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Inside Today's Daily Trust

Business

The IMF head has warned that the global economy could experience another downturn **25**

Politics

DPP national publicity secretary says there are plans by Sokoto DPP lawmakers to decamp to PDP **51**

Sport

The Presidency has directed the NFF president to sack Super Eagles coach Amodu **52**

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How Jos crisis began

— By man on the spot

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos & Misbahu Bashir, Abuja

THE crisis that engulfed the Plateau State capital of Jos on Sunday started at Dutse Uku on the city outskirts when Christian youth tried to stop a Muslim man from renovating his house that was destroyed in the November 2008 riot, according to Alhaji Kabir Muhammad, the man at the center of the storm.

Speaking to our reporter in Jos yesterday, Alhaji Kabiru said, "During the 2008 crisis [in Jos], my house was burnt and I had to relocate elsewhere while I started renovating it gradually. By weekend, I had reached the level where I was going to put on the decking. The residents in my area had earlier volun-

teered to help me when I come to put on the decking. Therefore yesterday (Sunday, January 17th) people came to the site to help in putting on the decking. We did a significant level of the work when the sand finished, so I rushed to Yan Tifa [area] and ordered two trucks of sand."

He continued, "When the driver went for the second round to supply the sand, I saw from afar that some people were stoning the people in the tipper truck, while the people in the truck too were stoning them. I went down there to see what was happening, and they told me that they were insulting them. Many people gathered there and consoled the tipper men and everybody dispersed."

Continued on page 5



PHOTO: NAN

Dangote pays N193 billion bank loans

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

THE Dangote Group yesterday liquidated a \$1.27

billion loan facility it took from a consortium of 10 Nigerian banks in May 2008 to finance its cement

division's expansion projects five years ahead of schedule.

At the presentation of

the cheques to the banks at Ibese cement plant in Ogun State, the president and chief executive officer of

the Dangote Group Alhaji Aliko Dangote also said his companies intend to crash the price of a bag of cement

to N1,000 when the production from its cement companies in Nigeria hits

Continued on page 5

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FROM left: Mr Peter West who represented the British High Commissioner to Nigeria, Minister of Petroleum, Rilwanu Lukman and Presidential adviser on Petroleum matters Emmanuel Egbogah, at the Nigeria/UK Government Energy Bilateral Capacity Building Support for the Oil and Gas Sector Reform in Abuja yesterday.

CAN, ACF condemn crisis

From Ibraheem Musa & Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

THE Christian Association Nigeria (CAN) and the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) have condemned Sunday's crisis in Jos. The Kaduna State Secretary of CAN Reverend John Joseph Hayab in a telephone chat said the so called religious crisis would continue to erupt in the north so long as leaders refused to bring culprits to book and the perpetrators were shielded because of their religious affiliations.

He said northern leaders had to send a clear signal to perpetrators of mayhem that "enough is enough". According to him, religious leaders should also desist from the tendency of shielding members of their faiths when they are found guilty. Reverend Hayab who said there was nothing religious about the recent crisis, recalled that the last one before this was blamed on the local government election. He lamented that Nigerians were gradually desecrating their religions by burning and destroying places of worship. The Reverend observed that the recent crisis took place on Sunday when Christians were worshipping. On their part, the ACF in a statement by its National Publicity Secretary Mr. Anthony Sani said there was enough of senseless violence leading to loss of lives as all religions in the world teach adherents the message of peace.

Jos crisis: Imam, Deputy Speaker appeal for calm

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

FOLLOWING the Sunday crisis in Jos, the Chief Imam of Jos Central Mosque Sheik Balarabe Dawud has appealed to the Muslim Ummah in the state to be calm. Sheik Dawud who spoke with newsmen at the Jos Central Mosque yesterday said though there were various accounts of the actual cause of the crisis,

Muslims in the state should remain calm in the interest of peace. He said the actual cause of the crisis would be got from those who witnessed the incident, saying he was not in a position to say specifically what happened as he had just returned from a journey.

He said it was time authorities in the country rose up to the occasion by getting to the root of the crises

and taking measures that would put an end to violence in the country. The imam said he would meet other religious leaders in the state to address the issue to ensure that the violence does not escalate. He called on the federal and state governments to come to the aid of those who lost their property in the crisis.

Speaking in this same vein, the Deputy Speaker of the Plateau

House of Assembly Alahji Ibrahim Baba Hassane called on youths to eschew violence. Baba Hassan who went round the affected areas yesterday said it was unfortunate that another violence could occur in the state barely a year after the last one in which many people lost their lives and called on the people of the state to embrace peace and dialogue.

JNI says 27 dead, 300 in hospital

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

THE Jama'atu Nasril Islam (JNI) Jos North Local Government chapter has confirmed that 26 Muslims died in Sunday's skirmish at Dutse Uku and Nas-sarawa Gwong Area of Jos. JNI spokesman Sani Mudi told our correspondent, "The number

increased from the initial 22 people we buried earlier this morning, five people died as a result of injuries they sustained". He added that they recorded over 300 people injured and taken to various hospitals. The Plateau State government, Nigeria Police and the Red Cross were silent over the casualty figure. The Commissioner for Information Mr Gre-

gory Yenlong said they were still waiting for the report, adding that Governor David Jonah was shocked and worried about the entire situation and summoned religious and traditional rulers to discuss and find a way to ensure sustainable peace. Police Public Relations Officer ASP Mohammed Lerama said, "Police are still compiling the number of

deaths recorded from the Divisional Police out post in all the places affected by the crisis". ASP Lerama denied that the police killed innocent people, saying the crisis was not with the police but within the community, adding that police in collaboration with other security operatives went there only to restore law and order.

1,500 take refuge in NDLEA camp

ABOUT 1,500 internally displaced persons have taken refuge at the NDLEA regional academy in Jos following another round of violent crisis that erupted in the Plateau State capital at the weekend. The NDLEA Commander in Plateau Mr Ralph Igwe told newsmen in Jos yesterday that many of the victims complained that their houses had been burnt.

Abisoeye panel postpones sitting

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

THE presidential panel of investigation into the November 28, 2008 Jos crisis did not sit yesterday as a result of the outbreak of

violence in Jos on Sunday. Ambassador Godfrey Preware who was to preside over the sitting of the panel announced yesterday after waiting for some time without any of the respondents

turning up that the crisis would not deter the commission in any way as he was optimistic that the assignment would continue as soon as the situation normalised. He told newsmen at the venue

of the sitting at NIPSS, Kuru yesterday that he was still confident that the assignment would move on because all the parties in the crisis had made their presentations. He said, "We have no

option than to disperse for today's sitting. I believe you understand the situation more than we do, but we hope to resume tomorrow to continue with our assignment", he said.

Police monitor T/Balewa over new traditional ruler

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

THE police in Bauchi State say they were in Tafawa Balewa town at the weekend to keep peace over the election of a new traditional ruler by the Sayawa community known as the Gung Zaar, Ishaku Komo, who is to head the new Sayawa Chieftdom in Bauchi emirate.

The state Police Commissioner Atiku Yusuf Kafur said his men were in the area to maintain law and order. His explanation followed the anxiety generated by the police presence.

Our correspondent gathered that the creation of the chieftdom which housed the predominantly Christian Sayawa community, was contained in

the Justice Babalakin Judicial Commission of Enquiry report into the 1992 religious crisis that claimed several lives as passed by the National Assembly in March 2007. A prominent indigene of the new chieftdom, Barrister Bukata Nzhadi, told newsmen on phone that the police "stormed" the town and surrounded the house of the new ruler as early as 3am on Friday.

"We heard that armed policemen surrounded the house of the new Gung Zaar in the early hours of Friday, precisely at about 3am. We don't know reason but I want to let you know that he was not in the house when they came and there is no news of his arrest." According to him, "The process of the election of the Gung Zaar was done in line with all the recom-

mendations of the Babalakin Commission of Enquiry as adopted by the National Assembly and accepted by the immediate past civilian administration of Ahmadu Adamu Mu'azu who set machinery in motion for the implementation of the law. All we did was in line with the laws of the land and so there is no need for this harassment from the authorities."

Mutallab asks U.S. Senate for 'clarification'

By Habeeb I. Pindiga

ALHAJI Umaru Mutallab, whose son allegedly attempted to bomb an American airliner last month, is awaiting clarification from the U.S. Senate on the invitation sent to him, family sources told *Daily Trust*.

The U.S. Senate Committee

on Foreign Relations, in a letter dated January 7, asked Mutallab to appear before it tomorrow to testify on the alleged bombing attempt by his son, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab.

But Mutallab, erstwhile chairman of First Bank, was still in Nigeria as at Sunday, awaiting what family sources referred to

as clarification as to what information the American lawmakers require from him.

It was not clear last night if Mutallab had got the information he asked for from the Americans, or if he was ready to honour the invitation.

The letter sent to him, signed by chairman of the committee

John F. Kerry, said the invitation was to "afford him (Mutallab) the opportunity to discuss his experience with his son and to provide his recommendations on the process by which he worked with US authorities."

"I would also note that Mr. Abdulmutallab's appearance would allow him to correct the

negative press to which Nigeria has been unfairly subjected over the past two weeks."

Farouk, 23, was charged with attempted mass murder, after he allegedly tried to set off an explosive concealed in his underwear during a flight to Detroit on December 25 last year. He had pleaded not guilty.

Nigeria records first death from swine flu

By Onimisi Alao

HEALTH Ministry yesterday announced the case of the first Nigerian to die from influenza A virus, otherwise called swine flu.

"The most recent case of Influenza A/H1N1 was that of a 38-year-old female in Lagos who tested positive to Influenza A/H1N1," a statement from the ministry said.

The statement, signed by Niyi Ojuolape, the Special Assistant (Communications) to the Minister of Health Professor Babatunde Osotimehin, did not mention the female's name but said she was a Bayelsan who lived in Lagos.

According to the statement, the lady had a history of travel to the United States of America about three months previously.

"She became sick six weeks ago and died on Tuesday January 5th, 2010 at Reddington Hospital, Victoria Island, Lagos," the statement added.

It said that as at yesterday when the Federal Ministry of Health did its latest update, Nigeria had recorded 11 laboratory-confirmed cases of Influenza A/H1N1, including the fatal case.

"The Federal Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Lagos State Ministry of Health, had collected samples from the index case and her contacts for further investigation. Eight out of the 40 samples of close contacts collected were found to be positive for Influenza A/H1N1," the statement added.

In a related development, the Minister of Health's spokesman said on telephone that a probable case of death from the Influenza A/H1N1 was recorded last month when the sufferer died "before samples could be collected."



QUEUE for Kerosine at the Apapa road AP Filling Station in Lagos yesterday.

PIC: NAN

Excess crude oil: Court gives FG ultimatum to ratify agreement

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin

SUPREME Court of Nigeria yesterday gave the Federal Government till March 18, 2010 to ratify an agreement reached with aggrieved states of the Federation in the legal battle instituted by the states over Excess Crude Account.

The states have also increased from the initial 20 to 30 as at January 14, 2010 when they wrote a letter to the Minister of Finance Mansur Mukhtar conveying their disappointment on the

Federal Government's non-chalant approach to the agreement.

The letter written by the plaintiff's lead counsel, Chief Adegboyega Awomolo (SAN) conveyed the states' grievances with the way the Federal Government is going about the situation.

The letter read in part: "We refer to most especially to the meeting of 8th September 2009 at which our clients made significant concessions and agreed to forbear on a number of key issues and the assurances of the

Minister at the said meeting that the agreements reached thereat would be documented and finalized in readiness for ratification by parties.

When the matter came before the apex court yesterday, Awomolo who asked the court for a definite date for hearing said there was the need to resume prosecution so that, "when the government is ready they would communicate with us".

Awomolo recalled that the case was filed since 2008 and no progress had been made due to

delay on the part of Federal Government.

But A.O. Alege (SAN) who represented the Attorney General of the Federation and Justice Minister Chief Michael Kaase Aondoakaa (SAN) appealed for understanding, saying that: "This is a matter in which settlement ought to be encouraged."

Justice Oguntade adjourned the matter till March 18, 2010 for report of settlement. He said in the event settlement is not reached, the matter would be adjourned for hearing.

SSS agents snatch Sgt Rogers from Abuja Hospital

AGENTS of the State Security Service [SSS] yesterday descended on University of Abuja Teaching Hospital at Gwagwalada and whisked away Abacha-era Strike Force

enforcer Sergeant Barnabas Jabila, alias Sgt Rogers, who had been receiving treatment at the hospital since he suffered a road mishap in November.

Sources at the hospital told

Daily Trust that the agents were led by the SSS's Director of Clinical Services, who had with him two other medical staffers of the security agency. They arrived just when Sgt Rogers

was undergoing physiotherapy for spinal injuries he suffered in the incident. They said they were removing him due to "a security breach."

While Roger's brother said

last week that the car crash was caused by a sloppy mechanic who forgot to tighten the tyre's bolts, other sources said Roger's car was hit by another car as he travelled from JOS TO Abuja.

Yar'adua: Rep blasts PDP over zoning formula

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

REP Patrick Obahiagbon (PDP, Edo State) has criticised the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP) for sticking to zoning formula.

Obahiagbon blamed the refusal to allow Vice President Goodluck Jonathan to take over

as Acting President in line with 1999 constitution on PDP's zoning arrangement.

Speaking with newsmen in Abuja yesterday, the lawmaker said that President Yar'adua's continued stay abroad without relinquishing power to the Vice President contravenes section

145 of the 1999 constitution.

He said: "The PDP constitution is subordinated should be subordinated and must be subordinated to the clear position of the 1999 constitution."

According to him, the refusal of the President to hand over power to the Vice President

would create political disharmony among them, pointing out that that could destabilise the country.

He said "Is it out of place for Mr President to muster the same energy in the implementation of section 145 of the 1999 constitution and thus enabling his Vice

President to function as acting President?

"Is this avoidable bile not capable of polluting the sacred precincts of the Presidential villa and leave in its trail a blossoming seed of disaffection between Mr President and his Vice President and their respective presidential foot soldiers?"



PIC: NAN

One killed in Abuja hunters clash

By Misbahu Bashir

ONE person was killed yesterday and four others seriously injured after two rival gangs of hunters clashed in Dei-Dei, on the outskirts of Abuja.

The incident occurred at the livestock market in Dei-Dei after the offensive gang allegedly launched an attack on the rival gang operating around the market accusing it of stealing one of their dogs during a hunting expedition.

Both gangs hunt wild animals with specially trained dogs.

An eye witness said the gang which launched the attack came from Tumbashi village and was headed by one Warte, who was shot in the chest during the fight.

He said the gang armed with machetes, axes, and swords stormed the market at about 1:00pm inflicting injuries on anyone they came across.

He said the other gang situated around the market quickly launched a retaliatory attack.

The Warte-led gang reportedly took to their heels and ran in different directions, with one of them going towards the Palace of the Village Head of Dei-Dei where he sought refuge at a nearby shop, the witness said.

He was traced to the shop by the defensive gang and killed. He was said to have bled to death after being stabbed in several parts of his body. Three other people were severely injured during the fight. The condition of the two people injured including Warte was said to be critical.

Warte's gang was so notorious in the area and recently amputated a teenage boy and left him in pool of blood, an eyewitness said.

The Village Head of Dei-Dei Alhaji Sani Dakachi said one of the hunters was killed at a shop close to his palace but the police intervened swiftly.

FCT Police Commissioner John Haruna, who led a team of policemen to the scene, said the clash was neither religious nor tribal but a fight between two criminal gangs.

He confirmed that one person was killed during the clash and four others were injured. The deceased and the injured were taken to the Specialist Hospital in Gwagwalada.

The CP said the police were able to contain the situation, adding that members of the two gangs would be arrested. Dozens of armed policemen have been drafted to keep vigil.

Senate can't act against Yar'adua • Urges help for Haiti

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

SENATE yesterday reiterated its earlier stance that it lacks the Constitutional powers to act against President Umaru Musa Yar'adua over his long absence from the country on condition of ill health and his refusal to communicate to the National Assembly to enable Vice President Goodluck Jonathan assume duties of President.

Reacting to reports that some senators are plotting to present a motion to make Vice President

Jonathan acting President, Chairman Senate Committee on Information and Media, Senator Ayogu Eze (PDP, Enugu North) said the Senate has no power constitutionally to make the VP acting President.

He said he was not aware that a group of 60 senators have signed up to support a motion seeking for immediate inauguration of the VP as acting President saying "Even if there is a situation like that, we lack the constitutional locus to hang

such a motion or action."

During the debate on the President's ill health last week, Senate President David Mark prevented senators from commenting on the provisions of Sections 144 and 145 of the Constitution saying "I want us to know that Mr. President has not violated any section of the Constitution."

It was obvious that several senators intended to comment of the provisions of Section 144 of the Constitution which provides for

investigation of incapacitation of Mr. President as a result of ill health.

Meanwhile, the Senate has called for an immediate help for the thousands of victims of the recent earthquake in Haiti.

