While the national ratio for maternal mortality in Nigeria is put at 800/100,000 live births, the ratio by zone show that Northeast has the highest, with 1,549/100,000 live births followed by northwest 1,025/100,000, southeast 286/100,000 live births and southwest 165/100,000 live births.

Dr. Saleh also presents child mortality profile in the country at about 201 children who will die by the age of 5 for every 1000 live birth.

He notes that the risk of dying from pregnancy related cause is 1 in 1,750 for developed countries, 1 in 870 for East Asia, 1 in 90 for Latin America and 1 in 24 for Africa.

Saleh who describes maternal mortality as the most important indices for development in any society says "it means that we are not putting more into development."

According to him the death of a woman increases the risk of losing the children twice over.

Several factors responsible for maternal mortality include lack of antenatal care, inadequate skill attendant at delivery, non availability of obstetric emergency care and Family Planning.

Other causes which Dr. Saleh categorised as distant or indirect include Illiteracy, poverty, harmful cultural practices, low status of women, poor health services

organization, poor health funding, transport difficulties, inadequate infrastructure, social disorganization.

Dr. Saleh harps on the need to address factors which lead to maternal death.

These he itemized to include lack of adequate information about maternal health, cultural practices that restrict women from seeking healthcare, quality of care, inaccessibility to access health facilities, poor citing of the health facilities, poor road and communication networks.

Others are poor community support, inadequate personnel and equipment, lack of motivation of staff, among others.

But what are the prospects for increasing access to reproductive health service?"

Dr. Saleh suggests there should be baseline data and that Programs should address community concerns.

His words, "program should be designed in line with the cultural and religious beliefs of the people

Implementers must show respect for culture, religion and even the language of the target community."

He also points out the need to involve the community from the onset of any program as well as religious and traditional leaders and ensure, programme sustainability.

It is essential to encourage integrated reproductive health services in health care facilities, Saleh adds just as he says it is also crucial to address issues of education for all, especially of the girl-child, economic empowerment (women), child survival, capacity building, and the youth.

The message is that all hands should be on deck to win the war against maternal mortality.

"Let's join our hands together to provide Safe motherhood.

If we act now, hundreds of thousands of women's lives will be saved, millions of disabilities averted, hundreds of thousands children's lives saved and billions of naira in productivity gained," Sagir siad.

Ministerial nominees: Ignore NMA, lab scientists tell Jonathan

By Ruby Rabi

CALLS by the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) for acting president Goodluck Jonathan to nominate a doctor to serve as the health minister has being described as unnecessary by medical laboratory scientists in Nigeria.

Addressing news men at the weekend the president of the Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists of Nigeria (AMLSN), Mr Manason Rubainu, said the NMA was trying to mislead the president on nominating a competent person to direct the affairs of the ministry

of health.

According to him, such misconceptions are partly responsible for depriving Nigerians of their constitutions rights because some individuals are trying to achieve their selfish interest.

"The call that the minister of health must be a doctor is most unfortunate. It is unnecessary and does not serve any useful purpose for the health of Nigerians.

"It only serves a parochial interest that has made the ministry of health less useful to the health of Nigerians. It is only in the ministry of health that you can have 44 grade level 17 officers and its okay."

He pointed out that it is the unprofessional and non administrative skills of doctors that has jeopardize the health system and brought it to such ruin, since they are unable to manage issues pertaining to policy implementation as well as administrative issues.

Rubainu also accused the ministry of health of disregarding government policies with impunity saying, "it is the only agent of government that puts circulars aside with impunity and appoints directors without consulting the civil service commission."

He urged the acting president to ignore calls by NMA saying they were baseless and diversionary.

TRANSPARENCY MOVEMENT

PLOT 7 DR. YUSUF YUNUSA ROAD, MALALI GRA KADUNA

DANGER : EFCC UNDER REMOTE CONTROL !

The most disturbing development in the much-touted "moving forward" from the Yaradua to the Jonathan era is the steady reversing of several of the distinguishing policy thrusts that gave Nigerians hope of better governance. The deliberate decomposition of the of the Yaradua Administration Presidency in the name of giving the Acting President his own team when he is only supposed to be holding fort reeks of sadistic opportunism in high places. No wonder what we have today is an acting president listlessly dancing to the discordant tunes of a host of powers-behind-the-throne united in a mad rush to literally loot the Presidency of all its juicy powers and patronages as quickly as possible. Along with their "lucky" lackies, they are now the only ones satisfied with the generally disappointing first outings of the Jonathan Acting Presidency.

While the politicians continue to haggle and jostle their ways into the lucrative lee-ways opened by the acting presidency, our concern as patriotic Nigerians must be to do whatever we can to protect the gains of the Yaradua Administration from the reckless revisionism of the Jonathan Acting Presidency. In particular respect for rule of law and the unprecedented independence of the EFCC in investigating and prosecuting highly placed looters witnessed under President Yaradua's watch must not be left to the bargaining powers of the entrenched power-brokers openly controlling the affairs of the nation today. Already there are disquieting indicators of a sinister slide-back into the OBJ style EFCC which was nothing more than a hunting dog for settling presidential scores. Nuhu Ribadu is even on his way back!

And it is on the subject of Nuhu Ribadu's imminent return to head the EFCC that we must raise a shrill alarm against the background of the current EFCC leadership's pitiable distress call to the nation that it no longer enjoys the confidence of the powers that be today in Nigeria and are now at the mercy of well-connected politicians and murderous thugs intent on reversing the impressive gains in the anti-corruption war witnessed under Farida Waziri. It is a known fact that Nuhu Ribadu stained himself by becoming a willing tool in former President Obasanjo's vindictive hands, most notoriously against former Vice-President Atiku Abubakar and other targeted politicians. It is also beyond contention that his replacement with Farida Waziri effectively closed that obnoxious chapter and renewed our confidence in the EFCC's ability to go after big crooks and get them handcuffed and docked. President Yaradua had no sacred cows and even warned top government functionaries that they were on their own once caught in EFCC's net. He made real his commitment by not interfering in the case of Chief Olabode George his enviable Director General of his Campaign organisation.

Nuhu Ribadu has been on the run outside the country since his master's exit from the Presidency and remains a fugitive in several cases against him by his former employees and other regulatory agencies of government. But none of these indicting circumstances bothers those who have made it known that they will get him back into the EFCC because they are now in charge in Nigeria. And if any doubt exists about their influence and

determination it has been officially erased by the recent decision of Jonathan Goodluck's Attorney General to withdraw charges filed against Ribadu by the Code of Conduct Bureau. This has left even ardent pro-Jonathan activist like lawyer Festus Keyamo seething with anger and disappointment. How can Nuhu Ribadu challenge anyone's innocence, when he too was shielded from imminent conviction by presidential fiat? Over the weekend it was confirmed that Nuhu Ribadu is now Acting President Jonathan's "Special Adviser on Anti-Corruption, Good Governance and Sundry Matters". This is nothing but a bare-faced blatant abuse of power in furtherance of the agenda of reverting the EFCC to the Ribadu days. We can bet Ribadu will be most active in the ominous "sundry matters"!

We have it on impeccable authority that the same strategy of naked interference with judicial processes in the prosecution of corrupt personalities by the EFCC has been applied to the on-going prosecution of former Sokoto State Governor, Attahiru Bafarawa. The powers behind the Jonathan acting Presidency have discreetly told EFCC prosecutors to tread softly in their bid to enforce the revocation of bail of the former governor and to slow down the tempo of the proceedings. It has since emerged that the use of thugs by the former governor to thwart EFCC's legitimate re-arrest of Bafarawa outside a Sokoto High Court after his bail had been revoked by the court was also part of the game of breaking the rule of law and turning the EFCC into a Presidential Lapdog. Those behind these subterranean schemes were citing security reasons for their directives to the EFCC as if the issue of condoning corruption and interfering with judicial process is not the greatest threat to the stability and security of the nation.