In a statement by Senator Eze, "The Nigerian Senate salute the international community for coming to the aid of this poor country and urged the African Union to also send relief materials to Haiti."

Man demands \$2m bribe from EFCC suspect

By Boco Edet

A suspected impostor using the name of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to extort \$2m from a person being prosecuted has been arrested.

Victor Ositah Uwajeh was arrested at his Wuse II Abuja residence on January 13 when

operatives got information he was allegedly parading himself as a staff of EFCC to defraud members of the public.

EFCC's Spokesman Femi Babafemi said operatives recovered incriminating items in his residence.

"Some of the items recovered from the suspect's house include a pack of complimentary cards

with EFCC's logo and address bearing the suspect's name, fake EFCC letter head papers, a petition with EFCC acknowledgement stamp, five assorted vehicles including a hummer jeep, Honda jeep, Toyota Land cruiser Jeep and a Hilux jeep," Babafemi said.

Earlier this month, EFCC paraded two suspects who attempted to dupe the National

Financial Secretary of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Tukur Mani claiming to be in possession of incriminating documents.

Currently, Uwajeh is being detained on a court order pending his formal arraignment in court and EFCC has implored his victims to come forward with useful information that would help investigation and prosecution.

How Jos crisis began

Continued from page 1

Then the person that was stoning the people in the truck went and told his people that he was beaten by some Hausa youths and before you know it, a mob gathered at the site where I was renovating my house and demanded that we should stop the work. I then realized that the situation might become uncontrollable, so I rushed with my car to call soldiers who were posted at Yan Trailer [garage].

"Even before I got there, someone had informed them because they were already in their van heading towards the area. So I turned back and followed them. When we arrived at my house with the soldiers, the people popularly known as Yan Kasa [i.e. natives] demanded that the renovation work should be stopped. One particular Bajari man was the one that insisted that I must halt the work. I explained to the soldiers that I had already started this work when they proposed that the work should be stopped so that the matter can be resolved. One of the sol-

diers even collected my number and said that about five of us will go and sit down to resolve the matter. Then all of a sudden, we saw one Achaba boy [commercial motorcyclist] heading towards us with blood all over him. Someone was pushing his motorcycle, then another old man followed suit with similar injuries. I told my people to station the two victims so that they can serve as witnesses to us. So I asked the workers to stop the work, but the workers insisted that we must continue with work since we had already mixed the cement, sand and stone.

"I told them that they should stop the work since I was the one that bought the cement, but they refused. So the soldiers said that they should continue the work with the cement that was mixed and when they finish it, they should then stop. But before you know it, we saw a group of youths from afar and they started stoning us. We later heard that they had set up a road block around Baptist area and they were beating people. So we all dispersed. That is as far as I can remember."

Asked if the Yan Kasa youth had told him why he must stop his renovation work, Alhaji Kabir said, "Yes, they said that they don't want any Muslim to come back to that area again. That is what they said, that no Muslim should return to that area." He was also asked if any Muslims live in the area, and he said, "There are some Muslims, but my house happens to be at the boundary which separates our area from their area. Down inside the area there were Muslims. There are even some that renovated their houses and returned during the [Ramadan] fasting period, but my house happens to be at the boundary and there are no Muslims there."

Alhaji Kabiru Muhammad also denied claims that the trouble started because he encroached upon someone else's land while renovating his house. He said, "I have heard many versions of this incident, but this is the first time I am hearing this. I have been living in that area for over twenty years. It is not even a new house. It is an old house that was burnt during the 2008 crisis. I am just trying to

renovate it. There is no truth in this allegation and like I said, this is the first time I am hearing this."

Meanwhile, Minister of Police Affairs Dr Ibrahim Yakubu Lame said in Abuja yesterday that the police have been directed to fish out and bring to book those behind Sunday's latest mayhem in Jos. He said at the police force headquarters Abuja while commissioning new trucks and motorcycles that those behind the violent crisis in Jos and other upheavals in all parts of the country and their sponsors will no longer have any place to hide, as the police have been given orders to fish them out by all means and prosecute them.

Lame said the police will go after those responsible for the violence, no matter how highly placed in the society, in order to put a permanent stop to wanton destruction of lives and property. He blamed such incidents on some highly placed individuals in the society and vowed that government will not allow them to destroy the economic and social fabric of the nation.

Christian elders condemn Jos crisis

By Abbas Jimoh

THE Plateau State Christian Elders Consultative Forum has condemned what they called the attack on churches by some Muslim youths in Jos, describing it as act of terrorism.

A statement jointly signed by Bishop Andersen Bok, National Coordinator and Dr. Musa Pam, Secretary General of the forum said that the attack coming after the normal Christian services in churches was premeditated, wicked, deliberate and terrifying.

"In very strong terms, we hereby condemn Sunday's attack on Christians in Jos, the capital of Plateau state in which several persons have been reported injured or dead. Our fellow brothers and sisters were just coming out of churches in Nasarawa area of Jos when some Muslim youths pounced on them with cutlasses and other dangerous weapons. Shortly after the attack, we were made to believe that some Islamic fundamentalists were engaging themselves in some fracas after some disagreement which spilled into churches leading to Christian casualties.

"Why must it be churches and Christians who will suffer from an all-Moslem affair? In the last Jos crisis, the same Christians became casualties after some Moslems protested an election result that was intended to elect local government Chairmen?"

While commending the Plateau state government for its prompt reaction which quickly restored peace to the city, the forum said, "We call on our Muslim brothers and sisters to see this as the last of such provocation on the Christians in the state. Enough is enough."

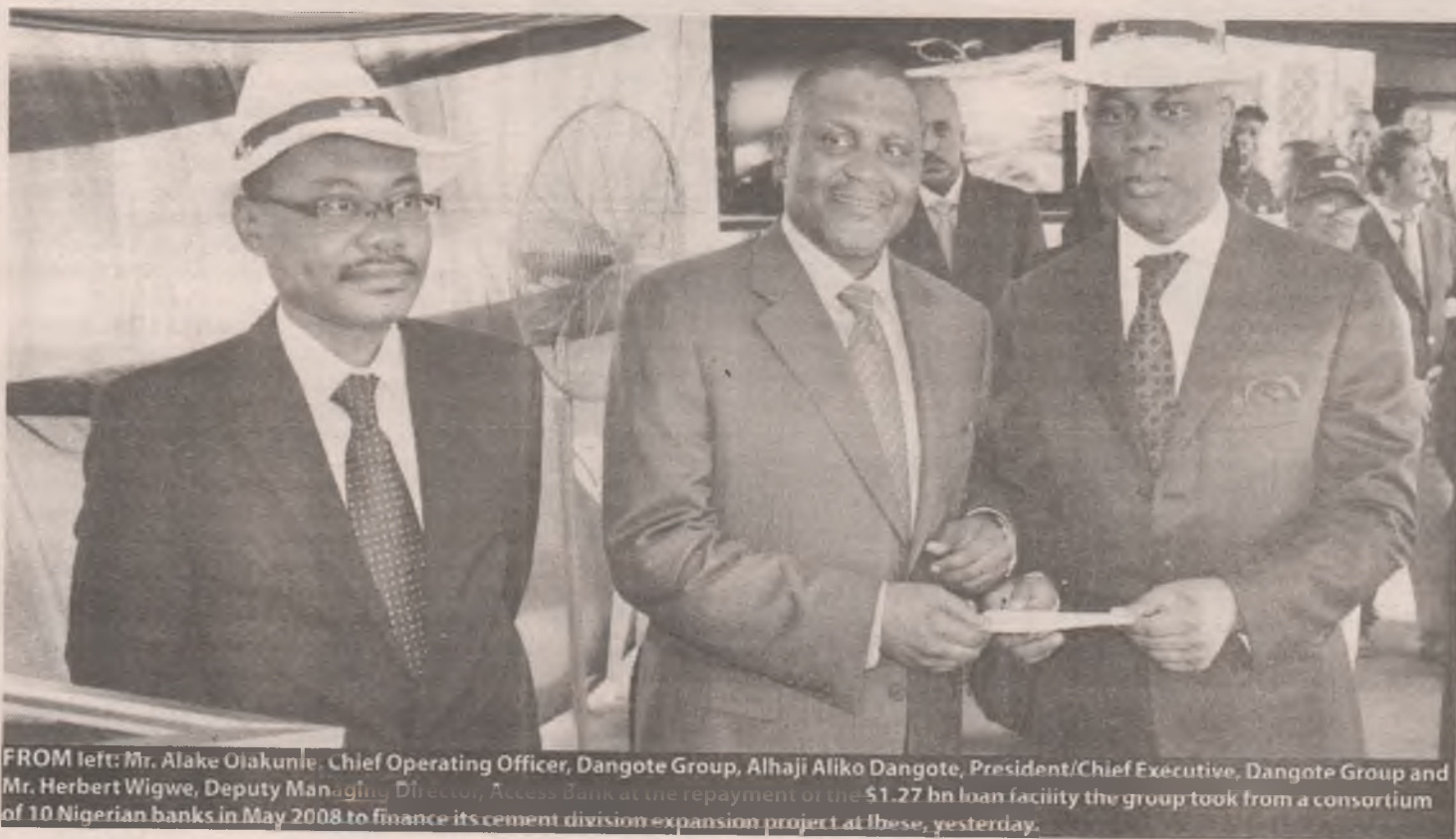
Akingbola loses bid to stop EFCC

By Boco Edet

A Federal High Court in Lagos has rejected the request of former Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Intercontinental Bank Erastus Akingbola to stop the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) from seizing and freezing his assets.

According to EFCC, at the resumed hearing of the case yesterday, counsel to Akingbola, Chief Felix Fagbohunbe (SAN) urged the court to grant his client an interim order stopping the EFCC from implementing the order of the court.

Replying, Justice Tijani Abubakar said he was not ready to grant any order whether interim or otherwise, noting that it would be better for other parties to be notified. The judge adjourned the matter to February 3, 2010 for all the applications to be heard and argued.



FROM left: Mr. Alake Olakunle, Chief Operating Officer, Dangote Group, Alhaji Aliko Dangote, President/Chief Executive, Dangote Group and Mr. Herbert Wigwe, Deputy Managing Director, Access Bank at the repayment of the \$1.27 bn loan facility the group took from a consortium of 10 Nigerian banks in May 2008 to finance its cement division expansion project at Ibese, yesterday.

Dangote pays N193bn bank loans

Continued from page 1

20 million metric tonnes by the first quarter of 2011.

The banks involved in yesterday's loan liquidation were Bank PHB, Fidelity Bank, United Bank for Africa, Afribank, First Bank, Access Bank, FCMB, Stanbic IBTC, Zenith Bank and Guaranty Trust Bank. Terms of the loan indicates repayment schedule of seven years while the first payment was scheduled to commence in August 2010, with the last payment scheduled in 2015.

Dangote said the loan was acquired in 2008 for the purpose of expanding the second phase of the largest cement plant in sub-Saharan Africa, located in Obajana, Kogi State, and to kick start the cement plants in Ibese and

Senegal.

"These projects when completed will bring total production output of Dangote Cement in the Nigerian market to 20 million metric tonnes per annum by the first quarter of next year. It also expect that by the same period, the output from Zambia, Senegal and Ghana will be 4.5 million metric tonnes per annum, making the group's African market output to 24.5 million metric tonnes per annum", he said

He said with these, Dangote Cement would become the second largest cement manufacturer in Africa after Lafarge and amongst the top 12 in the world. Alhaji Aliko also said the total output is expected to bridge the gap in cement supply in the market as well as increase the nation's

GDP, reduce reliance of cement imports and boost employment whilst developing skills.

According to him, the essence of repaying the loan within 20 months of obtaining it was to enhance the consolidation of cement assets. "The Dangote group is embarking on consolidating our cement assets in line with our strategy to consolidate our Nigerian assets. As a result, we have decided to repay the \$1.27 billion loan facility we took in May 2008 from a consortium of 10 banks.

Although the loan is due to mature in 2015, we have decided to liquidate the loan five years ahead of schedule in line with our vision and strategy to consolidate our assets and to ensure that Dangote Cement does not owe any

Nigerian bank."

He further said the group has so far invested \$3.5 billion in cement expansion projects in Nigeria and across the continent, out of which only \$1.27 billion was sourced from a consortium of 10 Nigerian banks while the balance was from cash flow generated by the group.

"We anticipate that by first quarter of next year, Dangote cement will achieve our projection target of 20 million metric tonnes per annum from our Nigerian operations, a further 1.5 million tonnes from our plant in Senegal and 1.5 million tonnes from Zambia plant. With our expansion across the West Africa region, our terminal in Ghana will add a further. 1.5 million tons", he said.

HOS explains delay in insurance payment for workers

By Francis Okeke

THE premium for year 2009 Group Life Insurance Scheme for federal civil servants was not paid because the rate was considered too high, Head of the Civil Service of the Federation Stephen Oronsaye yesterday.

Oronsaye stated this when a joint delegation of the Nigerian Council of Registered Brokers and the Chartered Insurance Institute of Nigeria visited his

office in Abuja.

A press statement signed by the Assistant Director of Press and Public Affairs Tope Ajakaiye said the group, led by Alhaji Teslim Sanusi, President of the Brokers' Council, visited to ascertain Federal Government's policy direction with regards to the implementation of the Group Life Insurance Scheme.

Oronsaye explained that "while the Federal Government has not paid the 2009 Premium, it has

however calculated and is making arrangements to settle payments for the claims made that year."

He assured the "insurance industry" that the Scheme is on course but that government is trying to ensure that it is implemented in accordance with laid down rules in a transparent manner.

"The fact that when I gave instructions that the biddings for year 2010 should not include any form of 'public relations' or 'over-

riding commission' and allocation for training of my staff in your package and the rates crashed shows that a lot was wrong with the 2009 package.

"When transactions are concluded and the new rates are announced, you will be surprised at the difference. People should fear God and strive to do what is right," he said.

Speaking on those to participate in the Scheme in 2010, Oronsaye said "although 17 underwrit-

ers have been considered during the initial exercise, it is still open for other credible companies to participate."

According to him, "so far, no broker has been contracted" and that five of them were only appointed as consultants to oversee the bidding process for the underwriters.

He said government plans to pay the premium for year 2010 before the end of January if the transactions are concluded.

PIC: NAN



HOUSE of Representatives member Patrick Obahiagbon (left) briefing National Assembly correspondents on the state of the nation in Abuja yesterday. With him is his Personal Assistant Mr. Augustine Osawe.

Anambra: TMG holds town hall dialogue

By Abbas Jimoh

THE February 6 governorship election in Anambra State will give an idea of to expect during the April 2011 general elections, the Transition Monitoring Group has said.

TMG National Coordinator Chibuike Mgbeahuruike said this at the special town hall meeting of stakeholders held in Awka, Anambra State under the auspices of the Civil Society Coordinating Committee (CSCC) on electoral reforms with supports from the Joint Donor Basket Fund (JDBF) before the sensitization tour of the 21 local governments of the state.

Mgbeahuruike also advised electorates in the state to see the coming election as an opportunity of holding their destiny in their hands and a way of internalization of democratic culture for the forthcoming 2011 general election.

"TMG is convinced that the February 2010 governorship election in Anambra State is not only critical because it will produce the Governor but will as well define the character and outcome of the April 2011 general elections," Mgbeahuruike said.

He said Anambra people require a strategic civic education, sensitization, information and knowledge-based empowerment in order to be alive to their responsibilities and obligations as citizens, adding that the town hall meeting is capable of building confidence and patriotism amongst the people.

ECOWAS summit to hold February 16

By Aisha Umar

THE summit of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government will take place on Tuesday, 16th February in Abuja and not Monday, 15th February as earlier announced.

A statement from ECOWAS commission summit was first scheduled for 21st December 2009; the summit which will be held in Abuja was postponed to 18th January.

It added that among other issues, the Heads of State will consider the report of the Council of Ministers which took place in November 2009 in Abuja as well as the 2009 Annual Report of the President of the ECOWAS Commission.

NTDC boss: SIM registration long overdue

DIRECTOR General of the Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation (NTDC) Otunba Olusegun Runsewe yesterday said the move to start SIM card registration is long over-due and a positive development for the country's tourism industry.

While commending the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) for the proposed registration of SIM

Cards, Runsewe said if the exercise was effectively carried out, it would go a long way in checking the activities of fraudsters in the tourism industry.

A statement issued in Abuja by Mr Celestine Toruka, a press officer with the NTDC, said the NTDC Director had been an advocate of SIM card registration, having held several talks on the need for such an exercise.

It also said that the initiative would encourage members of the international community, particularly investors, to do business with Nigeria.

NAN recalls that the Federal Government, through the NCC, had last year directed that SIM cards be registered with effect from March 1, 2010.

NAN also recalls that NCC had on Dec. 28, 2009 directed all telecom operators to put

the necessary arrangements in place for the smooth take-off of the exercise.