We have found it necessary to draw public attention to these emerging trends under the agenda of paralysing the EFCC's current leadership in its marvellous demonstration of capacity to bring Nigeria's notoriously untouchable "big-men" to book. And its all being done with an eye on the 2011 elections in the grand design to use the EFCC to witch-hunt political rivals and foes of the powerful but sinister politicians calling the shots in Jonathan's acting presidency, while shielding their cohorts from due justice for their past misdeeds. We appeal to the EFCC's prosecutors to be as courageous and firm in upholding the national interest in all their activities to check the corrupt cabals in Nigeria, irrespective of the clandestine pressure on them. Let them use the immunity of an open court to expose those trying to remote-control them into abdication of their professional responsibility as officers in the temple of justice with an uncompromising commitment to seeing that justice is done and seen to be done. Nigerians must be vigilant in monitoring and exposing the descent into the depths of corruption, naked abuse of power and entrenchment of unpatriotic interests in the corridors of power currently on display in Nigeria. It is a responsibility we neglect at the expense of the future of our children and their hopes for enjoying the long-denied benefits of good-governance through upholding tenets of rule of law at all times and on all calibre of persons as well as the war against corruption in high places being admirably waged by EFCC under Mrs Farida Waziri.

Signed:

UMAR FARUK
GENERAL SECRETARY

STEVE ABAR, ESQ
GENERAL COUNSEL

Inside Politics

In Katsina, we're all Yar'adua's political family – Sen Ida

SENATOR Ibrahim Ida represents Katsina Central in the Senate. In this interview with newsmen in Abuja, he speaks on the situation of President Umaru Yar'adua as well as the leadership of Acting President Goodluck Jonathan. Excerpts:

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

AS the Senator representing President Umaru Yar'adua's zone in the Senate, people will want to know from you about his present condition.

It is true that the President took ill on the 23rd of November last year. He flew to Saudi Arabia for medical treatment and was there for quite a while until recently when he returned to Nigeria. Since then, he has been at the Presidential Villa recuperating and the information available to me indicates that he is getting better. Our hope is that in a matter of few weeks he will be well enough to be accessible to the leadership and subsequently to Nigerians. That is the position as I know it.

Don't you think his inability to transmit a vacation letter to the National Assembly has created difficulty for the country?

I think we have gone through a very trying period. The constitutional provisions were made not for decoration but to be put into use. The non transmission was never intended to create the kind of confusion we witnessed. We are all human; we are likely to make certain mistakes and I think we should see it in that perspective. We should also appreciate that we now have an Acting President. Yar'adua is a President in abeyance while we have an Acting President who is performing functions of the President. What we need to do now is to support the Acting President and pray for the quick recovery of the President so that he can resume work. Let us not forget- we try to make it look as if there are two governments. It is the same ticket under the same party. When Yar'adua returns, he will simply go into his office and things will continue.

One thing we should understand is that Yar'adua did not become sick by choice. And each one of us could be sick and

the moment Section 145 became operative, as it has, then the question of invoking another Section of the Constitution does not arise. Section 145 gives latitude until such a time that the President is well enough to return. 145 does not have a time frame, therefore when some of our colleagues attempted to raise that issue again, the Senate told them clearly that as far as we are concerned President Yar'adua is on medical vacation.

What do you make of the situation when the Acting President set up an Advisory Council and dissolved the cabinet put in place by Yar'adua?

Right now, the Acting President is responsible for his actions from the time he assumed office until he leaves. He is responsible for what happens so what he does, whom he works with are within his powers to decide. The law does not preclude him from doing these things. I am not convinced that he is doing it to prejudice the return of Yar'adua. That is my personal opinion. I believe this is the way he wants to do it within the period he is in charge as Acting President. Meanwhile, President Yar'adua is there and as soon as he gets well and comes back, it is left for him to change the cabinet again or work with the new people he is coming to meet. And if he feels that PAC has no purpose, he will disband it. Within the period the Acting President is in office, he has the latitude to do it the way he wants to do it. As individuals, we have different ways of doing things. I believe the man [Jonathan] acted in good faith.

To what extent has the President's indisposition deepened the crisis within the PDP in Katsina State?

The whole PDP political machine is based on the Yar'adua model and leadership. He ruled Katsina from 1999 to 2007 and he put up

the political structure that is on ground. He has been the political leader and he remains so. Now, each one of us, and I say this across the board, is where he is by the grace of God and by his being a part of the Yar'adua group in the PDP. But as humans, even when he was there, there were disagreements amongst us.

In every political environment, there are disagreements. In our case you hear of disagreements between some people operating in Katsina State and some people operating here [Abuja], even members of the Yar'adua political family. Some of us are members of the National Assembly so we have to be in Abuja. Some of us are ministers and they have to be in Abuja. Ibrahim Shema is the governor of Katsina State so he has to be in Katsina. Therefore it doesn't mean that all those that are here in Abuja are at loggerheads with the governor in Katsina, absolutely not. I am a Yar'adua man and I am also a Shema man. I am a Yar'adua supporter and I am also a supporter of Governor Shema. When Shema was to start his campaign, President Yar'adua, then governor, asked that I and the governor and some other people should go out and campaign together for the governor and we did.

Since then, I had no problem with my governor. I enjoy an excellent relationship with him. In the same vein, Yar'adua has been my leader and will continue to be my leader. Not all those that are in Abuja have disagreements with those at home. Of course there may be some differences; there are problems even among those operating in Katsina. They do not see eye to eye with the governor. It does not mean they are doing it because they are pro-this or pro-that. I tell you, Shema is doing a marvellous job as governor.

Do you think the electoral reform process would be concluded before the 2011 elections?



SENATOR Ibrahim Ida

The process of electoral reforms started when Yar'adua was in office. The Presidency did all it could and sent to us the report. Contrary to what has been reported in the media, President Yar'adua did send to us the complete copy of the Justice Uwais report. He sent to us the draft legislation on electoral reforms and certain consequential alterations. Obviously, that kick started our process. First of all, we knew there was no way we could consider the proposals for the alteration of the constitution or the enactment of certain proposals until we alter the Constitution itself. Some of the things we are to do to amend the Electoral Act are embedded in the Constitution. What is left now is to mobilize the populace to be aware. As I speak, the National Assembly has concluded work on it. A lot of the focus is on electoral reforms and State creation. What the executive needs to do now is to

mobilize people to put pressure on their state legislators to fast tract the process.

What is your reaction to call by Libyan leader, Muammar Gaddafi that Nigeria should split?

First of all, it is a condemnable pronouncement coming from a leader who has just handed over the mantle of leadership of the African Union. This is someone who aspires to be the leader of the United States of Africa. Indeed I wanted to raise a motion that day but the leadership was of the opinion that we should not give that statement any recognition by discussing it in public. I think the Libyan leader is the least qualified individual to make such a comment.

With due respect, I think Gaddafi doesn't seem to have a sound knowledge of history, particularly the Indian model he is advocating. The Indian problem did not start from local

problems nor did it arise from sporadic crisis here and there, no. It was purely politics.