The registration process, according to the Commission, will include the capturing of the photograph and biometrics of subscribers.

It said that proxy registration of SIM cards would be restricted to "the direct families of persons seeking registration." (NAN)

Reform: UK trains top Nigerian oil executives

By Aisha Umar

SENIOR executives of the Department for Petroleum Resources and the Petroleum Products Pricing and Regulatory Authority yesterday took part in a workshop today to take forward the oil and gas sector reforms.

The workshop was opened by Dr Rilwanu Lukman, Minister of Petroleum Resources

at NNPC and attended by the acting British High Commissioner to Nigeria, Mr Peter West.

West said project followed a request from the Nigerian Government for help with training and capacity building as to achieve reforms of the Nigerian energy sector and is funded through the UK's Strategic Programme Fund.

He said the United Kingdom remains committed to working with the Nigerian government to achieve oil and gas sector reform in the country.

A statement from the British High Commission, Press & Public Affairs sector, said the Joint Nigeria-UK Energy Working Group established in 2008 is to foster greater co-operation

between the two countries on energy security.

The minister said Nigeria looks forward to continuous collaboration with the UK in oil and gas development, adding that the bilateral programme would be addressing wide ranging issues and challenges identified by the Focus Groups, including the transformation process and climate change.

13 die in Ondo road crash

From Leye Adewumi, Akure

THIRTEEN persons were feared dead in a ghastly road accident that happened along Oka Area at the outskirts of Ondo town in Ondo State early yesterday.

A witness said the accident occurred when a truck with reg-

istration number XW 969 APP from the Ore end of the road collided with an 18-seater bus with registration number XK 444 AKR coming from Akure town at about 8:00am.

It was learnt that the bus driver overtook other vehicles moving on the same lane before it

skidded off its lane to another and crashed into the truck which was loaded with building materials.

When Daily Trust visited the scene of the accident yesterday, wreckages of the two vehicles were still on the spot. Several personal effects of the passengers littered the highway.

The Divisional Police Officer in charge of Enu-owa Divisional Police Station Mr.

Oyibo Shuaibu Suleiman said the remains of the victims which include five adult females, four males and three children including a girl had been deposited at the morgue of the Ondo State Special-

ist Hospital Ondo. Oyibo added that those who sustained injuries had been rushed to the emergency ward of the same hospital.

He said the truck driver who was arrested shortly after the incident had been detained in police custody while preliminary investigation on the matter was on.

Wamakko: Appeal Court reserves judgement

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

THE Court of Appeal in Sokoto has reserved judgment to a later date in the case brought before it by the DPP candidate in the governorship re-run election in the state, Alhaji Maigari Dinyadi, against Governor Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko.

When the case came up for hearing yesterday, the appellant counsel, Ricky Tarfa, argued that since the court declared that Wamakko was not qualified to contest as at April 2007 when the general elections were held, it meant he was not eligible to contest the re-run election held in May 24, 2008 after the nullification of the 2007 poll.

The appellant counsel maintained that the majority decision at the election petition tribunal did not consider the merit of the case and that it dismissed the case for lack of jurisdiction and abuse of court processes.

He argued that though the appellants had filed a suit before the election was held, it could not be held as an abuse of court process.

But in his argument, Wamakko's counsel, Chief Wole Olanipekun, said the appellants had pending cases in courts which he noted were seeking the same reliefs as being sought in this case which was to declare that the first respondent, Wamakko was not qualified to participate in the re-run election.

He argued that the Appeal Court judgment that nullified the 2007 Sokoto State governorship election was to the effect that there should be fresh election conducted by INEC and that participants at the fresh election should be the same ones.

Counsel to PDP, Jacob Ochidi, said the party went in strict compliance with the order of the Court of Appeal.

He argued that the election tribunal was right to have dismissed the petition noting, "Once the order was given, that order was not subject to disobedience by any court or tribunal".

Also, counsel to INEC, Yahaya Mahmood said all the electoral body did was to comply with the Court of Appeal judgement.



FROM left: Alhaji Waheed Adurodekun, Chairman PDP, Ona Ara Local Government Area of Oyo State, Ms Jumoke Akinjide, PDP Oyo Central Senatorial aspirant, Mr Akeem Oke, Chairman of the local government and others, at the inauguration of free health care for people in the senatorial district in Ibadan yesterday.

Yobe makes prenuptial HIV/AIDS test compulsory

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

PROSPECTIVE couples in Yobe State must tender HIV/AIDS certificate before being joined in marriage by clerics and traditional rulers, Alhaji Bukar Modu Jumbam, the Permanent Secretary in the state Ministry of Religious Affairs has said.

Jumbam who spoke at an interactive session with NGOs,

civil society organisations and vulnerable groups in Damaturu yesterday also warned that no HIV test should be conducted outside the four designated testing laboratories of the state's Ministry of Health.

Tagged "Operation Show Me Your Certificate Before Marriage", Jumbam said the measure was to prevent further spread of HIV/AIDS among Muslim

communities in the state, adding that members of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) had adopted such measure since 2000.

The permanent secretary said government was partnering with all religious and traditional rulers on how to fully implement the new policy on preventing HIV/AIDS. This according to him will include sensitisation and enlightenment of people on the dangers

of marriage among couples without HIV/AIDS test. He lamented that despite measures taken against the spread of the virus, people continued to contract it, threatening the lives of many women and children.

Jumbam said the ministry had concluded plans to conduct census of HIV/AIDS widows and orphans in order to find ways of alleviating their plight.

Pensioners besiege New Nigerian

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

PENSIONERS yesterday closed all entrances to the headquarters of the New Nigerian Newspapers in Kaduna over non payment of their benefits spanning over six years.

Our correspondent gathered that the pensioners arrived the company around 6:00 am and locked up all major entrances. Staff who came to resume work by 8:00am were barred from entering.

When our correspondent visited the company around

8:30 am, the pensioners blocked the main entrance while the staff stayed outside.

The chairman of the pensioners, Mr. Bosa Iweka, in a statement said they had reached a "point of no return" in pressing for their entitlements.

"We will no longer allow the company and the owner-states to continue to take us for a ride, play politics with our lives after we have used our youthful and productive lives to serve our fatherland through the company," he added.

Iweka regretted that the

management of the company had shown that it did not care about the plight of retirees, adding that instead of them to settle part of the pension arrears from the donation they got from owner states, the management utilized all the donations in paying staff salary arrears and buying production materials.

He urged the Kaduna State governor to direct the management of the company to pay them at least six months arrears of their pensions from the donations the company got from governors in the north.

Addressing the pensioners, the head of accounts department of the company, Alhaji Aliyu Ahmed urged them to be patient as the state governor had promised to assist.

Governor Mohammed Namadi Sambo of Kaduna State had through a letter from his private Principal Secretary Zakari Aliyu said he was making efforts to address all matters of concern.

At the time of filing this report, the pensioners were meeting with the management of the company.

Aliyu lobbies Senate on girl-child education

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

NIGER State Governor Babangida Aliyu has called on senators to pass into law the bill on girl-child education in Nigeria to pave way for more literate women in the country. The governor made the call when senators led by the Senate Deputy Leader Senator Udoma Egba visited to condole him over the death of the wife of former Military President Ibrahim Babangida.

Dr Aliyu maintained that Nigeria had the wherewithal to provide free education for female children, adding that the need to invest in women education was important.

He said if the Federal Government could exempt female children from paying fees at primary and secondary levels, more female children would be enrolled in schools.

Citing late Maryam Babangida as an example, Governor Aliyu said she did well as a woman, pointing out that her pet project helped a lot of women. He said the Niger State government would continue the projects left behind by the former first lady as he maintained that they were viable and would not be abandoned.



FROM left: Deputy Governor of Oyo State Alhaji Taofeek Arapaja, Governor Alao Akala and Speaker, of the State House of Assembly Alhaji Maruf Atilola, at the signing of the state's 2010 budget in Ibadan yesterday.

Court rejects bid to delay Fayose trial

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, Lagos

FORMER Governor of Ekiti State Mr. Ayodele Fayose will now take his plea in the fresh charges preferred against him by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) as the trial Judge Justice Tijani Abubakar of the Federal High Court, Lagos yesterday dismissed an application for stay of proceedings brought before it by the former governor, saying it was a ploy to delay the trial.

According to Justice Abubakar, the application lacked merit, citing section 40 of the EFCC Act which provided that an application for stay of proceedings shall not be entertained by a trial court until judgment. Reacting, counsel to Fayose, Mr. Owoseni Ajayi, in his submission after

the ruling said since the case began, all the rulings by the court has been against his client.

The submission did not go down well with the judge who said the counsel was not telling the truth.

"Counsel must always remember at all times that they are officers of the court and they must protect its integrity. It is out of place for a lawyer to make political statements to embarrass the court.

The statement that all rulings by this court has been against the accused person is not true as I remember that this court gave an order allowing him to travel outside the country for medical treatment and also ordered the release of his international passport. As a lawyer you know the right step to take if you are not satisfied with the way the

court is handling this proceeding. You can ask that the case to be transferred from this court to another court" he said.

The counsel later apologized, saying he never intended to embarrass the court. The judge then adjourned the case till January 22.

The anti-graft agency took the former governor to court in 2008 on a 51-count charge of laundering about N1.4 billion of Ekiti State funds in collaboration with a firm, Biological Concept Nigeria Limited through the state Integrated Poultry Project Scheme. The commission, later in an amended charge increased the counts to 80 and joined three companies allegedly owned by Fayose. The firms are, Spotless Investment Limited, Feyerio Nigeria Limited and Hoff Concepts Limited.

Kogi Assembly tasks agencies on reckless driving

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

THE Kogi State House of Assembly has adopted a motion calling on agencies responsible for traffic control in the state to check reckless driving by motorists in Dekina Local Government Area of the state. In his motion, the member representing Dekina/Beraidi Constituency, Mr. Ruben Idakoje, urged the House to mandate the relevant committee to dialogue with the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) on how to reduce recklessness by trailer drivers and other road users in the area to forestall the re-occurrence of last December accident.

While commending Governor Ibrahim Idris for visiting the scene of the accident and the victims, the lawmaker commended the FRSC and the Chairman of the local government for their prompt action.



GOVERNOR Ibrahim Idris

Seconding the motion, the Majority Leader Alhaji Adamu Muhammed called for the adoption of the motion for the safety of lives and property of the people of the area. Speaker of the House Chief Clarence Olafemi mandated the chairmen of the relevant committees to visit the chairman of Dekina Local Government and the Ekeh of Dekina to console them.

Illegal detention: Court gives FG 14 days to respond

A Federal High Court in Calabar yesterday ordered the Federal Ministry of Justice to file within 14 days its response to a 10-year old suit on alleged illegal detention.

Mrs B.U. Uko, counsel representing the Federal Government was also ordered to serve the papers on all parties in the case within the period.

13 youths from Oron in Akwa Ibom State had in 2000 instituted the action against the Nigerian Navy, the Attorney General of the Federation and Addax Oil Company for alleged unlawful detention. But since the case was filed, the court has not proceeded with it due to some reasons given by the authorities involved in it. When the case came up yesterday, Justice Adetokumbo Ademola expressed disappointment at the manner with which the Attorney Gener-

al's office and the Navy treated the matter. He recalled that the court had in October 2009, given the same counsel 14 days to file all necessary papers "to enable us proceed with the case" but the order was flouted.

In the suit, the youths alleged that Addax Oil accused them of being sea pirates and reported them to the Naval authorities which immediately arrested them and took them to Calabar. They claimed that in Calabar, the Navy detained them for more than a month before releasing them on the orders of a Federal High Court.

In an application through their counsel, Mr Ita Ikpe, the youths urged the court to declare their detention unlawful and unconstitutional.

The case was adjourned to Feb. 22.

73% of N/East households use poor toilets — Report

From Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

OVER 73 percent of households in the North-east have poor toilet facilities while 34 percent do not have potable drinking water, the 2008 Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey has revealed.

According to the survey which was released by the National Population Commission (NPC) in collaboration with the Borno State government in Maiduguri yesterday, 32 percent ease themselves in the bush while 12 percent use pit latrines without slabs, buckets or open pits.

Women make up 30% of judges, minister says

By Akor Ojoma

NIGERIAN women currently account for 30% of the total number of judges in the country, Women Affairs and Social Development Minister, Hajjiya Salamtu Hussain Suleiman has said.

The minister stated this in

Abuja while opening a one-day stakeholders' forum preparatory to Nigeria's participation at the forthcoming 54th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women marking the Beijing +15 anniversary slated for March in New York.

She said "The principle of

affirmative action has led to increase in the number of females appointed to key portfolios. Most of the 36 states and the FCT judiciaries now have women as High court judges, accounting for 30% of the total number of judges in the country."

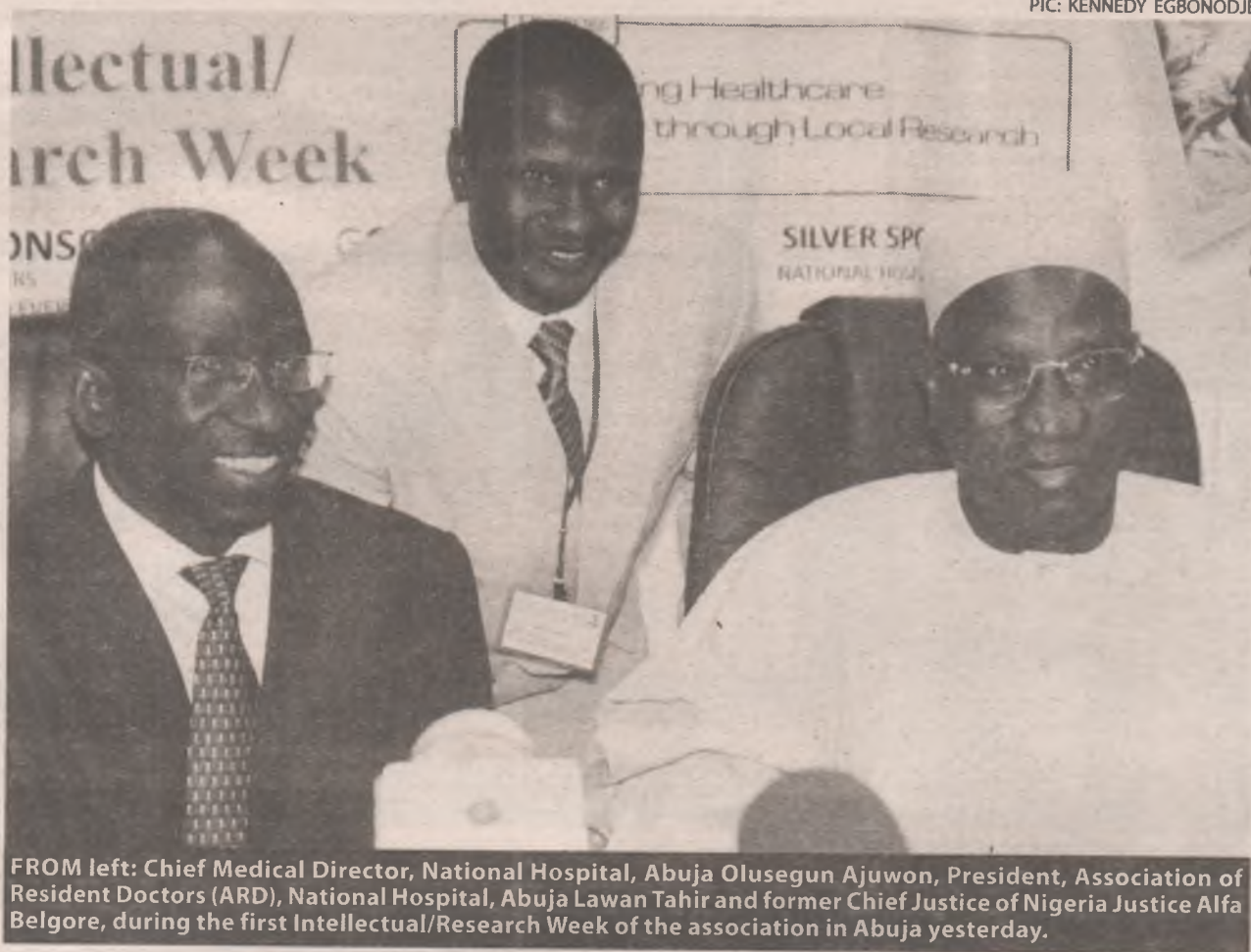
She also pointed out that there

is increased gender parity in education especially at the primary level.

The minister said the stakeholders' forum would collectively review women position with regards to empowerment, equality and development within the 12 critical areas contained in

the Beijing Platform for Action, emerging issues and constraints to the realisation of the goal 15 years after.

However, the minister said while progress has been recorded in some areas there are still challenges in others due to socio-cultural and religious diversity.



PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE

FROM left: Chief Medical Director, National Hospital, Abuja Olusegun Ajuwon, President, Association of Resident Doctors (ARD), National Hospital, Abuja Lawan Tahir and former Chief Justice of Nigeria Justice Alfa Belgore, during the first Intellectual/Research Week of the association in Abuja yesterday.