There were two political leaders Nehru and Alijinhah, both of whom were very strong in their respective faith and locality. Also, both of them were based at a particular part of the country. The Pakistan side, predominantly Muslim, and the predominantly Hindu side when one of them could not get the mantle of leadership of the whole of India, he opted out of the union to form a country. It was more or less the ego of leadership because if we can remember well, Mahatma Gandhi tried very hard to avert it but it didn't work. I have gone into history and discovered that what he is advocating for Nigeria has no bearing. Nigeria is a heterogeneous country. In India, it is easy to differentiate because Muslim families were exclusively Muslim and Hindu Families are exclusively Hindu. It is not so in Nigeria.

Inside Politics

2011: US based Nigerians to storm Minna for IBB

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

NIGERIANS living in the US have concluded plans to storm the hill top residence of former Military President of Nigeria, General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida to woo him for the 2011 presidential election.

The group consisting of more than 250 members are expected to be in the country to formally persuade the former military leader to run for the top job.

The group under the name "IBB Project 2011-USA", in a letter signed by its chairman Mr. Ayodele Oladele, on Sunday in Minna said it would use its contact within and outside the country to ensure that Babangida sails through to the presidency.

The letter also stated that a mass media sensitization campaign will be organized in Washington and major cities of Europe by the end of April to create awareness and solicit support for the General.

"We cannot deny the fact that our dear country, Nigeria, needs not only visionary a leader, but a tested and well groomed individual, who has the ability and capability to lead this country from the woods we have found ourselves as a result of the recent political development in the country," the group said.



GENERAL Ibrahim Babangida

Umaru braces up to tackle Gov Aliyu again

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

NIGER State's 2007 governorship candidate of the All Nigeria's People Party (ANPP), Barrister David Umar, has vowed to give Governor Muazu Babangida Aliyu a good run for his money in the 2011 gubernatorial elections.

Umar said despite the loses he suffered in trying to wrestle his mandate through the courts after the

2007 election, he remains undaunted in the effort to remove the Peoples Democratic Party from the saddle of power in Niger State.

"My commitment to the struggle remains unchanged as I will always be in the race for the position of governor of Niger State until I become governor and bring the needed change to the state. As for going to court over my mandate, I have no regrets

as I will not stop at anything until I reach the limit allowable by law to pursue the right course I believe is good for democracy," he said.

Umaru who spoke to our correspondent in an exclusive interview in Minna yesterday said he would continue to pursue his goal on the platform of the ANPP despite the defection of its some prominent members of the party.

He dismissed any possibility leaving the ANPP to contest election, saying there is nothing wrong with the party. He said it is the personality that counts and not necessarily the party.

"The fact that we have problem in the ANPP cannot change my resolve to run on its platform. I have made up my mind to continue the struggle no matter how many more people will leave the party," he said.

INEC soon to begin review of voters register in Kwara

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

INEC'S Resident Electoral Commissioner in Kwara State, Mr. Aniedi Ikopiwak said on Sunday that the commission will commence review of voters register in April this year.

The commissioner who stated this in Ilorin while featuring on a Radio Kwara programme, 'Playing Host,' said that the exercise will

last for two to three months. He said the exercise was to enable the electorate to ascertain that their names were still on the register and correctly placed at their various wards.

"The credibility of voters register is one of the greatest challenges facing INEC. I therefore appeal to voters to come out and verify their names whenever the voters register is

displayed....," he said.

The Resident Electoral Commissioner also assured Nigerians and the entire world that the commission would conduct a free and fair election that would be acceptable by all and sundry in 2011.

"INEC is fully prepared for the next general elections as various measures have been put in place and all mistakes of the past cor-

rected. INEC is a small segment in the electoral process. All other stakeholders should play their roles without fear or favour to ensure success," he said.

Mr. Ikoiwak said one of the greatest challenges facing the Commission is the attitude of some politicians during elections. He appealed to them to shun the do or die attitude during elections.

PDP official, others defect to ANPP in Borno

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

AN ex-officio and executive of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Borno State, Alhaji Malam Bulin has crossed over to the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) along with 11 ward chairmen and 17 ward executives of the PDP in Magumeri as well as some PDP supporters in the northern Borno senatorial zone.

Our correspondent learnt that the ANPP lured the PDP official to tackle Daggash ahead of 2011 in the event he (Daggash) decides to contest the governorship.

Speaking during his defection in Magumeri local government area, Bulin said he along with the 11 ward chairmen and 17 ward executive of PDP in the area decided to decamp to ANPP because of the persistent internal wrangling and personality clashes among PDP stalwarts.

"We decided to quit the PDP because of the present situation where those who contributed to the success of the party are left like

orphans. This, to us, is not fair and we believe that is not the essence of democracy. Northern Borno is a formidable area during election and our efforts in the past have made our former party recorded some successes including the election of Dr Sanusi Daggash as a Senator in 2003," Bulin said.

Governor Ali Modu Sheriff, who presented ANPP flag to the new members, said his party has become a trade mark in the state. He assured the new members of equal opportunities with existing members of the ANPP.



GOV. Ali Modu Sheriff

APGA urges N/Assembly to adopt Uwais' committee report

THE All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) yesterday urged the National Assembly to adopt the recommendations of the Justice Mohammed Uwais Committee on the appointment of the chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

Mr Nkem Lemchi, the Secretary of the Lagos State chapter of APGA, who made the call in Lagos, said the mode of appointment of the chairman of the commission is critical to the success of any election. He argued that any chairman that was appointed by a serving president could never be loyal to the country, but to the president.

"He can never be impartial.

"A situation whereby INEC is not independent in terms of revenue and a

situation whereby the chief executive of the nation appoints the chairman is morally wrong," Lemchi said.

The APGA chieftain explained that such a chairman would be subject to the man who appointed him and gave him his meal ticket, adding that no one would be convinced of his sincerity and allegiance to the nation.

"The Senate should have the courage to adopt the recommendations of the Uwais' committee. This is what we are agitating for because without it, we are going back to the status quo," he said.

The scribe said that the January 14 and April 9 dates proposed for the 2011 election by the Senate was okay for Nigerians if the electoral reform could be completed before then. (NAN)

Unity Forum mourns Rimi, Gombe senators

By Sule Lazarus

CHAIRMAN of the Unity Forum, Alhaji Musa Maigida Abdul, has described the sudden death of the former governor of the old Kano State, Alhaji Abubakar Rimi as a rude shock to the forum, saying that Rimi's death was a colossal loss to the people of Kano, north and indeed the entire Nigeria.

He also commiserated with the people and government

of Gombe state over death of two senators from the state last week, describing their death as tragic.

Abdul who spoke to Daily Trust on phone yesterday described Rimi as a gallant politician who fought for the growth of democracy in Nigeria and the emancipation of the north.

He said the death of Rimi has created a vacuum that would be difficult to fill, adding that the late politician believed in the unity of the north and Nigeria.

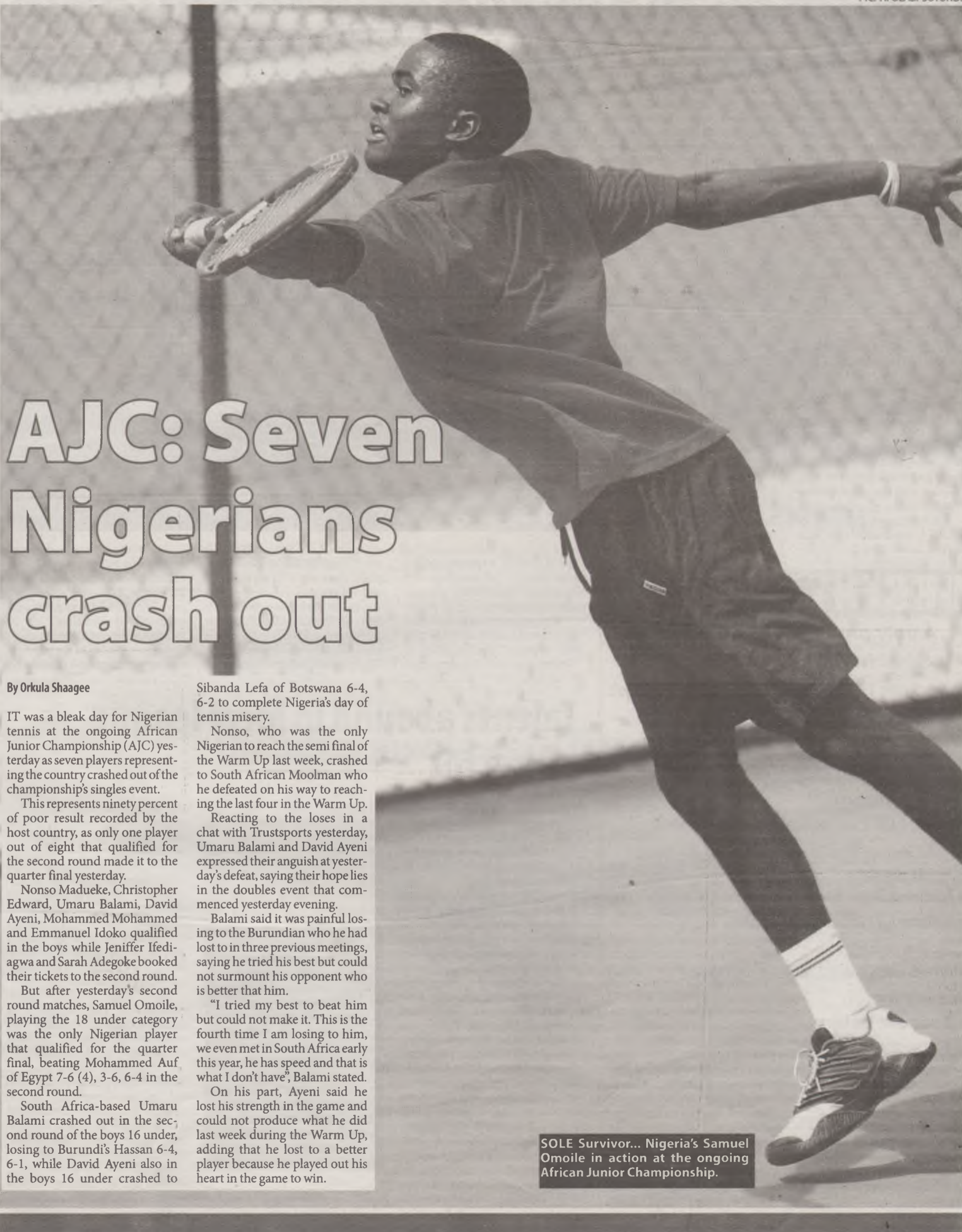
SPORT

Woods makes Augusta comeback

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PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE



AJC: Seven Nigerians crash out

By Orkula Shaagee

IT was a bleak day for Nigerian tennis at the ongoing African Junior Championship (AJC) yesterday as seven players representing the country crashed out of the championship's singles event.

This represents ninety percent of poor result recorded by the host country, as only one player out of eight that qualified for the second round made it to the quarter final yesterday.

Nonso Madueke, Christopher Edward, Umaru Balami, David Ayeni, Mohammed Mohammed and Emmanuel Idoko qualified in the boys while Jeniffer Ifedigwa and Sarah Adegoke booked their tickets to the second round.

But after yesterday's second round matches, Samuel Omoile, playing the 18 under category was the only Nigerian player that qualified for the quarter final, beating Mohammed Auf of Egypt 7-6 (4), 3-6, 6-4 in the second round.

South Africa-based Umaru Balami crashed out in the second round of the boys 16 under, losing to Burundi's Hassan 6-4, 6-1, while David Ayeni also in the boys 16 under crashed to

Sibanda Lefa of Botswana 6-4, 6-2 to complete Nigeria's day of tennis misery.

Nonso, who was the only Nigerian to reach the semi final of the Warm Up last week, crashed to South African Moolman who he defeated on his way to reaching the last four in the Warm Up.

Reacting to the loses in a chat with Trustsports yesterday, Umaru Balami and David Ayeni expressed their anguish at yesterday's defeat, saying their hope lies in the doubles event that commenced yesterday evening.

Balami said it was painful losing to the Burundian who he had lost to in three previous meetings, saying he tried his best but could not surmount his opponent who is better than him.

"I tried my best to beat him but could not make it. This is the fourth time I am losing to him, we even met in South Africa early this year, he has speed and that is what I don't have", Balami stated.

On his part, Ayeni said he lost his strength in the game and could not produce what he did last week during the Warm Up, adding that he lost to a better player because he played out his heart in the game to win.

SOLE Survivor... Nigeria's Samuel Omoile in action at the ongoing African Junior Championship.



NIGERIA PREMIER LEAGUE

Violence mars Nigeria league tie

HOOLIGANS had another field day in the Nigeria Premier League (NPL) at the weekend when visiting Kaduna United were attacked by fans of Kwara United even after their team won 2-1 to consolidate their third position on the table.

"Kwara began to intimidate us right from the pre-match meeting. Before the match, some of the fans even threatened to kill us if we do not lose by a big margin to their team because they want to play continental football next year," Kaduna United boss, Sabo Babayaro, told MTNfootball.com. "We were harassed all through the game and refused entry to the dressing room. The second half was also delayed by at least 10 minutes as the referees were locked out in the dressing room."

Babayaro was attacked and needed three stitches in hospital for a head injury, while his players were beaten up and the windscreen of their team bus smashed. "We have informed the NPL and will lodge a formal protest on Tuesday after the holidays," said Babayaro, who was a board member of the NPL.

"We have been informed by Kaduna United about the incident and are waiting for the offi-

cial match report," said top NPL official, Tunji Babalola.

After a scoreless first half, Kwara went in front in the 57th minute through Moruf Yusuf, Kaduna then drew level in the 75th minute through Bola Bello, before Isiaka Olawale converted an 85th minute penalty to give the home team maximum points.

Kwara United remain in third place on 45 points, three points adrift of leaders Kano Pillars. A top-three finish will earn the Ilorin-based team a ticket to international football next year.

Enugu Rangers shot to fourth place courtesy of a lone goal win at home against Ocean Boys.

Midfielder Damien Udeh crashed home a left-footed volley for what will prove the match winner after 10 minutes of action at the Nnamdi Azikiwe stadium in Enugu. Ghanaian midfielder Charles Taylor again did not make his Rangers debut as there doubts over his fitness.

The loss dropped Ocean Boys to the bottom of the 20-team table with 29 points from 27 matches, just as Sharks lifted off the basement thanks to a 2-0 home win over Wikki Tourist of Bauchi.

Victor Ezeji and Nojim Raji



KANO Pillars hitman, Ahmed Musa, left, grabbed his 15th goal of the season to propel his side back to the top of the Premier League.

were on target in the second half to fire the Port Harcourt outfit to 16th place in the standings with 32 points, while Wikki plunged into the drop zone with 31 points.

The pressure is still on Shooting Stars of Ibadan and their general manager, Mutiu Adepoku, following a drab 0-0 draw with

strugglers Lobi Stars at home. It was Shootings Stars eighth home draw. They are 15th on the table with 33 points.

Austin Kadiri was the match hero for Zamfara United in their 1-0 home victory over Sunshine Stars. Sunshine are seventh on the log, five points above Zamfara.