Nigeria to lead in funding Lake Chad commission

By Tina A. Hassan

THE Minister of State for Agriculture and Water resources Mrs. Fidelia Akuabata has urged member states of the Lake Chad Basin Commission to support the livelihood of almost 30 million people residing in the region through prompt fund remittance.

She said Nigeria as a leading nation in the region and in Africa, would take lead other members of the Commission in discharging this obligation by paying all her outstanding arrears in accordance with the Charter establishing the Commission.

Akuabata was speaking at the 55th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of the Commission held in Njadema, Chad where she emphasized that member states should not continue to pay lip service to the Commission by ensuring that they settle all their arrears.

According to a statement issued from the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources signed by Mohammed Ibrahim for the Deputy Director of Press, Akuabata also appealed to Member states comprising Central African Republic, Libya, Chad, Niger, Cameroun and Nigeria, to exemplify the spirit of regional cooperation and integration in Africa.

The Executive Secretary of the Commission Abdullahi Umar Ganduje also a Nigerian, told delegates that members' renewed interest in the Commission last year has led to a number of reforms in the region.

West Africa tops Spain, EU foreign policy agenda

By Aisha Umar

SPANISH ambassador Angel Lasoda Fernandez has said that Sub-Sahara Africa being on Spanish foreign policy agenda has led it to having special attention at European Union, because Spain is the current chair of EU.

He made the statement at a Guitar Tapas cultural event hosted at the Spanish ambas-

sador's residence to mark the celebration of Spanish EU presidency, adding that one of the agenda of Spanish presidency is to foster economic cooperation with the sub region.

"We are going to continue with political dialogue, at ministry level, with Nigeria in March and the other one with ECOWAS will be in June and minister will talk with all the sub-region, It

is important that Sub-Sahara Africa is present in the agenda of EU.

With Nigeria the discussion will be on the way forward between our two countries, with a wide dialogue on every aspect.

We already had, not long ago senior official meeting here in Abuja and now it will be the ministerial meeting we are looking forward to," he stated.

Nigeria, 3 others meet to strengthen maritime

By Shehu Abubakar

DELEGATES from Nigeria, Congo Brazzile, Ghana and Togo yesterday began meeting in Abuja for the 8th session of the inter-cessional management working group on legal, administrative and financial matters relating to the effective implementation of the Abuja Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on ports state control targeted at developing maritime activities in West and Central Africa.

Minister of Transport Alhaji Ibrahim Isa Bio who was represented by the Permanent Secretary of the ministry declared the two day meeting open. The Congolese Minister of Transport was also at the meeting.

Bio said that the "aim of this expert group is to review the decisions and recommendations of the Intercessional Management Working Group (ISMWG) 7, which took place in Conakry,

Republic of Guinea in June last with a view to fine tuning those recommendations and presenting them to the 7th committee meeting of Abuja MoU which is coming up next month along with the second Ministerial conference on Port State Control here in Abuja. Abuja MoU is saddled with the responsibility of ensuring compliance with international instruments on Maritime safety and security, protection of the maritime environment, as well as the improvement of working and living condition of the crew.

The Secretary General of the Abuja MoU, Engineer Brain Oluwole also noted that Angola and 8 other member countries of the organization have not shown true commitment towards the total implementation of the Abuja MoU. He alleged that the nine member countries have not been forthcoming in paying their financial obligation to the organization.

NEMA to donate to Haiti earthquake victims

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

IN response to Haiti's recent earthquake, the Nigerian government is planning to send its donations to the victims in cash as proposed by the United Nations

The Director General of National Emergency Management Agency NEMA, Retired AVM Muhammad Audu-Bida made this known yesterday in

Abuja while briefing Daily Trust on Nigerian commitment to Haiti's disaster.

Audu-Bida said from the report s reaching government it is going to be difficult to take any materials to the area whether by train or any cargo as the airport is already congested with relief materials coming from across other countries.

The Director General who did

not disclose the amount of total donation however dismissed the argument that Nigeria was slow in responding to Haiti quake unlike some countries.

"When you said you did not hear of any action from Nigeria, it is not true because the Vice President made it categorically that Nigeria is going to assist Haiti. We are in the process of doing that it is," he added.

Commercial drivers protest over alleged injustice

From Hisham Habib, Kano

SOME commercial drivers in Kano State yesterday protested over alleged injustice by the state's Task Force on Illegal Parks and Other Offences. The drivers had disre-

garded the warning issued earlier by the Kano State branch of The Nigerian Union of Road Transport workers (NURTW) not to embark on the protest.

One of the protesting drivers who spoke with Daily Trust

Auwalu Naibawa said they were being intimidated by members of the task force. He said they were being fined about N 10,000 for parking in areas like the Kano market in Sabon Gari and others. The state Chairman of the NURTW

Alhaji Bako Umar however disassociated the union from the protest, saying the protesting drivers were unpatriotic. He said the union had since distanced itself from the protest, adding that their support for the committee was not in doubt.

Umar said they had also informed security officials in the state to monitor the activities of the drivers, adding that the union would support the state government to ensure sanity on the roads, especially within the metropolis.

PIC: NAN

FG to harmonise health workers' status

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

THE Federal Ministry of Health will soon remove the barrier between health workers under the Federal Government and their counterparts at the states level, the Minister of Health Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin has said.

Osotimehin who said this while addressing workers of the Jos University Teaching Hospital after a tour of the hospital at the weekend said removal of the barrier was necessary to allow easy coordination between health workers at the different levels of government.

The minister said there was a need to collapse the current barrier as there were more health workers in the federal service than in the states and they could not render services at the states level because the barrier prevented them from doing so. With the proposed policy, the minister said a doctor working in a federal institution like JUTH could render services at the state level once the right framework had been worked out.

He said with that, health workers would be able to complement one another at various levels, thereby boosting health care services in the country. The Chief Medical Director of JUTH Dr. Ishaya Pam thanked the minister for the visit, saying the hospital had not been able to live up to expectation because of lack of funds. He urged the minister to look into the situation.



BABATUNDE Osotimehin



FROM left: Ekiti State Commissioner of Information and Civil Orientation Mr. Taiwo Olatunbosun, Deputy Governor Dr. Sikiru Lawal and Chairman, Ekiti State Council of NUJ, Akogun Tai Oguntayo at a news conference on the state of the state in Ado-Ekiti yesterday.

Nasarawa CAN, Doma partner on development

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

THE Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) in Nasarawa State and Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma yesterday agreed to work together for the growth of the state.

Chairman of CAN in the state Reverend Mathew Ishaya Audu who led members of the association on a visit to the Government House in Lafia said they were there to pledge their support for Doma and to pray for him and the state.

He said 2010 is the year of God's divine favour for the state and urged Doma to consider his position as God-given and should be used to develop the state. The association said it supports the governor's 13-point agenda, but added that without implementation, it would mean nothing to the state.

The governor who commended CAN for pledging its support for his administration said he would work with the association to ensure development in the state.

He assured that he would not discriminate among the people of the state, saying, "The policy of my administration as regards employment and appointments has always been based on merit because this administration has no room for mediocre".

Gov's wife donates taxis to women

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

ABOUT 60 women have benefitted from the second phase of the 'Lady Cabbies', a programme initiated by a Non Governmental Organization, the Empowerment Support Initiative (ESI) founded by the wife of the Rivers State Governor, Dame Judith Amaechi. The ESI Lady Cabbies scheme initiated in 2008 with 53 beneficiaries is geared towards encouraging and empowering women.

Rivers State Governor Chibuike Amaechi described the initiative as a

welcome development, saying it would complement government's efforts in providing gainful employment for the people of the state.

Amaechi who during the first phase of the programme pledged additional 147 vehicles to boost the scheme, charged beneficiaries to make good use of the opportunity.

Amaechi who was represented by the Speaker of the Rivers State House of Assembly Tonye Harry urged women to look for jobs as drivers in corporate organizations.

Commissioning the vehicles, the Minister of State for

Petroleum Odein Ajumogobia described the Lady Cabbies initiative as the first of its kind in the country, stressing that if emulated by other states, it would go a long way in reducing unemployment in the country.

Ajumogobia who charged the beneficiaries to handle their vehicles with care, supported the scheme with two vehicles.

Founder of the ESI and wife of the Rivers State Governor Dame Judith Amaechi said the female commercial driving scheme had become a means of providing sustainable employment for women and warned beneficiaries who indulged in sharp practices to stop.

Nasarawa to spend N2.4b on agric

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

THE Nasarawa State government says it would spend N2.4 billion to boost agriculture in the state. Part of the money is to be used in the procurement of tractors to continue with its Bada Koshi Agricultural Scheme. Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma in his budget speech said, "Agriculture con-

tinues to be a priority area in our developmental efforts. It is the main economic activity and source of livelihood of our people. Government will continue to give the sector the priority it deserves. Government will also guarantee loans to deserving farmers. Necessary infrastructure and logistics will be provided for the expansion and sustainability of the Bada Koshi scheme".

PDP hails withdrawal of soldiers from JTF

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

THE Edo State chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has commended the Federal Government for withdrawing soldiers from the joint military task force code named Operation Thunderstorm in the state.

Edo PDP chairman Chief Dan Orbih gave the commendation in Benin yesterday while reacting to Governor Adams Oshiomhole's allegation that the Defence Minister retired Major General Godwin Abbe was withdrawing the soldiers to pave way for the PDP to rig next weekend's re-run election in Akoko Edo.

The PDP said soldiers were withdrawn from the streets

not only in Edo State but also in Anambra where the governorship election is slated for February, saying it is not the business of soldiers to conduct elections or to provide security during elections.

The party wondered why the Edo State governor is protesting the withdrawal of soldiers while he is at the same time accusing the PDP of trying to use soldiers to rig the election.

"Mr Adams Oshiomhole late last year accused the PDP of planning to use soldiers to cause mayhem and rig the election in Etsako Central constituency scheduled for Saturday January 23rd 2010. Based on the possible outcry of Mr Oshiomhole and his accusation of the PDP, the Federal Government has thought it wise to withdraw the soldiers

from the joint task force constituted by Oshiomhole himself to avoid temptation of, according to Oshiomhole, the PDP using them to cause mayhem and rig the said election. That Mr Oshiomhole is crying over the withdrawal of the soldiers goes to show that he is indeed the one with the secret plans of using the soldiers to rig the election," he said.

The party said the withdrawal of soldiers was in the interest of the state.

The PDP said it was ready to partner with Oshiomhole on his campaign of "one man one vote", stressing that under a free and fair elections the party would defeat the Action Congress. It said the party would take advantage of what it called Oshiomhole failed administration to win votes.

Police release printer held over Aliero's poster

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

THE proprietor of Sebal Printing Press in Kaduna, Mr. Sefiu Balogun, who was arrested Saturday by policemen said to be from Abuja over posters of the Minister of the Federal Capital Terri-

tory Senator Adamu Aliero has been released, our correspondent gathered in Kaduna yesterday.

A source close to the printer said Mr. Balogun was released Sunday after interrogation. He said Balogun was mandated to report next Thursday to the Force CID

in Abuja for continuation of the case.

It was learnt that posters of Senator Aliero for president are being displayed at strategic locations in the FCT and some parts of the country, though the minister through his aides dissociated himself from them.

Butchers warn public on sale of unhygienic meat

THE Association of Butchers in Kebbi State has alerted the government to the sale of unhygienic meat for public consumption.

The Chairman of the association Malam Hassan Dangiwa told newsmen in Birnin Kebbi yesterday that the alert was sequel to the activities of unregistered butchers who

steal and slaughter unscreened livestock for sale to the public. He urged security agencies to arrest the illegal butchers, saying the association was in the process of registering meat shops as part of efforts to control their activities.

Dangiwa said the association recently spent about N115,000 to rehabilitate the

borehole at the abattoir in the state capital, as part of efforts to sustain the hygienic condition of the facility.

He appealed to the government to provide the association with vehicles to convey meat from the abattoir to designated selling points, as part of efforts to curb the activities of illegal butchers. (NAN)

Special taxes, levies underway in Abia for completion of projects

THE Abia State government yesterday in Umuahia set up a panel that will work out special taxes and levies for the completion of projects in the state.

Governor Theodore Orji said the committee would also manage and administer the special taxes and levies. Orji said the committee became necessary following the challenges posed by the global economic crisis which had made it difficult for the state government to complete most of its projects.

"Inauguration of this committee is as a result of our effort to deploy every available resource in the development of our state. I charge members of this committee to find some creative means of sourcing fund to meet the challenges of the state," he said.

Orji regretted that his administration could not sustain the tempo of project development due to a sharp drop in the revenue and income of the state. He charged members of the

committee to manage whatever fund they would get with a sense of responsibility and caution against using the medium as a means to enrich oneself. The Chairman of the committee Chief Max Adindu assured the governor that members of the committee would serve conscientiously. "We know the enormity of the responsibility that has been given to us and we will ensure that all monies collected shall be lodged to appropriate accounts," Adindu said. (NAN)

THE FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, BAUCHI P.M.B. 0231, BAUCHI

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR PROJECTS

The Federal Polytechnic, Bauchi is desirous of engaging the services of competent Companies to provide the following services under the year 2009 Capital Projects.

1. Supply and Installation of 500-100KVA Gen. Set
2. Water Supply Services (Boreholes, Overhead Tanks etc.)

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENT

1. Evidence of Incorporation by the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)
2. Company Audited Account for the last Three (3) Years 2006 - 2008
3. Tax Clearance Certificate for the last Three (3) years 2006 - 2008
4. VAT Registration and evidence of VAT remittances
5. Verifiable evidence of previous experience including letter of award and satisfactory completion in a relevant job
6. Financial capability
7. Experiences/Technical Qualification of key personnel with copies of Certificates
8. Equipment and Technology Capacity
9. Evidence of Community and Social Responsibility
10. Must not have any Director who has been "convicted in any Country for any Criminal offences relating to fraud or financial impropriety"
11. Bidders should accompany every bid with a disclosure whether any officer of Federal Polytechnic, Bauchi is a former or present Director, shareholder or has any pecuniary interest in the company.

SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

The documents are to be submitted to the undersigned in a sealed and signed envelope marked either a) "Supply and Installation of 500 - 100KVA Gen. Set" or, b) "Water Supply Services (Boreholes, Overhead Tanks etc.)" at the top right corner of the Envelope and to reach him not later than 14th April, 2009.

The submissions are to be opened at 12:30pm of the same date at the Council Chamber of the polytechnic and all applicants are invited to attend. Please note that this is not an Invitation to Tender and only Contractors that have been pre-qualified will be invited to Tender.

Signed:
L. Ibrahim
REGISTRAR

ASWANI INDUSTRIES PLC

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meetings of the Company will hold at SADIAT INTERNATIONAL HOTEL, IRONA, ADO-EKITI, EKITI STATE on FRIDAY, 12th FEBRUARY, 2010, from 11.00a.m to transact the following business.

ORDINARY BUSINESS:

1. To receive the Audited Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 together with the Reports of the Directors and Auditors thereon.
2. To re-elect Directors retiring by rotation.
3. To approve the remuneration of the Directors.
4. To authorise the Directors to fix the remuneration of the Auditors

NOTE:

PROXY

A member of the Company entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint a proxy to vote instead of him/her. A proxy need not be a member of the Company. A proxy card is enclosed and to be effective, all instruments of proxy should be completed and deposited at the Registered Office of the Company, at 11, ARENA SHOPPING PLAZA, SIMIOLUWA COMPLEX, ADO - EKITI not less than 48 hours before the time for holding the Meeting.

BY THE ORDER OF THE BOARD

1A ONALEYE
COMPANY SECRETARY
11 ARENA SHOPPING PLAZA,
SIMIOLUWA COMPLEX,
ADO-EKITI
10TH JANUARY, 2010



JOIN THE NIGERIAN AIR FORCE

APPLICATION FOR NIGERIAN AIR FORCE
AIRMEN/AIRWOMEN RECRUITMENT EXERCISE
(For SSCE/NECO/GCE/NCE/OND Applicants)

GUIDELINES

1. Interested candidates are advised to apply online at www.careers.nigerianairforce.gov.ng
2. Applicants are to complete form online and make payment at:
* **Intercontinental Bank**
- 3a. Applicants can only print out the following underlisted documents after payment of application fee at the designated bank:
 - Local government attestation form.
 - Parent / guardian consent form.
 - Acknowledgment form.
- 3b. Applicants are to note that applications submitted online **without** payment of application fee at the above mentioned bank will not be **validated** and **processed**.