On Wednesday, second-placed Enyimba face a banana-peel trip to Heartland in a rescheduled Week 27 fixture. Both teams are fresh from international conquests with ninth-placed Heartland yet to rediscover the form that saw them finish runners-up in the championship in the past two seasons.

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WITHIN 2 WEEKS OF THIS PUBLICATION

Talents abound in local league - Director

THREE Nigerian club sides' qualification for the next stages of the African club championships over the weekend has been attributed to the talents that abound in the premier league.

Mr Emmanuel Utobo, Ebonyi Director of Sports, who made the observation in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abakaliki on Monday, attribute the success achieved to home-based players.

"By drawing 1-1 with Tiko United of Cameroun in Owerri and qualifying on away goals rule after a 3-3 draw aggregate, Heartland of Owerri has kept Nigeria's hope in the champion's league alive.

"Although Warri Wolves lost 0-2 to Zesco United of Zambia, it advanced on a 3-2 aggregate, while Enyimba of Aba beat Petro Atletico of Angola 3-0 to advance on a 3-2 aggregate," he said.

Utobo said the development had confirmed the fact that poor selection was the bane of the

home-based Eagles, which performed dismally in continental competitions.

"Anyone who watched the recent defeat of the home-based Eagles by the Menas of Niger Republic will agree that the best home-based players were not

"Lagerback should personally watch these clubs play, to enable him select his players"

selected for the match," he said.

The director said that poor selection of players had made

the average Nigerian soccer fan to prefer foreign coaches, as they were always more objective in selecting players.

"A player like Chijioke Ejiogu of Enyimba who has been widely tipped as the best goalkeeper in the country was excluded from the team.

"This is in spite of the fact that the goalkeeping department was the weakest area of the home-based Eagles," he said.

He advised Super Eagles' technical adviser, Lars Lagerback, to include some home-based players in his World Cup team, "as most of them have much to offer."

"Lagerback should personally watch these clubs play, to enable him select his players and not depend on those recommended to him by the Technical Department of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF)," Utobo said.

He advised Heartland, Warri Wolves and Enyimba not to rest on their oars, but to work harder to ensure success at the competitions.



EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATION, ABUJA - NIGERIA

EUROPEAN INSTRUMENT FOR DEMOCRACY & HUMAN RIGHTS COUNTRY-BASED SUPPORT SCHEME CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2009

The Delegation of the European Union to the Federal Republic of Nigeria (the Delegation) has launched the 2009 European Instrument for Democracy & Human Rights Country-Based Support Scheme (EIDHR-CBSS) Call for Proposals.

The Delegation is seeking proposals for democracy and human rights projects in Nigeria with financial assistance from the EIDHR Programme of the European Communities. The deadline for submission of proposals is **Friday, 4 June, 2010 at 12:00 hrs local time**. Any application received after this deadline will not be considered.

The overall indicative amount made available under this call for proposals is **EUR 900,000** from the 2009 budget. Subject to the final decision of the Budgetary Authority, an additional amount may be allocated to this call for proposals from the 2010 budget. The final amount will be decided by the Commission in the EIDHR 2010 Annual Action Programme.

Priority areas in which proposals may be submitted are:

1. Pursuit of common agendas for human rights and democratic reform

a. Children and young people's rights

- Actions that support the implementation of the Child Rights Act at state level.
- Actions in support of the reform of the system of juvenile justice administration in Nigeria.
- Actions that aim at addressing child trafficking.

b. Women's rights

- Actions that support the implementation of the Convention on All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
- Actions that target trafficking in women.

c. Death penalty

- Actions that aim at the abolition of the death penalty.

d. Torture and ill treatment

- Actions that target the prevention of torture and ill-treatment by state agencies, including extra-judicial killings even where this is not as a result of torture or ill-treatment.

2. Building towards consensus on disputed or controversial areas of policy

- Actions that aim at conflict prevention and/or resolution, especially in Nigerian societies deeply divided by religious and ethnic issues, by means of civil society dialogues which seek to bridge societal divides and which bring together a wide range of stakeholders to share experience and analyse common problems.
- Actions that contribute to the peace process in the Niger-Delta region of Nigeria.

To be eligible to apply, potential applicants must be:

1. Nationals of Nigeria (i.e. be legally registered in Nigeria by the Corporate Affairs Commission, Nigeria and as Land Perpetual Succession, Incorporated Trusteeship or Limited by Guarantee, or specifically created by statute in the case of public sector non-profit agencies), or nationals of a Member State of the European Union in an accession or official candidate country as recognised by the EU or in a Member State of the European Economic Area, with evidence of registration with the National Planning Commission, Nigeria. Individuals are not eligible; and
2. Civil society organisations including non-governmental organisations, higher education institutions and research bodies (i.e. not a state, national or international governmental institution or an organisation effectively controlled by such an institution), independent political foundations, community-based organisations, and private sector non-profit agencies, institutions and organisations, and networks thereof at local and national levels; or public sector non-profit agencies, institutions and organisations at local and national levels.

For the full list of eligibility criteria, please refer to the Guidelines for Grant Applicants.

The Guidelines for Grant Applicants and annexes are available for consultation at:

- **Delegation of the European Union to Nigeria:** 21st Crescent, off Constitution Avenue, Central Business District - Abuja
- **European Union Nigeria Delegation website:** www.delnga.ec.europa.eu
- **Europe Aid website:** <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome>

Information sessions on this call for proposals will be held in Abuja, Kaduna, Enugu, Port-Harcourt and Lagos on dates to be advertised in a number of national newspapers. Potential applicant organisations wishing to participate in the information seminars are requested to send an e-mail to: delegation-nigeria-microprojects-eidhr@ec.europa.eu providing the following information only:

- Name of organisation;
- Number of persons representing the organisation (not more than 2 per organisation); and
- Preferred information seminar location (Abuja, Kaduna, Enugu, Port-Harcourt or Lagos).

Please be informed that the Delegation will merely note the information received regarding participation at the information seminars. Potential applicants will not receive a reply.

Participation at the information seminars is free.

Pierre Philippe
Chargé d'Affaires
Delegation of the European Union to the
Federal Republic of Nigeria

FORMER "REGISTRAR" OF A FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC LOSES COURT CASE

The Federal High Court in Yola on 29th day of March 2010 dismissed the suit filed by the former registrar, Federal Polytechnic Mubi, for lack of merit and also awarded cost against the plaintiff in the sum of ten thousand naira (N10,000) to each of the three defendants.

The former registrar, one "Pwady Philip Dingoli, commenced the action by writ of summons dated 15th April 2009, challenging his removal from office as Registrar, Federal Polytechnic Mubi, despite not having statutory requisite and pedigree.

While in court, the plaintiff filed a motion on notice seeking for an order of perpetual injunction restraining the defendants from interfering in any manner with the performance of his functions as Registrar, Federal Polytechnic Mubi. He also sought for an order of accelerated hearing. The court in its ruling, delivered on 19th June 2009, refused the first prayer for an interlocutory injunction. The order for accelerated hearing was however granted.

While in the course of the proceeding, the court discovered through evidence that the plaintiff (Pwady Philip Dingoli) has no requisite qualification requirement for the post of the Registrar of the Federal Polytechnic Mubi, because going by the advertorial placed in *New Nigerian Newspaper* of 7th November 2006, i.e. "exhibit J10" before the court, the qualification requirement is that a candidate should possess a good honours Degree from a recognised institution of higher learning plus at least 17 years cognate experience.

The court while applying cardinal principles of the law of interpretation stated that, a provision of a statute or any written instrument must give the word and the language used in their simple and ordinary meaning.