QUALIFICATIONS

The minimum qualifications for interested applicants are SSCE/NECO/GCE/NCE/OND. Applicants applying as non-tradesmen and women must be between 17 and 22 years of age by 31 December 2010 and must possess SSCE/NECO/GCE. Applicants applying as tradesmen and women must be between 17 and 24 years of age by 31 December 2010 and must possess OND/NCE/relevant trade certificates from reputable and approved government institutions/organisations. Applicants with University diplomas are not qualified to apply as tradesmen and women. Male applicants must not be less than 1.68 metres tall while female applicants must not be less than 1.65 metres tall. Dates for Zonal Recruitment Exercise will be communicated in due course. For further information see the instruction page on the website or call the following support lines: 09-870 4817, 09-870 8475 and 08078406568 or e-mail: airforce.support@swglobal.com.

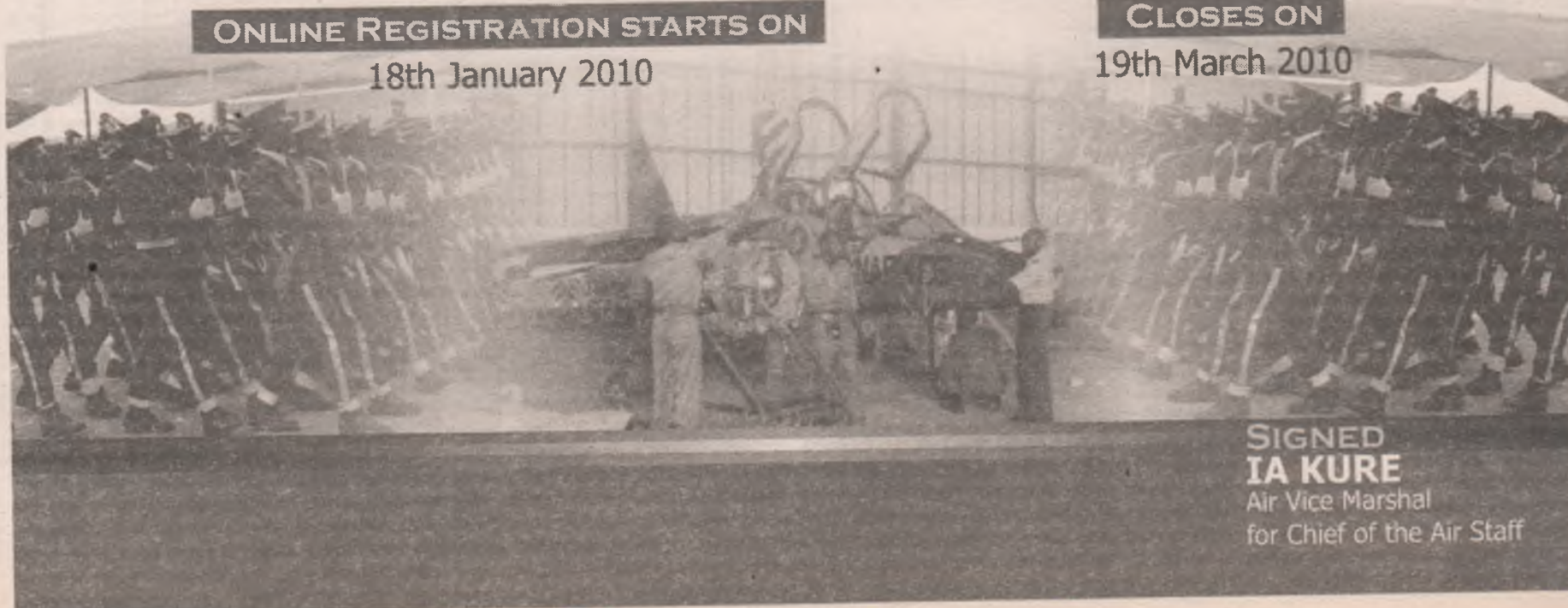
APPLICANTS ARE TO READ THE GUIDELINES ONLINE CAREFULLY.

ONLINE REGISTRATION STARTS ON

18th January 2010

CLOSES ON

19th March 2010



SIGNED
IA KURE
Air Vice Marshal
for Chief of the Air Staff

Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



INEC Chairman Professor Maurice Iwu

Iwu: Nigeria's democratic structures better than UK's

I truly agree with the High Commissioner, Dr Tafida. Prof. Iwu, though highly misunderstood, remains more than relevant in our time. He did his assignment well but our politicians who had ulterior motives discredited him. Well, only God can reward him. Well done Sir!!!

Ugochi
del.belle18@gmail.com

100,000 get free medical care in Gombe

DR. Isah, please let us tell ourselves the truth. I went to Nafada but could not find those people.

Muhammad Aliyu Gombe
maliyumaliyu@aol.com



GOMBE State Governor Danjuma Goje

Haiti: AC condemns Nigeria's 'tepid' response

...NOT surprising. Their current interest is about who becomes the President and who ends up as the Vice President.

Aji Isuwa Suleiman
suleimanaji@yahoo.com

Many killed in Jos violence - Govt imposes curfew

AFTER the recent crisis in Bauchi, the common belief was that Jos would be next. Dead right! Where next after Jos? Where is Arewa? How did religion divide us so irreconcilably? Brothers and sisters killing one another... Arewa is dead, and our dead-weight is dragging Nigeria. Can we survive independent of other regions?

Ningi
zfreespit8@yahoo.com

We must develop the spirit of brotherhood and societal tolerance not just in chants but in conducts. Killing one another shows an incurable religious malady and a deep political unawareness which paves the way for the perpetration of sectionalism and corruption. May Allah allow peace to reign in Jos and in Nigeria.

Isa Mariri
isamariri@yahoo.com

The whole crisis is founded on envy, unemployment and illiteracy. Killing innocent souls for nothing is really unfortunate.

DJ
sahararead@yahoo.com

For the situation in Jos, only prayers can help. We pray for peace to reign for the revival of the state and the nation as a whole.

Ahmad Ningi
shaquesonlee@hotmail.com

Politicians should fear God and stop using religion as a tool to achieve their vain desires. Our prayers alone cannot not bring peace to this country; they have to exist along with our sincerity and open mindedness towards each others' beliefs, norms and attitudes.

Bashir
bashiralibappa@yahoo.com

Jos again...? In all sincerity I believe that if the people of Plateau state can't live in peace and harmony, a state of emergency should be declared. Politics and all similar



SMOKE billowing from one of the areas affected by the violence

activities in the state should be prohibited because I believe all these so-called sectarian crises are politically motivated. A serving military officer should be appointed to oversee the affairs of the state till further notice.

Abdulkadir Ali Bage
alizaki001@yahoo.com

The issue of violence between Muslims and Christians in Jos is becoming too rampant. Many people have lost their lives; children have been orphaned and parents have lost their children and yet the government has done nothing to stop this problem completely.

Abubakar Chika Maru
abubakarsuleiman2009@yahoo.com

The frequency of these violent crises is worrisome. Why can't we have peace on the Plateau? The sponsors of these attacks should know that those who live by the sword die also by the sword. Enough is enough. Why can't we experience peace for once? The blood of the innocent calls for justice against the perpetrators of these wicked acts. Jos, once the envy of all, has turned into a perpetual battlefield. All parties involved should know that violence pays no one any good? What peace can't give us, violence wont either. The State Government should take every measure to unearth those behind these uncivilized and wicked acts. They must be brought to justice no matter how highly placed they may be. Because the wicked go unpun-

ished they think it is right to continue to do evil. Let us get to the root of these constant attacks and have peace in our once proclaimed Home of Peace and tourism. We all have a stake in making Plateau great. Please, it is enough. Let's give peace a chance. Plateau will rise again.

Dung G. Bot
beautyfairs@yahoo.co.uk

It is quite unfortunate that things like these are happening and the government cannot effectively investigate and find the root cause of this frequently recurring ugly. It seems the Government doesn't care about the lives that are being wasted. God is alive to judge and punish those fueling things like this. Residents and indigenes of Plateau, remember that you can only be happy if there is peace in your home so let us give peace a chance.

Gwong John
gwongson@yahoo.com

To me the Jos crisis is a religious one as has always been portrayed. The actors in these deadly acts are mentioning religion to gather more sympathy; otherwise it is just a crisis between the Biroms and the Hausas. Anybody who wants a solution to this problem must look at it from this angle.

Ibrahim Abba
pharmabbamasta@yahoo.com

... Jos again? The town may not recover from this one in a long time. There's too much of hate and as long

as the government of the state can't address poverty and empower the youth, the city of Jos will continue to erupt in violence at the slightest provocation.

Kehinde
kennisdesign@yahoo.co.uk

Government should do everything possible to avoid subsequent recurrence of these crises. They are taking the state backward and are not healthy for democracy.

Abdulsalam A. Tenuch
amisat2004@yahoo.com

Time has come when Nigerian Christians and Muslims (especially in the Northern part of the country) must embrace religious tolerance and live as one. Why must we continue to kill ourselves despite the current economic meltdown in the country? Our leaders must unite us.

David B.
davidbalogun89@yahoo.com

For so many years now many lives have been lost because of riots in Plateau and many other parts of the North. Despite all the Commissions of Enquiries and efforts by governments, lives continue to be lost unnecessarily. The question we should ask ourselves is what happened to the reports of all the previous Commissions of Enquiry? What are our governments (at local, state and national levels) as well as the security agencies doing to prevent the re-occurrence of these senseless killings? What actions have been taken against the perpetrators of previous riots to discourage others against such actions? What are we doing individually (through our actions or inactions) to bring about sustainable solutions to this issue in the North? Please let us all grow up and wake up to the tasks on our hands. The North has suffered enough. We should do whatever it takes to at least reduce this suffering.

Jan Fanuel
janfanuel@yahoo.com

Civil Defence rejects 120,000 senior cadre applications

A situation where close to four hundred thousand applicants are struggling over four thousand vacant positions in the Civil Defense is unfortunate and reflection

of the true levels of unemployment in the country. I laughed few days ago when I read it in one of the National dailies that Nigerians living under

the poverty line stood at 54.5%. This figure can only be 'real' if we are trying to euphemize our dire situation. I happen to be one of the 400,000 people jostling for

the Civil Defense job. May God help us.

Oyegoke S. Oyewale
goksonjay@yahoo.com

Yar'adua: 'Visa delays Reps' trip to Jeddah'

THE entire trip Jeddah is not necessary. A vote by the house to make Jonathan the Acting President is what is needed. It is simply a delay tactic being employed by the PDP cabal in Aso Rock to buy time.

Sunday Madu

Chriasmac9@verizon.net

"Travelling to Saudi Arabia is not like going to Lokoja or Jos" said the Chairman of the committee on Media and Public Affairs, Rep Esemey Eyiboh (PDP, Akwa Ibom State). Please, this is the

same place the President went to in just one night. Please just come clean with your story. Nigerians are tied of this cock and bull story. What is your point? Are you going to the hospital or not?

Hassan Baba
aleepac@yahoo.com



SPEAKER Oladimeji Bankole



By Yohanna H. Duniya

The 100 billion naira textile revival fund

The reported announcement by Minister of Finance, Dr Mansur Muhtar, that the Federal Government had earmarked 100 billion naira for the Cotton, Textile and Garment Industry Scheme to be disbursed as loans, out of which 10 billion naira had already been released, is a heart-warming development and a wonderful New Year present to all the teeming laid off textile workers in Kano, Kaduna and Lagos. Another 10 billion Naira had been included in the 2009 supplementary budget for the stimulation and revival of the industry, he informed Kaduna state Governor Namadi Sambo when he paid him a courtesy visit recently.

The scheme as approved by President Umaru Yar'adua has addressed the power collar of the multifaceted challenges facing the sector. Power has singularly rendered our textiles unviable by raising operating cost to levels that frustrated cost recovery. Responding to this, President Yar'adua has approved the setting up of multi-fuels power plants in the areas hosting textiles and ginning operations. Kaduna/Zaria, Kano, Funtua/Malunfashi and Gusau would have 215mw, 200mw, 75mw and 50mw power plants, respectively. The contract for the Kaduna power plant has already been awarded to General Electric Incorporated as a 15-month turkey project commencing in February 2010. With this singular act by the

We should start with insisting all military, police, customs and other official uniforms should be made from Nigerian textiles

Federal Government, we are now convinced of its seriousness to revive the textile and the manufacturing industry in Nigeria. At long last, our prayers that the government fulfil its promise have been answered. We are also happy the new approach is more holistic, because it includes cotton production, the textile and even the garment industry.

The struggle to revive the comatose textile industry is a very long one, dating back to about three years during the Obasanjo administration. At that time, about 70 billion naira was said to have been earmarked to resuscitate the industry. But unfortunately, nothing happened up to the time President Yar'adua took office in May 2007. Not long into his presidency, he also promised to assist the industry. The financing of the scheme with a view to commence yarn spinning in weeks to stimulate other output has started in earnest. The Bank of Industry (BOI) has already advanced N10 billion to the industry for retooling and an additional 1 Billion Naira to UNTL PLC Kaduna to buy cotton for spinning. The supplementary budget recently signed by the president in Saudi Arabia has provided another 10 billion naira for immediate disbursement to the CTG producers, to use raise the total outlay so far made to

21 billion naira. The remaining balance of 79 billion naira would come from a bond to be floated this year by the Debt Management Office.

We start from the cultivation of good cotton to feed the industries. Our appeal therefore is to the Northern governors to assist the cotton farmers with good seeds and chemicals to boost the cultivation. States like Katsina, Adamawa, Zamfara, Kano and others endowed with cotton cultivation should make it a priority project. This will assist tremendously in providing jobs to the youth who will be sure of ready markets for their farm produce. The governors should also devise common policies to reinvigorate and protect their textile industries. They should also accelerate the massive production of cotton as was the case during the colonial era. The cotton revival programme should include the establishment of a Cotton Marketing Board to be purchasing directly from farmers and protect them from speculators. The Northern Governors should also provide independent power projects as being done by Kaduna State in order to provide electricity to their industries. It is a known fact that without power, the industries will not work and even if they do, the cost of the textile will be very prohibitive.

Also in the area of combating smuggling, the Customs and Excise should be made to do their duty to stop the illegal importation of textile materials into the country. The havoc of smuggling textile materials into the country especially from China is immeasurable. In order to protect our industries, government should impose high tariff for any textile imports. Nigeria should no longer be turned into the dumping ground of all manner of imports especially for those that we can do here locally. Similarly, the Ministry of Information and Communications and the National Orientation Agency should begin campaigning for the patriotic patronage of Made-in-Nigeria textile materials. We should start with insisting all military, police, customs and other official uniforms should be made from Nigerian textiles.

The revival of the comatose hitherto anchored around non-existent but highly publicized 70 billion naira textile fund is key to wealth generation affecting more than 10 million cotton farmers and industrial workers and up scaling the manufacturing gross domestic product. It also must be mentioned that textile manufacturing in Northern Nigeria had once contributed 25 per cent of the manufacturing national GDP. The collapse of the textile industry has effectively wiped out manufacturing from Northern Nigeria and parts of the East and Ikorodu in Lagos. Textile mills' turnover at their peak in the mid-1980s amounted to US \$8.5 billion. The current combined turnover of the industry is about US \$300 million only.

The new effort to rehabilitate this critical sector of the economy is certainly a big plus in the implementation of the administration's 7-point agenda.

The writer is a former textile mill employee; he wrote from Kakuri, Kaduna.



By Yusuf Dingyadi

Bafarawa and EFCC: Let's talk issues, please

I read with amusement, the write up credited to Sani Umar, the Special Assistant to the Sokoto state governor on media, over the EFCC and the state government's involvement in the travails of the former governor of the state, Alhaji Attahiru Dalhatu Bafarawa.

It is indeed instructive that Umar has finally decided to speak out, after months of being in denial.

However, instead of focusing on issues, he busied himself chasing shadows, abusing my person and even blaming me over the failures of the current administration he serves.

It is well-known that Bafarawa, in the twilight of his administration, announced that he left the sum of N13 billion naira in the state coffers. But, rather than try to ascertain the Bafarawa's claim, Governor Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko, announced, without checking, that his predecessor left nothing in the treasury. Clearly, this peremptory announcement set the stage for the persecution of Bafarawa that followed, and continues to this day. These are the issues, not some name-calling and sentiments that Umar is wont to resort to.

Nigerians are not fools; the people of Sokoto cannot be cowed.

We have heard stories on how

Can Umar tell Nigerians who was it that supervised the 23 local government councils between 1999 and 2004?

resources were diverted by council chairmen in other parts of the country, while their people wallow in squalor.

Can Umar tell Nigerians who was it that supervised the 23 local government councils between 1999 and 2004? It was Wamakko, when he held his position as deputy governor of Sokoto state, and also the commissioner in-charge of the 23 local government councils. Can Sani Umar tell Nigerians why the councils were removed from Wamakko's supervision few years after it was discovered that resources were not utilized for purposes they were meant for? These are the issues.