The trial judge further stated that, "it is clear to me that a candidate for the post of Registrar, Federal Polytechnic Mubi must possess a good honours degree from a recognized institution of higher learning and has at least

17 years post degree experience in relevant field. The Experience required here is experience acquired after obtaining the degree".

In the instant case, the plaintiff obtained his degree in 1998. This means that at the time he applied for the post of Registrar, Federal Polytechnic Mubi (2006), he had only nine (9) years post degree experience, and thereby Not Qualified.

In respect of the issue of conversion by the plaintiff, from Executive to Administrative Cadre, the plaintiff himself had admitted in the course of cross examination that one has to obtain a degree first before he is eligible for Conversion.

The letter approving the plaintiff conversion has an effective date of 1st September, 1997. It is the case of the plaintiff that he obtained his degree in 1998 (from University of Maiduguri), but the letter approving the conversion or change of cadre is dated 5th February, 1999, exhibit C3 before the court, and has an effective date of 1st September, 1997.

The letter is secondary evidence, the original is with the plaintiff and yet no foundation was laid for admission of same.

Worst still, the letter was not signed and the plaintiff failed to explain how an approval for change of cadre dated 5th February, 1999 was made to take effect on 1st September, 1997 before his graduation. Whereas the additional qualification was obtained in February 1998, therefore, the trial judge found the process leading to the approval of change of cadre for the plaintiff unsatisfactory and left a number of issues and questions unresolved. The plaintiff ought to have resolved those questions as burden of proof lies on him.

"The Law is that he who asserts must prove. Consequently I find the Conversion or change of Cadre irregular. I also discountenance exhibit C3 and I attach no weight to it for the reasons I have given before now.

In the final analysis I resolve issue No.1 against the plaintiff," the judge ruled.

"On the issue of estoppel raised by the plaintiff, again reference is made to the powers of this Court to review any executive or administrative action to determine whether it is in conformity with the Law and procedure. Indeed it was the plaintiff who made the false or mistaken representations to the Council that he was qualified for the job advertised. The panel and subsequently the Council acted on it and were thereby misled. The Council in my humble view is not using a different yardstick nor changing the rules midstream as suggested by the Learned Counsel to the plaintiff. The issue of estoppel is not applicable given the facts and circumstances of this Case and I so hold," he further declared.

The court also rejected Mr Dingoli's claim that he was not given a fair hearing by the committee that investigated him.

Indeed, in the cause of cross-examination, the plaintiff himself confirmed that he appeared before the two-man committee that investigated the petition against him by one Paul Gama Chintu on the authenticity of his academic qualification and on the process leading to his conversion from Executive to Administrative Cadre.

The court held that the plaintiff was given the opportunity to be heard in full and substantial compliance with the provisions of section 36 of 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

In the final analysis, the Court found that the case has no merit. It has failed. "The case deserves to be dismissed and it is hereby dismissed," the judge declared. The Court has equally awarded cost against the plaintiff in the sum of N10,000 to each of the Defendants.

The Court further advised the counsel to the plaintiff to warn his client (MR Pwady Philip Dingoli) against such bad attitude and behaviour.

Ajose gets closer to world title

FAST rising England-based Nigerian boxer, Olusegun Ajose kept his name in the frame for a world-title shot by stopping Britain's Colin Lynes at the weekend.

The Commonwealth light-welterweight champion barely had to move out of second gear, but found a sickening finish eight rounds in, after a right to the bottom of the ribcage left Lynes writhing on his feet.

Lynes ended up struggling for breath before he wisely took a knee in the corner, still reeling from the after-effects.

It was a strange ending to a fight between two experienced and able competitors that, although did not quite live up to expectations, provided calm before the storm David Haye had threatened to unleash in the night's main event against America's John Ruiz.

Ajose climbed into the ring ranked second by the WBC and must now have a chance of meeting the defending champion, Devon Alexander before long.

It was hard to judge his world-title credentials, though, with the Commonwealth champion's ungainly style and Lynes' bustling approach making it hard for either fighter to settle into a rhythm.

Nonetheless, Ajose had most of the early exchanges on the night, with both hands working the body well whenever the challenger came into range and, although when he did land, he was reluctant to move in and pile on the pressure.

Lynes best round was probably the third, as his jab found it's range but a big left hook to the side of his head had him clinging on in the sixth and although his experience saw him through that, it was simply a sign of things to come.

In the sixth a right had the same result and, sensing that Lynes was struggling, Ajose finally upped his tempo. Perhaps sensing the challenger was having trouble taking body shots, he let them go



ENGLAND-based Nigerian boxer, Olusegun Ajose, right, but punched Colin Lynes of Britain to retain his Commonwealth light-welterweight title at the weekend.

whenever he could and before the round.

Still Ajose did not pounce and another round of patient, pick-and-move punching gave his opponent some welcome breathing space.

But it did little to restore his respiratory powers and when the pair became tangled towards the end of

the eighth, a short stabbing right to the ribs ended Lynes' resistance, his stomach the problem.

It is not the first time it has happened to Lynes. He was sick between rounds against Lenny Daws and eventually halted by the same problem back in 2006 - and a few seconds after the grapple an audible cough saw Lynes

convulse in the corner and take a knee.

A sheepish Ajose was muted in his celebrations, sensing something might be wrong with the likeable loser. Or maybe he realised that if he wants to conquer the world, he will need to do a lot more when he has the measure of his man.

AJC: We expect better performance - Ubale

FOLLOWING a successful end to the warm up matches aimed at accruing points to help up ITF international ranking and the commencement of the Africa Junior Tennis championship proper Sunday, Team Nigeria coach Mohammed Ubale says they expect better performance from the team this time. Forty teams had taken part in the warm up matches drawn from 28 African countries and 12 from Asia and Europe. Although Nigeria ended the warm up stage medal-less Mohammed Ubale, chief coach of the Nigerian team is optimistic the situation will be different in the African hostilities. He said the second leg of the African Junior Tennis Championship, which served off Sunday at the Tennis Centre of the National Stadium Abuja will be better for the Team Nigeria starlets.

Ubale, who lost two players in the opening of the African Junior Championship with eight making it to the second round said the coaching crew have told the team what to do to win laurels.

"We had it a bit rough last week, but this time we'll have a better outing. Our players are getting used to the hot weather that was not favourable even to the foreigners last week. We were able to have a few players in the crucial positions last week and from the way we took off, I'm expecting something better. The warm up tournament was a good opportunity to see the team's lapses which we are correcting in order to get better results in the AJC," Mohammed Ubale said.

Next AJC may be played under floodlight - Ref

AFTER recording two near major casualties in the first week of the African Junior Tennis Championship, the tournament Chief referee, Khaled Elsergany from Egypt has revealed that he has recommended for subsequent meet to be played under flood light.

"Though the weather is not within my control, we had a player from

Egypt quickly taken to the hospital and another was put under intensive care because of the heat. I've subsequently recommended to the International Tennis Federation that such championship under such intense weather should be extended to about 5pm whereby some matches would be played under artificial light. Even I feel the heat, but there is nothing I can do", the Egyptian referee said as he prepared chart for the continental championship.

We would use WAFU to atone ourselves - Okonkwo

By David Ngobua

SUPER Eagles Team B right full back, Chibuzor Okonkwo, has said he and his team mates would use the 2010 West African Football Union, WAFU, Championship which commences tomorrow in Ogun State to compensate Nigerians for their failure to qualify for next year's Africa Nations Championship.

Moments after the loss to Niger Republic, the team was drawn against Republic of Benin and Senegal in the WAFU Championship which Nigeria is hosting.

Speaking to Trustsports yesterday before the team's departure to the venue of the championship, member of the team and former U-23 defender, Okonkwo assured the team's teeming fans that they will do their best to lift the tro-

phy at stake to atone for the loss against Niger Republic.