Any visitor to Sokoto can attest to the transformation of Sokoto state during the tenure of Bafarawa. Roads which were hitherto not accessible in the past, especially access roads to border towns like Gudu, Gada, Marnon-Issa and Shagari-Tureta, were opened up by Bafarawa administration. In fact, the untold pains and suffering being witnessed by motorists and

travellers became a thing of the past after the roads were constructed. But can Umar tell Nigerians why the Sokoto-Illela road contract awarded at the cost of N1.9 Billion over 2 years ago is still in a dilapidated state, or why the administration is yet to commission any major project since its inception 3 years ago? These are the issues.

One wonders what has happened to the independent power plant worth N3.8 billion, which has since

If water scarcity is now history, how come water vendors (mairuwa) are making brisk business in Sokoto than anywhere else?

been abandoned by the Wamakko led administration. Sani Umar should tell Nigerians why electricity is highly epileptic in Sokoto despite the fact that the contract was awarded two years ago. These are the issues.

Instead of persecuting his perceived political opponents in order to divert the attention of the masses from the administration's obvious shortcomings, Wamakko should apologize to citizens of Sokoto.

On the recent arrest of Bafarawa by EFCC, on which Umar also commented, it is now known that the Federal High Court in Abuja has since declared the arrest activities of the anti-graft agency as null and void. In fact, the whole actions of EFCC was an illegality as the Federal High Court had already granted him bail but due to the fact that EFCC is acting a script written by the government, they went and detained him in Sokoto prison in defiance to the Federal High Court order. These are the issues.

I ask Umar: who financed the services of the EFCC counsel?

Umar claimed that water scarcity in Sokoto state was now history. How can that be, when we know that even as I write, the outcry of the people is one of lack of potable water. If water scarcity is now history, how come water vendors (mairuwa) are making brisk business in Sokoto than anywhere else? Yet huge amounts of money are regular earmarked for water projects. Where does the money go? These are the issues.

On the other hand, if for the sake of argument one admits that Umar were to be correct, why then do our people suffer from so many water-borne diseases? Of course, Umar cannot be correct; he might not even know what he is talking about. These are the issues.

Dingyadi wrote from No 88 Emir Yahaya Road, Sokoto.



Your Letters

Nigeria is no breeding ground for terrorists

Nigeria is not a breeding ground for terrorists, nor is it one for the exportation of terrorist ideas. The average Nigerian, Moslem or Christian, is a peace loving individual who wants a peaceful environment to go about his normal business. It is on account of that peaceful nature that Nigeria could cede a whole nation, Bakassi, in order to avert war with a sister African country and not a single Nigerian was on the street in violent disapproval of that handover, painful as it was and still is. Nothing can be more peace-loving.

A clear proof that Nigeria is not a harbour for terrorists is located in the fact that we successfully hosted the Under-17 FIFA World Cup without a single

incident and also in the fact that no clandestine Nigerian groups claimed responsibility for the terror attempt of Dec 25. On the contrary, the radicalization, training and equipping of the young boy were all found to have been done outside the shores of Nigeria.

We are hard-put to unite even on issues touching on our collective interests, yet on this, which touches on a friendly nation, we have spoken with one voice. This is not only typically African, it is particularly Nigerian as our global peace-keeping initiative and generosity to our African neighbours will testify.

In fact what should clearly count for us but which, unfortunately, is being grossly underplayed is the excellent character of a Nigerian father who loves the security of others so much that he was willing to sacrifice the love of his own. Why are we not celebrating our own? In America, Mutallab would be celebrated as a hero. If Nigeria is not commended and rewarded on account of the virtue of one of her citizens, she should not be criminalized and

punished for the singular waywardness of another.

Moreover, it is palpably unfair to treat Nigeria differently on account of a wrong that nationals of other European countries have been guilty of in the past, and whose countries were not so blacklisted.

Yet I call for moderation both on the part of America in her legitimate efforts to secure her citizens and also on the part of Nigeria in genuinely asserting the collective innocence of her citizens. I also call on the Nigerian Administration to recognize the apparent exigency now more than any time, of thoroughly overhauling and reinvigorating our domestic security systems and also redefining our initiative in the diplomatic process.

As a mother my heart goes to the innocent mother of this child. I share in her present agony and I pray for her. I also call on parents and mothers, especially, to be extra-vigilant and to impart good morals in their words.

Senator Florence Ita-Giwa
(florencepk@yahoo.com)

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Jos crisis again

THIS is becoming too incessant. I think that a state of emergency should be declared, because it is obvious that the authorities there have lost control of the state.
YUSUF, 08067189423.

Secoded

THE Federal Government should take drastic action against all the people involved in the crisis, no matter their position. It getting worse by the day; why only in Jos? All security agencies should make proper investigation to bring those involve to book.
KABIR Ibrahim, Gusau, 07033060737.

I love Nigeria...

I read a report yesterday claiming that a bottle of water that we buy here in Nigeria for 100 naira, costs about seven US dollars in Angola. If the report is true, it has further reinforced my belief in Nigeria! Our leaders should shun corruption. We are supposed to be a great nation. I don't have to go and beg a white man for me to treat him when my own people are dying of minor illnesses here! God bless Nigeria.
LEO, Katagum, 08032016425.

...Good for you

NIGERIANS should know where our problems are. How can fuel scarcity stop when 90 million litres of petrol was reported missing? God help Nigeria.
ABIAYI, Abuja, 08061113678.

This 'terrorism' debate

IF you can't walk freely in any part of your country; or worship your deity without fear of being attacked, what's that supposed to mean? What do Nigerians understand to be terrorism? Is it only when Americans are attacked?
PURTIS Samuel Davou, Jos, 08068607107.

Abuja environmental...

I have one question for you: as you busy yourself chasing newspaper vendors on the streets of the FCT, where do we buy newspapers from now?
UK Bello, Abuja, 08032898962.



By Aliyu Umaru

Only Nigerian court can determine whether Farouk Abdul Mutallab is a terrorist (II)

Cont'd from yesterday

To get out of this self-inflicted dilemma, the Western man and his leaders must understand that in the New World, there is no war to fight and win."

In conclusion, in the light of the foregoing, it is my view that even if Farouk can be described as a terrorist from any perspective, it is the United States of America that is 100% responsible for producing him; and as such American courts have lost the jurisdictional capacity to try him as that would unjustly confer upon America the right to sit as a judge in its own cause. Further, Farouk is entitled to a defence of his fundamental human right to fair hearing and there is no way Farouk can receive fair hearing before an American court when the President of that country has already pronounced him guilty and has declared Yemen a global threat to the "civilized world" on account of that.

There is, therefore, no alternative to returning Farouk to his home country, Nigeria where he was alleged to have commenced the preparations for the commission of the offences America is accusing him of. Without doubt, the outcome of the trials of the Blackwater corporate terrorists in an American court has disqualified American courts from trying terrorism cases. American should understand that in Nigeria Farouk, unlike the Blackwater corporate terrorists, does not have immunity and can be tried before Nigerian courts for the commission of any criminal offence.

In the final analysis, therefore, it is my view that only a Nigerian court can answer the question whether Farouk is a terrorist. From the global perspective, the rest of world, led by Africa, should take immediate steps to free America from its self-destructive super power delusions by bringing to the attention of America that the greatest threat to America is America itself. The fact that President Barack Obama, the first America President of the African descent, is today speaking more like President George W. Bush than like President J. F. Kennedy is another clear proof that the American power delusion syndrome is only curable by the real international community led by Africa. The weapon of mass construction, peace, should be deployed by the UN for the purpose of ending all terror-related conflicts. To this end, the UN should sponsor and host a Summit of the leaders of Russia, China, the European Union, India, Japan, the Organisation of American States, the African Union, the Organisation of Islamic Countries and al Qaeda (if such an organization really exists); and after the successful conclusion of the Summit America should grant its citizenship to Osama bin Laden in the interest of world peace.

Concluded.

Umaru, a legal practitioner, wrote from Kaduna.

Underdevelopment of the Idomanation

By Lawrence A. Onoja

Cont'd from yesterday.

Today, Apa can be created with the synergy of all our efforts, like the one that the current Ochi'Idoma, Elias Obekpa is leading. Again, against all doubts, I will be involved in all efforts to create the state no matter who is leading the struggle. If Apa state is created, its usefulness shall outlive all of us and our differences. Change is a necessity that we can no longer set aside. We have been bedevilled by a most irresponsible representation at all levels since 1999. There are no visible and viable federal projects in our federal constituencies since 1999, in spite of the huge federal revenue set aside every year as constituency projects for our federal legislators. It is sinful for a people to routinely accept a leadership that is not people-oriented. We must take our voices up. Vote our consciences and get our votes to be counted against the forces of those who seek power in perpetuity.

Given the above realities, I seriously implore regeneration or our political activism devoid of overt thug-tactic and the reliance on strong-man political philosophy to that which will surge our collective and national relevance. For as US President Barack Obama rightly noted in Ghana, "Africa does not need strongmen but strong institutions." A new dawn awaits you. You must continue to persevere. The fight shall go on and we shall win.

Concluded.

Onoja, CFR, mni, a retired army general, was military governor of Katsina State; he can be reached at (lawrenceonoja@yahoo.com)

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

No. 20 P.O.W. Mafemi Crescent, Off Solomon Lar Way,
Utako District, Abuja
09-6726241, 6715364

Stemming crop failures

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), a United Nations agency, recently issued a disturbing report on the growing level of crop failures in Africa's agricultural production. The agency said in the report that it recorded crop failures of up to thirty per cent in some African countries last year, attributing the trend to insufficient rainfall. Particularly affected are Chad, Benin Republic, Niger and Mauritania. In the case of Chad, the report noted that it suffered crop failures of as high as thirty-four per cent. Perhaps more worrying is the report's forecast for 2010, that it could be worse unless precautions are taken to either halt the trend, or effectively manage it. This is a warning that our agriculture policy planners must take seriously. Although there are natural phenomena that we cannot control in a sustainable way, like drought and limited rainfall or, for that matter, too much of it, measures can still be put in place to cushion their effects on the populace.

In Nigeria, where there are perhaps more dams than anywhere else in West Africa, the management of water resources is spotty at best. This country spends huge amounts of money, or at least makes budgetary provision every year, for the construction of grain reserves and silos to enhance food preservation and obviate the effects of harvest losses; whether these have any impact on the national food security programme is open to question.

Despite the preponderance of river basin development authorities, maintained at enormous cost to the public, the reason for their establishment, namely all-season farming and extension services to spur local production and thus increase agricultural output, have largely been left in abeyance.

The link with research institutes appears to be broken, or at least tenuous. These institutes, along with special project organisations, like the Agricultural Extension and Research Liaison Services (AERLS), and the Institute of Agricultural Research (IAR), both affiliates of Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, play important roles in monitoring agricultural performance and developing seed varieties to meet with current environmental and other challenges. Strengthening the partnership with them can only be beneficial as we seek to address the challenges that the FAO report portends. In Nigeria, as in most countries on the African continent, farming is the main occupation of the people, and provides the basis on which any programme to develop food security for the citizens can be built upon. The need to teach the farming population post-harvest techniques become imperative.

According to the experts, more than half of crops planted in developing countries are destroyed by pests and diseases, and by inadequate storage or transport. Thirty to forty per cent of crops are lost before harvest and more than ten per cent after harvest, Food CABI, a not-for-profit agricultural organisation, told a Security in a Climate of Change conference recently. That being the case, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Rural Development, must liaise with all the relevant agencies and government departments to devise methods to combat harvest losses in the agricultural production chain. Extension services should be revived and funded well to enable them discharge their important mandate, which should include teaching the local farmer simple ways to preserve their produce after harvest and reduce waste. The government must do something about the dams by putting them to use in the service of the nation, and also cut the huge maintenance cost that incurred even as the dams just lie without being utilised. If they are well-managed, they could be beneficial to irrigation farming as part of the national agricultural policy for food self-sufficiency.

We have seen where declining agricultural production had pushed some countries to seek the importation of genetically modified seeds to supplement local supply, with some unpleasant results, as in a recent case in South Africa involving the US multinational, Monsanto. If the Federal Government has no policy in place to guide current and future policy direction, we advise that one should be introduced without further delay. Whatever measure the authorities decide to take to address the problem of crop loss, it should be environmentally sustainable and one that our farmers can easily adapt, relate to and apply.

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e-mail: dailytrust@dailytrust.com

Farouk's trial and America's terror list

It is no longer news that the American government recently placed Nigeria among nations of 'special interest' on a shortlist that also includes nations it dubiously referred to as 'state sponsors' of terrorism. The listing followed the attempted bombing of a Detroit-bound flight for which a Federal Grand Jury that sat in Detroit penultimate week indicted a Nigerian, Farouk Abdulmutallab.

Farouk can count himself lucky under the circumstances. My choice of the phrase 'court of competent jurisdiction' a few weeks ago in reference to the type of justice Farouk should expect in America was not merely an exercise in semantics. The accused could just as swiftly been despatched to rot at the Guantanamo Bay - it is still open despite the campaign promise of President Obama to close it - and classified as an enemy combatant as some influential figures in the American Republican party in fact, demanded.

Fortunately, for Farouk, he was not classified as an 'enemy combatant' and will not face a military tribunal. Luckily, for Farouk, the Obama administration did not descend to the level of the Bush era, when hundreds of suspected members of Al-Qaeda detained at Guantanamo Bay, had their civil liberties severely abridged. Under Bush, the US government sought to prosecute the detainees under a different legal code than the one enjoyed by ordinary Americans even though the detention facility was under the territorial jurisdiction of America.

It wasn't until the 29th of June 2009 - seven years after 9/11 - that the American Supreme effectively quashed the notion. The court ruled 5-3 that the Military Commission system established by President Bush was unfair and illegal. In the United States, Military Commission rules do not guarantee an independent trial court and do not provide for impartial appellate review of cases. They also do not prohibit the use of testimonies forcefully obtained from suspects.

If Farouk is equipped with a smart lawyer, he may even beat the rap. His legal team could plead 'temporary insanity' like many American felons did in the past several decades to escape justice and even the gas chamber despite having what seemed like water-tight cases against them. They may also capitalize on 'procedural errors' or persuade the Jury that Farouk was 'entrapped' to escape jail.

The most famous of such cases, the one argued with resounding success by lawyers of the late maverick automaker John DeLorean to great effect, was in 1984. DeLorean was caught on cameras secretly planted by the FBI sniffing cocaine and negotiating with drug barons on how to use the product to save his ailing motor company. But the Jury agreed with his lawyers that the FBI in fact lured him into a trap in the manner the prosecution compiled and presented its case. They agreed with the lawyers who claimed that 'without the government, there would be no crime'. That is not to absolve Farouk

Muhammad Al-Ghazali

ghazalism@dailytrust.com,
08052100432 (SMS only)

of the alleged crime, or subscribe to any nascent conspiracy theories on his arrest and indictment.

My point is that in America, you can be as guilty as sin and still stand a fair chance of escaping the full wrath of justice with a crafty lawyer. George W. Bush knew it. That explains why he wanted suspected Al-Qaeda detainees at Guantanamo tried under a different legal code. Whether Farouk will receive a fair trial given the massive publicity his alleged offence received in the American media is however a different thing altogether. That is why the Jury selection process, which

most formidable security apparatus ever assembled in history. It is a fact already acknowledged by President Obama himself when he ordered the overhaul of the entire system.

Expectedly, Nigerians, from varying backgrounds, are angry with America. They only differed on the solutions to the problem. In that respect, I was astonished to read that even the respected Chief Arthur Mbanefo, had the courage to caution Nigerians to be cautious in their handling of the case so as not to jeopardize our oil exports to the US. On the contrary, I am of the view that the fastest way to get Nigeria off the dubious list is by threatening the same exports! All we have to do is to look east in the direction of China and India - two fast growing economies with insatiable demands for energy - for favourable investments in the sector and see the way the Americans will react. Like all capi-

“But whatever happens to Farouk, all Nigerians are already at the receiving end of American justice of a different kind”

precedes the actual trial, is crucial.

But whatever happens to Farouk, all Nigerians are already at the receiving end of American justice of a different kind. Our classification among nations of 'special interest' on the dubious terrorism watch list compounds the already pathetic image of Nigeria already engrained on the minds of millions across the world by drug pushers, credit card, and advance fee fraud syndicates.

As if carrying the green passport was not painful or humiliating enough, what the listing entails is that we can now expect special treatment at all airports whenever we venture abroad. We face isolation, rigorous screening, and must also swallow our pride when overzealous airport security staff explore our groins, not to mention the indignity of full body scans that will leave little to the imagination.

We are set to experience all these because America arrogated to itself the sole right to maintain the so-called terrorist nations. What qualifies a nation that arms Israel to the teeth, and bombs wedding parties to smithereens in the alleys of Bagdad and Kabul, to place any other nation on terrorism watch list? What entitles a country that supports the mass and targeted killing of Palestinian freedom fighters to act with such unbridled arrogance? The answers are legion, but for now, I am tempted to conclude that Nigeria's classification on the infamous list defies both logic and common sense.

Perhaps because of the sham-bolic manner our government managed information in the aftermath of the alleged offence, the Americans simply ignored their own incompetence and the courageous efforts of the Farouk's father that would have averted the crime in the first place. 150 Million Nigerians must now pay for the unpardonable failures of the

talist nations, America also has its soft underbelly. They are vulnerable. Its economy relies on cheap oil, and Nigerian crude is especially sweet. If it were not the likes of Chevron would have quit a long time ago. Gaddafi achieved that successfully despite the alleged involvement of Libyan agents in the bombing of the Pan-Am aircraft over Lockerbie in Scotland. The late Sani Abacha also proved that Nigerian could do without patronage from the West. Are we better off today than during the reign of the diminutive General?

On that score, I completely agree with His Eminence the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar III, who believes that the listing was actually a blessing in disguise.

That said, the Americans must know from the involvement of youths like Farouk in the alleged bombing, and the haste with which it placed a friendly nation like Nigeria on its bogus terror list, that that war on terror is already a lost cause. It is lost because it was founded on a flawed logic. It has failed because it was founded on a lie but predicated on the wrong strategy that refuses to acknowledge the root causes of the anger against the American government. Why have terrorists never attempted to disturb Chairman Mao's sleep at Beijing's Tiananmen Square, or rustle Stalin's rich moustache behind the Kremlin, where Nikita Khrushchev's de-Stalinization policies ensured he remains buried. But that is a story for another day.

Appreciation

I want to thank all well-wishers who sympathized with me by 'phone, text messages or visited on my close shave with armed robbers on New Year's Eve. The snatched vehicle was recovered in Kaduna last week.

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Theme:

The African Woman and Politics

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Former President, Federal Republic of Nigeria

Special Guest of Honour
Hajiya Turai Yar'Adua
First Lady, Federal Republic of Nigeria

Guest of Honour
Hajiya Laila Dogonyaro
Former Chairperson, National Council of Women Societies

Date: Thursday, 21 January, 2010

Venue: Congress Hall, Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja

Time: 10.00 am



Guest Speakers

Mrs. Winnie M. Mandela
Anti-Apartheid Fighter and
Member of Parliament



Hajiya Naja'atu Mohammed
First Female President of ABU Students' Union
and Political Activist



Mrs. Kofu Bucknor-Akerele
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INTERNATIONAL

Exiled Guinea leader appeals for reconciliation

GUINEA'S exiled leader appealed for peace and reconciliation yesterday, urging his countrymen to put aside ethnic differences and set the stage for elections in six months.

Speaking to reporters in Burkina Faso's capital, Capt. Moussa "Dadis" Camara said he had not been pressured to agree to the breakthrough deal Friday that effectively ended the nation's crisis and keeps him in voluntary exile.

The agreement calls on Cama-

ra's deputy — Gen. Sekouba Konate — to act as interim leader and help organize elections that will hand power to a civilian government this summer.

The deal, mediated by Burkina Faso President Blaise Compaore, has been hailed as a second chance for Guinea's 10 million people, who lived in terror during the last few months of Camara's rule and suffered decades of dictatorship under his predecessor.

Referring to Konate, Camara said: "I call on you, the sons and

daughters of Guinea, to give him the necessary support for the cause of democracy."

He also called on the people of Guinea to put aside ethnic differences, and said he would continue to consult with Konate "in the interest of a successful transition which will lead to the election of a democratically elected president."

The 46-year-old Camara was shot in the head by his aide-de-camp in early December and rushed to Morocco for emergency surgery. Last week, he was unex-

pectedly flown to Ouagadougou.

Camara said his "life is no longer in danger, but ... I need to rest." He said he was free to recover "wherever I would like," but he gave no details on how long he would stay in Burkina Faso. Over the weekend, African diplomats descended on Burkina Faso to ensure a deal was sealed and show support.

Returning home yesterday, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said she encouraged Camara to respect the agree-

ment. She said Camara has concerns "about his people in Guinea, who are looking forward to ... his returning to assure them that he has regained part of his health. But at the same time, he recognizes that he needs to continue to seek health.

He's not totally well and he recognizes that." She said Camara was working with Compaore to "see whether he stays there (in Burkina Faso) or whether he seeks medical attention elsewhere."



KENYAN Muslims demonstrate in Nairobi, following midday prayers against the January 7 deportation by the Kenyan government of Jamaican Muslim cleric Abdullah al-Faisal to Gambia

Kenya detains 300 Somali immigrants

KENYAN police detained 300 illegal Somali immigrants during a sweep that followed a deadly protest at Nairobi's main mosque, a senior official said yesterday.

The raid on the city's Eastleigh neighbourhood was carried out by the elite General Service Unit and anti-terrorism police following claims by the government that Somalia's hardline Islamist Shebab group infiltrated the demonstration.

"Those arrested are in the country illegally, they had no valid documents," a senior police officer said. "They are being detained in various police stations as investigations into their stay in Kenya continue." On Friday, hundreds of Muslim youths demonstrated after Friday prayers in and around Nairobi's main mosque compound, clashing with police as they demanded the release of a controversial Jamaican imam.

Five people died and several were wounded during running street battles that lasted hours and during which police fired live rounds and tear gas. "The security operation is part of the investigation going on after Friday's demonstrations by Muslim youths in the city centre," the senior police official added, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Ransom paid to pirates for Greek supertanker

SOMALI pirates freed the Greek supertanker Maran Centaurus, one of the largest ships ever hijacked, after a plane dropped more than five million dollars in ransom on the deck. The ransom sparked a deadly feud within the group of pirates delaying the release of the ship and its crew of 28 who were taken in the Indian Ocean on November 29.

"Maran Tankers Management Inc... report that the vessel was released by those holding her

at 0830 local time today (0530 GMT)," the operators and managers of the Greek juggernaut said in a statement. "The tanker with all crew on board is now under naval escort on route to a suitable safe port."

The European Union's anti-piracy naval mission said the FS Salmis warship had sent a helicopter to the Maran Centaurus for medical assistance and the freed vessel was headed for Durban in South Africa.

Senegal offers land for "returning" Haitians

SENEGAL and other African nations should offer victims of Haiti's earthquake the chance to resettle in the continent, possibly in a newly created state of their own, the West African nation has urged.

"Africa should offer Haitians the chance to return home. It is their right. There is nothing to haggle about," President Abdoulaye Wade said on his website. Television images of black, French-speaking Haitians in distress have

touched a nerve across Francophone West and central Africa.

Wade said he would propose to the 53-nation African Union the creation for Haitians of "their own state on African territory, the land of their ancestors," according to the text of his proposal published in local newspapers yesterday.

Local media quoted Senegalese officials as saying the country was ready to offer parcels of fertile land to Haitians, many of whom

are still waiting for aid after Tuesday's earthquake believed to have killed as many as 200,000.

The idea for a new state is reminiscent of the 19th century creation of Liberia by freed U.S. slaves. The West African country is currently recovering from a 1999 civil war and is hoping to benefit from recent oil discoveries off its coast.

Wade argued that Haitians are the descendants of slaves and so had the right to repatriation on the African continent.



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International

Civil rights icon King remembered in hometown

WORSHIPPERS in the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s hometown are remembering the civil rights icon during a special ceremony at the church where he once preached.

Princeton University scholar Cornel West delivered the keynote address yesterday, which is King's namesake holiday, at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. King preached there from 1960 until his assassination in 1968.

A march is also planned in Montgomery, Ala., where King gained renown leading a bus boycott in protest of segregation during the 1950s.

Yesterday marks the 25th federal observance of King's birthday. The civil rights icon and 1964 Nobel Peace Prize winner is the only black American whose birthday is a national holiday.

German government eases coalition dispute

GERMAN Chancellor Angela Merkel's governing coalition has sought to put a rocky start behind it, with leaders agreeing to postpone deciding details of a tax-cutting plan that sparked public wrangling within the government.

A top official with the Free Democrats, the junior partner in Merkel's new government, conceded yesterday that income tax relief his party strongly advocates may not take effect next year as it had hoped.

Merkel's center-right coalition has been mired since taking office October 28 in squabbling over the wisdom of implementing of cutting taxes in 2011 when public finances already are strained by bailouts and stimulus efforts to fight the economic crisis.

The coalition agreement between Merkel's conservatives and the pro-business Free Democrats states that the vaguely defined reform, involving tax relief of nearly euro20 billion (\$28.8 billion) a year in an effort to boost the economy, should take effect next January "if possible."

That led to weeks of public arguments between conservatives who questioned the plan and Free Democrats who insisted on sticking to the date. Merkel and other coalition leaders met Sunday night in an effort to calm the squabbling, which has overshadowed the government's start.

The Free Democrats' general secretary, Christian Lindner, conceded on ARD television that the tax reform "could be later if it isn't objectively possible" to implement it in 2011.

UN's Ban urges desperate Haitians to be patient



HAITIANS wait for food and supplies from international aid at the entrance of the Toussaint Louverture International Airport in Port-au-Prince.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon made an emotional visit to the Haiti peacekeeping mission's devastated headquarters Sunday and delivered a message of hope to the country's earthquake victims, acknowledging that many of the survivors are growing desperate.

On a whirlwind trip to the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince, Ban said he recognized "that many people are frustrated and they are losing their patience."

The U.N. World Food Programme plans to start feeding 1 million people in two weeks and 2 million people in one month, the secretary-general said. WFP

spokesman David Orr said the agency hoped to reach more than 60,000. With an estimated 3 million to 3.5 million people in need of aid, Ban was asked whether it would be enough to avoid riots.

"I sincerely hope and appeal to Haitian people to be more patient," he said. "We do not want to even imagine that kind of situation." Ban made a stop at the plaza in front of the severely damaged National Palace where thousands of Haitians were camped out and a group of men and boys were shouting that they needed food, water and work.

"I have seen and I have met many people on the streets in

front of the presidential palace," he said. "They are appreciative of the help of the international community. From their faces and from conversations with them, I saw that they are committed. They are looking for a better future. ... I told them that I'm here to give them hope and to bring them a better future."

U.N. peacekeeping chief Alain Le Roy said he plans to ask the Security Council yesterday to temporarily increase the peacekeeping force which currently has about 7,000 military and 2,100 international police.

He told AP the Dominican Republic is proposing to send a

battalion, with about 800 soldiers, to neighbouring Haiti. The U.N. would also like to add about 400 police, and Le Roy said there have been several offers.

When the earthquake struck, there were about 3,000 U.N. peacekeepers in and around Port-au-Prince. Ban said the U.N. force commander told him he had moved some additional troops from outside areas into the capital.

Ban said he has three priorities in Haiti: saving as many lives as possible, stepping up humanitarian assistance and ensuring the coordination of the huge amount of aid coming into the country.

French minister criticizes US aid role in Haiti

THE United Nations must investigate and clarify the dominant U.S. role in earthquake-ravaged Haiti, a French minister said yesterday, claiming that international aid efforts were about helping Haiti, not "occupying" it.

US forces last week turned back a French aid plane carrying a field hospital from the damaged, congested airport in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince, prompting a complaint from French Cooperation Minister Alain Joyandet.

The plane landed safely the following day. French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner warned governments and aid groups not to squabble as they try to get their aid into Haiti.

"People always want it to be their plane ... that lands," Kouchner said yesterday. "(But) what's important is the fate of the Haitians." But Joyandet persisted.

"This is about helping Haiti, not about occupying Haiti," Joyandet, in Brussels for an EU meeting on Haiti, said on French radio.

In another weekend incident, some 250 Americans were flown to New Jersey's McGuire Air Force Base on three military planes from Haiti.

US forces initially blocked French and Canadian nationals from boarding the planes, but the cordon was lifted after protests from French and Canadian officials.

The U.S. military controls the Port-au-Prince airport where only one runway is functioning and has been effectively running

aid operations. However, the United Nations has stepped forward to take the lead in the critical task of coordinating aid.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Saturday the U.S. government had no intention of taking power from Haitian officials.

"We are working to back them up, but not to supplant them," she said. Joyandet said he expects a U.N. decision on how governments should work together in Haiti.

International

Ex-housekeeper alleges abuse by Israeli PM's wife

A former housekeeper has filed a lawsuit accusing the Israeli prime minister's wife of abusing her in the first scandal to hit Benjamin Netanyahu's year-old administration, bringing memories of the domestic distractions that clouded his tumultuous first term in office a decade ago.

Lillian Peretz, who worked as the Netanyahu family housekeeper in their beachside home in the town of Caesaria for six years, claims Sara Netanyahu verbally abused her and forced her to change clothes and shower several times a day to keep a "sterile" environment.

It also alleges she was paid less than minimum wage and forced to work on the Jewish Sabbath even though she is an observant Jew. The prime minister's office called the lawsuit "false and full of lies and defamation" in a statement Sunday alleging the housekeeper was part of a media-orchestrated political conspiracy.

Peretz is asking for about \$80,000 in the lawsuit filed last week and publicized last week in the *Yediot Ahronot* daily.

Sara Netanyahu, a former flight attendant who is now a practicing psychologist, also stirred during her husband's first term as prime minister from 1996 to 1999. She came under fire several times for squabbling with her staff, flaunting her young children in public and meddling in state affairs.

Among the scandals, she was accused of firing a nanny for burning a pot of soup and

of throwing a pair of shoes at an assistant. But Netanyahu's third wife has kept a low profile since her husband's return to power last March. She rarely generates headlines and the couple has enjoyed favorable public approval ratings. The couple has two children.

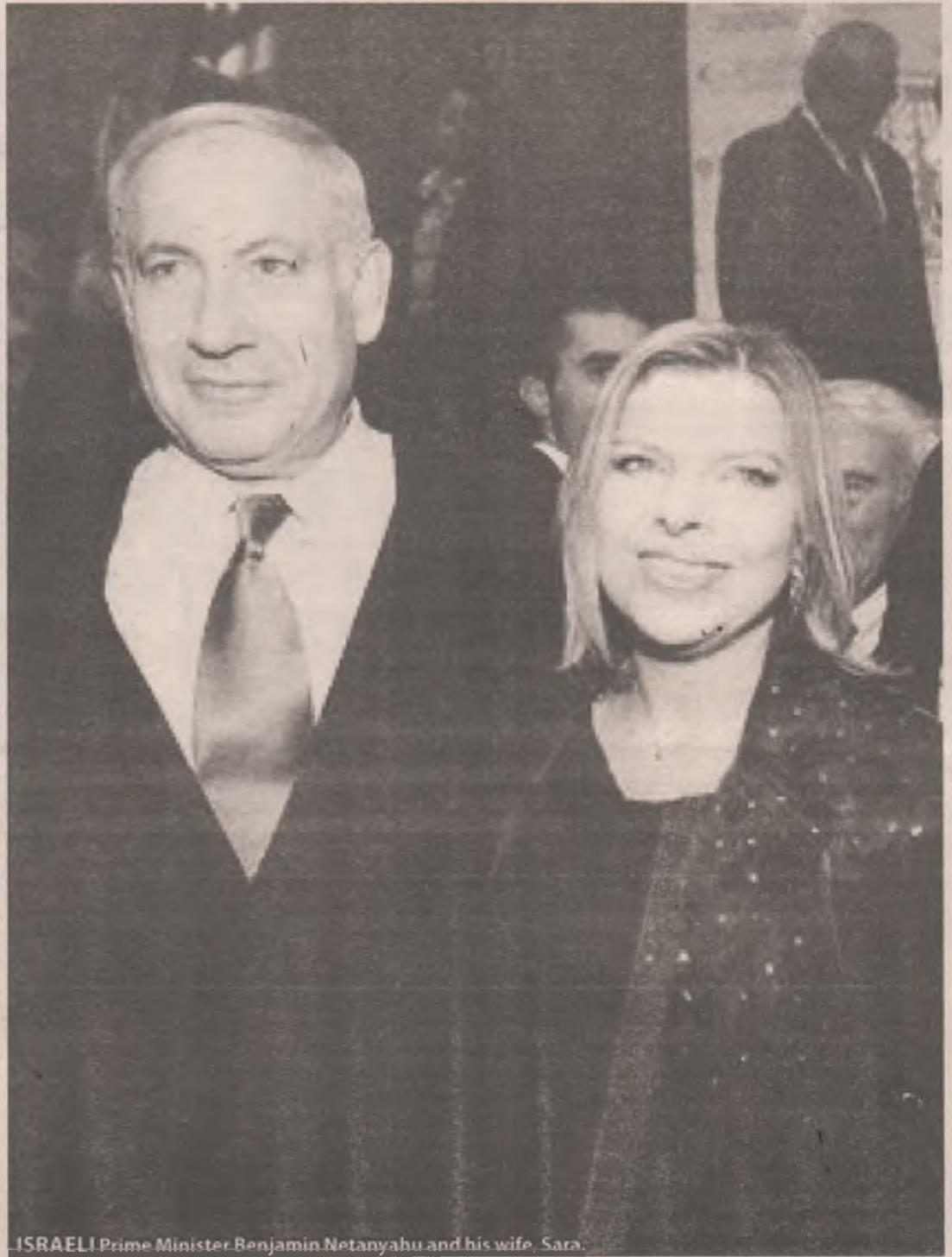
Netanyahu has said he learned important lessons from his first go-around as prime minister. He has kept a tight lid on leaks and members of his staff and Cabinet have avoided the financial and ethical missteps that have tarnished his predecessors.