He said most of them have put behind them the unfortunate incident and have resolved to use the opportunity provided by WAFU to ameliorate the pains of Nigerian football fans who no doubt felt the excruciating pains of that defeat against Menas of Niger.

According to the defender, a lot has been done by the technical crew to strengthen the team in key areas and so there is no cause for alarm.

He said: "I believe most of my team mates are thinking in the same line with me. We want to use this championship to atone for the loss against Niger Republic. You and I know that it was not a deliberate attempt to cause Nigerians fans any discomfort but that's what happens in football. You win

some and lose some.

"We wanted to win the return leg but that did not happen. However, we now have another opportunity on our laps to restore confidence in this team. By the special grace of God, we would go all the way".

Okonkwo called on Nigerians not to lose hope in the team as he stressed that the defeat against Niger Republic should not be enough to make the fans desert them.

He said: "We have disappointed the fans but they should not turn their backs on us. We are going to restore the lost confidence using the WAFU Championship as a tool".

Super Eagles Team B will begin their campaign in the championship on Thursday with a match against their neighbours Republic of Benin.



OKONKWO



ARSENAL players during a training session prior to their crucial UEFA Champions League clash against defending champions Barcelona in the Nou Camp stadium tonight.

English clubs in danger of missing semis

By Brian Homewood (Reuters)

ENGLAND could be without a team in the Champions League semi-finals for the first time since 2003 unless either Manchester United or Arsenal can pull something out of the hat in the quarter-final second legs.

The Premier League has provided three of the four semi-finalists for each of the last three seasons but this year has already seen a much-needed levelling out, with six countries represented in the last eight for the first time since 1998/99.

United, missing injured England striker Wayne Rooney for Wednesday's game, have the record books against them as they attempt to overturn a 2-1 first-leg deficit against a Bayern Munich team

which has grown in confidence during the season.

Injury-hit Arsenal must either win or pull off a high-scoring draw away to holders Barcelona on Tuesday after last week's thrilling 2-2 draw when they came from 2-0 down after being outplayed for much of the game.

The contests are likely to make nervous viewing for a number of World Cup coaches after high profile injuries to England's Rooney, Spain's Cesc Fabregas and Frenchman William Gallas in last week's matches.

Arsenal pair Fabregas, with a cracked bone, and Gallas, with a calf injury, were ruled out for the rest of the domestic season and will be struggling to make the World Cup, which starts in South Africa on June 11.

Rooney suffered only minor ligament damage and is expected to return in three weeks, although it was still enough to provoke mass hysteria amongst the English media with South Africa just around the corner.

Although United famously beat Bayern Munich 2-1 in the 1999 Champions League final after scoring twice in the dying minutes, it was their only win against the Bavarians in eight meetings.

Alex Ferguson's team have also not beat a German team at home in three attempts in the Champions League knockout stages.

The two sides also had contrasting fortunes at the weekend.

Manchester United lost 2-1 at home to Chelsea and were knocked out off the top of the Premier League

by their opponents while Bayern won 2-1 at Schalke 04 to replace their hosts as Bundesliga leaders.

"We have a chance to succeed in Manchester as we are always capable of scoring away from home," said coach Louis van Gaal, who hopes to have Dutch winger Arjen Robben back in the team after he missed the first leg through injury.

Barca, with problems of their own for the visit of Arsenal, are without central defensive pairing Carles Puyol and Gerard Pique through suspension and injured striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic, who scored of both their first leg goals.

But they can still turn to Lionel Messi who has scored 19 goals in his last 29 Champions League matches and, ominously, was not on target last week.

Bojan, Walcott have chance to shine

YOUNGSTERS Theo Walcott and Bojan Krkic could take centre stage when Arsenal visit Barcelona in their Champions League quarter-final second leg at the Nou Camp tonight.

Injuries and suspensions have forced Arsene Wenger and Pep Guardiola into changes and their ability to adapt will be tested to the full, with the European champions holding the edge having drawn 2-2 in last Wednesday's first leg.

Arsenal are without captain Cesc Fabregas, who cracked a bone

in his leg last week, while Barca have lost Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic, scorer of both their goals in London, to a calf injury.

Guardiola turned to perennial substitute Bojan at home to Athletic Bilbao in La Liga on Saturday, when Ibrahimovic pulled out just before kickoff, and the 19-year-old scored twice in a 4-1 win.

With Thierry Henry still struggling to convince Guardiola of his commitment to the cause, not helped by a largely anonymous second-half appearance at the Emirates

Stadium, Bojan could start up front.

Barca are without central defensive pairing Carles Puyol and Gerard Pique, who are both suspended. In their absence, Gabriel Milito and midfielder Yaya Toure could be drafted in at the back.

Eric Abidal played his first game in over six weeks after injury on Saturday and should return at left back.

Barca visit La Liga title rivals Real Madrid on Saturday for a top-of-the-table clash, but Guardiola was clear where his priorities lay.

"Tuesday is the most important

game of the year, more than the Bernabeu," he added.

Wenger will be tempted to unleash Walcott, 21, from the start in the Nou Camp as the jet-heeled winger made a huge impact after coming on in the second half last week.

The Frenchman's attacking options are restricted with Andrei Arshavin and Fabregas both missing and Robin van Persie not yet ready to return and but he must decide whether Walcott is best used from the start or as an impact substitute.

Mourinho: Inter's artificial test is child's play

COACH Jose Mourinho believes playing on an artificial pitch will be like child's play for his Inter Milan team as they look to knock out CSKA Moscow in the second leg of their Champions League quarter-finals tonight.

The Serie A champions carry a 1-0 advantage from last week, when CSKA had keeper Igor Akinfeyev to thank for keeping their hopes alive with a series of fine saves.

"We know how we want to play there, aware of the difficulties regarding the opposition and the artificial pitch, which will be a first for everyone," Mourinho told the club's in-house TV channel.

"But I was joking with some of the players before, thinking of how we used to play in the road when we were children. If you can play in the road, I said, why can't you play on an artificial pitch too?"

CSKA's chances of overturning the deficit to become the first Russian side to reach the Champions League semi-finals have not been helped by the absence of suspended midfielders Milos Krasic and Yevgeny Aldonin.

But Krasic was confident CSKA's familiarity with the synthetic surface could swing the tie their way.

"Unfortunately I won't be able to help my team in Moscow but I think we still have a good chance, especially playing at home," the Serbia international, linked for a transfer to Inter's city rivals AC Milan, was quoted as saying by Russian media.

"I think the synthetic surface should give us a distinct edge. It could be our 12th man against Inter."

CSKA's city rivals Spartak made the last four of the old European Cup in 1991 but no Russian team has been able to match that feat in the Champions League.

The visitors will be confident after dominating the first leg and warming up for the second with a 3-0 win over Bologna in Serie A on Saturday.

They should be at full strength too.

Brazil centre back Lucio and his midfield compatriot Thiago Motta, who scored twice against Bologna, are available after serving suspensions last week.

Dutch playmaker Wesley Sneijder may well return to the starting lineup after resting on the bench for most of the Bologna match having taken an ankle knock in the first leg.

GUEST COLUMNIST

By Attahiru Muazu Gusau

Strategies for effective language policy for national development

It is no longer tenable to posit that the use of English language as the Official Language [OL] of Nigeria has solved the problems of equal access to knowledge, divisiveness and grinding poverty and underdevelopment. Conversely, it can be argued that English as OL and medium of instruction in schools has become a formidable and virtually impenetrable barrier to access to knowledge and information to a great part of the Nigerian society, by ostracizing the languages of the environment and disengaging them from the business of education. This singular act of omission has effectively undermined and stunted the growth and development of all the languages of the environment to near incapacitation. The spiral effect of prioritizing foreign languages against the languages of the environment is unmistakable: No Nigerian society has ever acculturated modern knowledge to its cultural and environmental context. Even to the south west that prides itself with producing the largest number of professors on the African continent, knowledge remains an imported foreign commodity accessible to only those that are baptised with the English language. What is troubling, however, is the meek acceptance of the status-quo as ideal and sufficient for our educational and developmental need.

Ironically, recent statistics from NECO published in the *Daily Trust* newspaper of Wednesday, March 17, 2010 showed that only 1.8% of the total candidates that sat for the examination passed the required five credits including English and Mathematics. That represents a total of 4223 out of 236,613 that sat for the exams. A staggering 98.2% failure! Even if other factors come into play in this recurrent annual show of shame, as indicated by Sanusi Abubakar in his Tuesday column which was furnished with more sad statics, the impact of the language factor in the massive and the near total collapse of the educational sector have not been highlighted. It has become a taboo to talk of the role of indigenous languages in the question of education and national development. We all seem to always slavishly nod in approval of the lie of the sufficiency of English language despite the grim statistics to the contrary. "It is now clear we are living a lie. Our education has collapsed," lamented Sanusi Abubakar. The Thursday, March 25, 2010, editorial of *Daily Trust* put it simply as *Scandalous*.

The bigger scandal however is that all along we've been lying to ourselves and to others about the sufficiency of foreign languages in addressing our educational and developmental problems. The truth, simply put, is that amidst all the contributing factors that led to this impasse of recurrent massive failure in examination, the language factor stands out as the most critical. Ironically it is the factor that we chose to deny. If we are not prepared to accept the fact that foreign languages cannot be sufficient for the educational needs of Nigeria, then the aspiration for a knowledge driven and modern society will remain a mirage to us. Our policy makers must therefore, of necessity, find a way of engaging and experimenting indigenous languages [particularly the regional *Lingua Franca*] as languages of instruction in at least some of our schools, thereby complimenting English language which still serves as the sole vector of knowledge in the country.

It is a big misperception to assume that fielding other languages as languages of instruction challenge the position of English as the nation's official language. No, it doesn't. Have we not been spending millions of dollars sending our students to small countries like Bulgaria, Romania and other non English speaking countries to study medicine and other courses? Why can't that gesture be extended to our indigenous *Lingua Franca*?

Recently, the nation's elites gathered in Kaduna to foster solutions to the problem of *almajiri*, in an annual lecture organized by the Arewa Media Forum tagged 'The Challenges of *Almajiri* and Child Destitution in the North'. With the hoax of the indispensability of the English language in the back of their minds, they failed fathom out any better solution than to integrate the *tsangaya* system with the conventional western based turanci or formal school system. Yet we all know from the annual statistics that this system has failed and is itself seriously crying out for salvation. The stake holders and participants pretend to be ignorant of the fact that the only inhibition to modern knowledge on the side of the *almajiri* is the language of instruction and a little determination on the side of the elites and policy makers could see the *almajiri* learning all the sciences in his native tongue. The denial of the linguistic element in under development and particularly in the lingering apprehension of the average northerner

about aspects of 'western civilization' and cultural values is one of the greatest crimes of the elites against the society. The longer we continue to deceive our selves concerning the sufficiency of English language the more our problems would be compounded.

The same goes for the seemingly more literate southern part of the country. For all the beauty of the Yoruba culture and language and love for learning, the vehicle of transfer and domestication of knowledge have been effectively grounded by the myth of the sufficiency of the English language and preservation of national unity. Ironically, the numerous researches conducted by the army of Yoruba professors who are actually more numerically more than Bulgarian professors, are recorded on the pages of history only as the unending blaze of glory of western civilization and 'advanced' European languages which, seen from the other eye further confirms the irrelevance of the Yoruba language. For instance, was 'The Trial of Brother Jero' a master piece of the Yoruba language or another feather on the hat of English language? Amidst the accolades for literary accomplishments it has therefore become necessary to pause and ask what the African man is celebrating- the demise of African languages or the supremacy of the western culture? It was said that Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* was translated into 54 languages across the world. Sadly, I think no Nigerian language is included in the list. I have never seen a Hausa translation of the book at all! I may be wrong, however.

Accepting the insufficiency and inefficiency of the English language for our developmental needs does not posit denying its advantages of bringing diverse people together, particularly in our kind of society; it is just awakening us to the responsibility of exploring other alternative that might compliment what we already have. The question here is: does the need for a unifying neutral language as an OL posit the automatic and eternal consignment of indigenous languages to oblivion? Do we as a multi lingual nation have any responsibility towards the development of our indigenous languages so that they can serve us better? Or, are we condemned by the reality of our nationhood to an eternal subjugation of the potentialities of our languages and cultural identities under the imposed domination of the colonialist's cultures and languages? Is the nation antithetical to its segmented units or complimentary? Can the Yoruba, Hausa, Igbo and the more than 400 languages found in Nigeria develop in spite of English being the OL?

While not trying to challenge the status quo of the nation state and the post colonial hybrid character as the best possible state of existence for the country it is very questionable whether the only guaranty for development is the use of English Language as the only language of instruction in our schools. The potentials of the indigenous languages for broad based mass literacy and knowledge acculturation have never been accessed much less exploited. There is thus the need for a proactive approach to the issue of development which must involve a sound linguistic policy that sees the utilization of indigenous languages as languages of instruction in our schools.

There is obviously the need to re arrange or set our priorities straight. We must accept that we have a responsibility of not only preserving individual cultural and linguistic identities but that for acculturation of knowledge and genuine progress and development we must have to utilize our indigenous languages in the enterprise of education. In this regard, the Nigerian language policy must be redirected towards improvement of indigenous languages and their proper utilization for the attainment of development goals. We must accept the potentials of indigenous languages for domestication of knowledge and broad based grass root reach as against the English Language. If English brings unity local dialects hold the key to development.

According to Bambose, the principle of Nigerian educational language policy is based on 'equal opportunity to access to language of education; thorough grounding in the child's own language; thorough mastery of English and bilingualism in two Nigerian languages.' Equal opportunity to access to language of instruction can only be enhanced when local dialects and particularly the *Lingua Franca* are competitively involved in the enterprise of education.

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SPORTS REPORT



TIGER Woods is back

Woods makes sub-dued Augusta comeback

Tiger Woods made his Augusta comeback yesterday with some golf fans seemingly willing to forgive but not forget as the world number one began his preparations for the U.S. Masters under a media microscope.

The four-times Masters champion was back in familiar surroundings but unfamiliar territory,

playing his first public golf since his stunning fall from grace at the end of 2009 amid tawdry revelations about extra-marital affairs.

"I certainly am still a Tiger fan but I'm mad at him," said one elderly grey-haired woman as Woods marched stoically past her.

Tiger Woods is back and the patrons at Augusta National appear supportive.



IRANIAN women play soccer wearing hijab

FIFA dress code rules Iran's girls out of Olympics

Iran's girls football team has been kicked out of the Youth Olympic Games because FIFA rules prevent players wearing an Islamic head scarf.

Thailand was nominated on Monday to replace the barred Iranians, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said on its Web site.

"FIFA decreed that the wearing of Islamic hijab was not in accordance with the laws of the game," the Asian governing body said in a statement.

Iran's national Olympic committee had called on FIFA, football's world governing body, and the International Olympic Committee to review the head scarf ban. The hijab is worn by girls and women to observe Islamic dress code.