But the current scandal threatens to reopen old wounds. According to the lawsuit, Sara Netanyahu "like in the story of Cinderella, burdened her (Peretz) with impossible chores, tyrannized her and screamed to the point of terror."

The lawsuit alleges that Peretz was not allowed to drink the family's bottled water, only tap water.

The Netanyahus dismissed the allegations, saying that Peretz received warm and loving treatment in their home. They produced pictures of the two women embracing, a copy of Peretz's letter of resignation signed "with lots of love and appreciation," and a newspaper clipping of Peretz expressing her love for Sara Netanyahu.

David Shimron, a lawyer for the Netanyahus, told Israel's Army Radio that Sara Netanyahu has a great deal of empathy for Peretz, "and a degree of pity for her because she is being taken advantage by a certain media outlet."



ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife, Sara.

Storms in Mideast kill British tourist, 4 others

HEAVY rains and flash floods left five people dead across the Middle East yesterday, including a British tourist who was killed when a sailboat capsized on the Nile River.

Egyptian police said the British tourist was with three other tourists on a Nile cruise when

their boat overturned in heavy winds and sudden rain. The three others survived, but there was no information on their nationalities or identities.

An Israeli motorist drowned when his car got caught in a flash flood in Israel's south, where stormy weather also blocked the

main road to the Red Sea resort of Eilat.

The heavy rains also collapsed a dozen mud brick homes in southern Egypt and killed two women there, while an Egyptian man died in a flash flooding in northern Sinai, close to Egypt's border with Israel.

Israel temporarily closed its southern border crossings with Egypt and Jordan due to the unusually heavy rains and expected flooding along the border. A bridge collapsed near a cargo crossing between Egypt and Israel.

Egyptian police also said the

bad weather caused power failures in several neighborhoods in the famous tourist town of Luxor. The electricity shortages disrupted Nile cruises, sailboat and ferry schedules.

A weather report warned the unpredictable weather could continue until late yesterday.

Gunmen kill 5 people at Baghdad aid office

OFFICIALS said gunmen broke into the office of an Iraqi humanitarian organization in Baghdad yesterday and killed five employees. The attackers also left behind a bomb, which exploded later when security forces arrived at the scene, according to an interior ministry official and a police officer who described the attack.

They said the blast in the capital's northern Azamiyah neighborhood wounded two members of Iraqi security forces. The officials spoke on condition of ano-

nymity because they were not authorized to release details of the attack.

Security forces sealed off the area shortly after the shooting, which occurred around 2:30 p.m., witnesses said. Four men and one woman employed by the Mawtani charity were shot dead, police said. The motive for the attack was unclear. Attacks against humanitarian organizations are relatively rare amid the violence that continues to plague Iraq despite security gains over the past two years.

Iran vows revenge on Israel for professor's death

IRAN vowed yesterday to take revenge on Israel and the United States for the slaying last week of a physics professor in a mysterious bomb attack, the official news agency reported.

Iranian officials have blamed an exiled opposition group known as the People's Mujahedeen, accusing it of acting on behalf of Israel and the US. The armed opposition group and Washington have denied involvement, while Israel has not commented.

A week after Masoud Ali Mohammadi's death, it remains

unclear why the 50-year-old Tehran University professor would have been a target for assassins who left a bomb-rigged motorcycle outside his home on January 12.

Ali Mohammadi had no prominent political voice, no published work with military relevance and no declared links to Iran's nuclear program, though his work included some aspects of nuclear theory.

"Rest assured that Iran will take revenge for the blood of martyr Ali Mohammadi from

you," Interior Minister Mostafa Mohammad Najjar said, addressing Israel and the US.

"Such a blind move, which is the result of acts by the Mossad, the CIA and enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran's system, shows their weakness." His comments were reported by the official IRNA news agency.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has claimed that the assassination was carried out in a "Zionist style," saying it showed their "grudge" against the Iranian nation.

International

China to expand smoking bans in 7 major cities

CHINA is tightening smoking regulations to ban lighting up in any indoor public spaces in seven provincial capitals, the latest sign of rising health awareness in the world's largest tobacco-consuming nation.

The success of the effort may provide the best indicator yet as to whether broad efforts to restrict tobacco use can overcome stiff resistance from retailers and some local governments, which profit significantly from tobacco taxes.

Smoking is a huge business in China: 2 trillion cigarettes are sold in the country every year. The country accounts for more than one-quarter of the world's

1.3 billion smokers, with about 60 percent of Chinese men and 3 percent of women indulging in the habit.

China pledged to ban indoor smoking in public places four years ago under a UN treaty, but local laws and regulations have not been changed sufficiently for the measure to be properly enforced.

"Our aim is to make 100 percent of the environment in indoor public places and workplaces smoke-free in these seven cities," Qu Yan, an official with the government's Center for Disease Control and Prevention, told The Associated Press yesterday.

Cities targeted include some of China's biggest commercial centers — such as Tianjin on the northern coast and the megacity of Chongqing in the southwest — where smoking and breathing in secondhand smoke add to health threats from traffic, industrial waste, and polluted air and water.

Qu said that goal will require enacting or amending local smoking regulations.

The CDC hopes to have those changes in place by the end of 2011, she said.

Gan Quan, head of anti-smoking programs for the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, said it was unclear

how effective the move would be. "This involves efforts from a lot of different directions, so it's very hard to say how confident we are about the program's success," Gan said.

Local governments that rely on the income from cigarette sales sometimes push consumption in spite of a partial ban on tobacco advertising.

A rural county in central Hubei province last year sparked a public outcry after pushing the sale of more than 230,000 packs of locally produced cigarettes a year to boost tax revenues. The move was called off in the face of public criticism.

Sanctions must end before nuclear talks - N/Korea

NORTH Korea yesterday demanded an end to sanctions before it returns to nuclear disarmament negotiations, but gave the go-ahead for economic talks with South Korea despite earlier threats to attack its neighbour.

Pyongyang's foreign ministry, reiterating its earlier stance, said it would not return to the six-nation disarmament talks it abandoned last April until the United Nations sanctions are lifted.

"The dignity of the DPRK (North Korea) will never allow this to happen," the ministry said in a statement.

The North repeated calls for early negotiations on a treaty to formally end the 1950-1953 Korean War, in order to build confidence in the nuclear talks.

The communist state said it "is not opposed to the six-party talks and has no ground whatsoever to delay them". But it added: "There will be a starting point of confidence-building only if the parties concerned sit at a negotiating table for concluding a peace treaty."

The United States and South Korea have rejected early discussions on a peace treaty, or the lifting of sanctions.

Myanmar court hears Suu Kyi appeal of house arrest

LAWYERS for opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi said yesterday they were optimistic Myanmar's highest court would overturn an extension of her house arrest imposed after an American intruder swam uninvited to her home. The court began hearing from both sides in the case Monday and was expected to issue a ruling within a month. Suu Kyi, who was barred from attending the session, has been detained for 14 of the past 20 years.

The 64-year-old Nobel Peace Laureate's sentence would ensure she cannot participate in Myanmar's first elections in two decades that will be held sometime this year. Her party swept the last elections in 1990, but the results were never honored by the military, which has ruled the country since 1962.

Suu Kyi's lawyer Nyan Win told judges the extension was unlawful because it was based on provisions from the 1974 Constitution that are no longer in effect.

The court also agreed to review the house arrest of Suu Kyi's two female companions, who are also ordered confined for 18 months at her compound in Yangon.



AN Afghan soldier walks near a burning public market building in Pashtunistan Square in Kabul.

Militants launch multiple attacks across Kabul

TALIBAN gunmen and suicide bombers attacked buildings across the heart of Kabul yesterday, triggering fierce gun battles with security forces and killing at least five people including a child.

Fires were blazing after two shopping centres, a cinema and the only five-star hotel in the Afghan capital were targeted by heavily-armed militants who set off a wave of explosions, witnesses and officials said.

Five people were killed and 38 wounded, the public health min-

istry said, in the most dramatic strike on Kabul since Taliban militants laid siege to government buildings in February 2009, killing at least 26 people.

Defence ministry spokesman Mohammad Zahir Azimi said a child and security forces were among the dead, telling Afghan TV that "four terrorists" had also been killed, two who blew themselves up and two shot dead by security forces.

President Hamid Karzai said the situation was "under control" after hours of fighting in

the highly fortified capital, which came as a number of new cabinet ministers were being sworn in as gunfire rattled outside the presidential palace.

"The enemies of the Afghan people conducted a series of attacks today, causing fear and terror among the population," Karzai said in a statement. "The president condemns these terrorist attacks."

The blitz of attacks began at the peak of morning rush hour, when suicide bombers stormed buildings around Pashtunistan

Square, setting off explosions that sent clouds of black smoke into the sky and people fleeing in terror. Eyewitness accounts: Terror in Kabul

The Islamist Taliban militia, waging an increasingly deadly insurgency against the Western-backed Kabul government and foreign troops in Afghanistan, claimed responsibility.

"Twenty of our suicide bombers have entered the area and fighting is ongoing," Zabihullah Mujahid, who called himself a Taliban spokesman, told AFP.



ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIMES COMMISSION

NO. 5 FOMELLA STREET, OFF ADEMOLA ADETOKUNBO CRESCENT

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW EFCC HEAD OFFICE

BACKGROUND:-

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission intends to undertake the construction of a new EFCC Headquarters located along the Airport Road, Abuja and is interested in engaging the services of a reputable construction firm to bid.

Below are the descriptions of intended works

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- i) The plot is located along Airport Road and has a land mass of about 5 hectares. The Commission intends to construct a ten storey building to house its staff. An adjoining two storey building will be built for the Forensic Department on 1,672 sq.m. Also a single and two storey buildings will be constructed as female and male Cells respectively. The External Works includes multi level parking on 16,800 sq.m, water supply and storage, generator housing, access roads, paths and landscaping.

SCOPE OF WORK

- i) Main Administration Block,
- ii) Clinic,
- iii) Male and Female Cells, 5,279 sq.m (Male-2 Story, Female-Single Storey)
- iv) Armoury,
- v) Forensic Laboratory, 1,672 sq.m (2 Storey) and
- vi) External Works 16,800 sq.m (Multi-lateral parking, Floor area for 600 cars).

BIDDING REQUIREMENTS

Intending construction firms must submit all the under listed verifiable documents to the Procurement Unit at the EFCC Wuse II Head office, opposite Rockview Hotel

- *Certificate of Incorporation or registration of company*
- *Profile of firms including ownership structure and management*
- *Names and CVs of team leaders and professional staff including copies of certificate & individual experience in handling similar assignments*
- *Evidence of technical competence covering the range of service contained in the scope of work*

- *Certificate of Registration of Firm with relevant professional bodies*
- *Audited accounts for the last 3 years*
- *Current Tax Clearance certificates for the last 3 years,*
- *Copies of forms CO2 & CO7*
- *Experience track record of the firms*
- *Evidence of similar projects executed over the last 3 years with copies of letters of award and completion certificates*
- *Evidence of financial capability from bank*
- *Evidence of a single similar project handled individually (not by joint venture) costing not less than N10 Billion*
- *Evidence of Annual Turnover of N15 Billion or above endorsed by a bank,*
- *Evidence of construction Equipment.*
- *List of ongoing projects.*

3. The Pre-qualification documents should be submitted not later than 9th February, 2010 by 12: 00pm in a sealed envelope marked "Construction of New Head Office" at the top left hand corner and addressed to:

THE CHAIRMAN TENDERS BOARD
ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIMES
COMMISSION
NO. 5 FOMELLA STREET
OFF ADEMOLA ADETOKUNBO
CRESCENT, WUSE II, ABUJA.

The opening of documents commences immediately thereafter at the Secretary to the Commission's Conference Room.

Note: This notice should not be misconstrued to be an Invitation to tender as only pre-qualified Contractors will be invited to submit Financial Bids/proposals

All enquiries are to be directed to TendersBoard@efccnigeria.org.

Signed
The Chairman MTB
Economic and Financial Crimes Commission,
Wuse 11, Abuja.

BUSINESS

0805 1000 536



WORLD Bank President Robert Zoelick (left) greets IMF Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn at an event in Washington

Global economy to tumble again - IMF

By Jibrin Abubakar, with agency reports

THE International Monetary Fund head has warned that the global economy could experience another downturn - a so-called double dip recession.

Dominique Strauss-Kahn said countries should not exit from stimulus packages that have bolstered growth through huge amounts of government spending.

"We have to be very cautious because this recovery remains very fragile," Mr Strauss-Kahn said. Daily Trust reports that the rebound in global economic activity was being driven by rising manufacturing activity, recovering housing markets, the restoration of consumer confidence and the cut in interest rates by most central banks around the world including Nigeria's.

Despite the global credit crunch that affects businesses, Nigeria was able to post a record 6.90 growth rates in 2009 up from 5.98 per cent recorded in 2008. It also forecasts an improved output rate this year.

But the Nigeria's capital market was the worst hit in the global credit crisis. The Nigerian Stock Exchange capitalisation which stood at N6.96 trillion in December 2008 fell steadily to N4.96 in December 2009.

Separately, Germany and France raised their growth forecasts for the year, the BBC reports.

Mr Strauss-Kahn added that China and Asian economies are leading the recovery.

"Recovery in advanced economies has been sluggish," he said. "The best indicator is private demand and employment."

"In most countries, growth is still supported by government policies. For as long as you do not have private demand strong enough to offset the need of public policy, you shouldn't exit."

He added that tackling high levels of government debt will be a priority for many governments.

He suggested that the IMF would raise its growth forecasts for this year.

The IMF is currently predicting the global economy will grow by 3.1% in 2010.

Europe's two largest economies, Germany and France, also raised their economic growth forecasts for the year.

Germany now expects its economy to expand by 1.5% in 2010, from its previous prediction of 1.2%.

"We are pleased that the economic development is now somewhat better" than it originally predicted, the finance ministry said.

The French government almost doubled its growth forecast to 1.4%, from 0.75%. "Our forecasts at the start of 2010 have also improved, as the international climate and demand addressed to France have picked up," finance minister Christine Lagarde said.

The IMF also raised its French forecast for the current year, to between 1% and 2%, rather than 0.9%.

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: Miud-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).
 Ben-Lagos: 09.15; 12.30; 17.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 17.00 (Sat); 14.00 (Sun); Lagos-Cala: 13.15; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 08.30; 19.00 (Sun); Cala-Lagos: 14.45; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 10.30 (Sun); Lagos-Enu: 09.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 15.00 (Sun); Enu-Lagos: 09.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat) 16.45 (Sun)

Chanchangi Airlines

Lagos-Abj: 07.15, 10.00, 13.10, 15.30, 17.30
 Abj-Lagos: 08:00, 11.45, 13.40, 15.30, 17.00
 Lagos-Kad: 10.45, (on Fri), 17.00 (Mon/Fri/Sat/Sun)
 Kad-Lagos: 07.30 (Mon/Fri), 08.00 (Sat/Sun)
 Nigerian Eagles Airlines (Virgin Nigeria)
 Abj-Kano: 18.40 (Mon-Fri)/sun
 Kano-Abj: 08.35 (Mon-Fri) /Sat
 Abj-Soko: 09:35, (Mon), 10:10 (Fri), 11:20 (Wed/Sun)
 Soko-Abj: 11.35 (Mon), 12.00 (Fri), 13:20 (Wed/sun)
 Lagos-Abj: 07.15, 11.40, 14.00, 16.30, 17.00, 17.20; 18.30 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun), 8.00; 12.40; 13.10; 20:00 (Fri)
 Abj-Lagos: 07.00, 09.30, 10.30, 11.15, 16.15; 19.15, 19.25, 19:35 (Mon-Fri/Sat/sun); 14:55; 15:15; 20:45 (Fri); 19:45 (Sun); 11:25, 13:35, 16:25 (Mon)

CBN

CBN EXCHANGE RATES

11/1/2009

	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)
CFA	0.3014	0.3114	0.3214
DANISH KRONER	28.7781	28.8757	28.9733
EURO	214.231	214.9577	215.6843
POUNDS STERLING	238.4799	239.2888	240.0977
RIYAL	39.3093	39.4427	39.576
SDR	231.8759	232.6624	233.4489
SWISS FRANC	145.003	145.4948	145.9866
US DOLLAR	147.41	147.91	148.41
WAUA	228.6019	229.3773	230.1527
YEN	1.595	1.6004	1.6058

BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES

BUYING	
DOLLAR.....	N152
EURO.....	N220
POUNDS.....	N250
SELLING	
DOLLAR.....	N153
EURO.....	N222
POUNDS.....	N253

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

Stock Market Index

Date: Monday, January 18, 2010
 Index: 22,060.36
 Deal: 7,183
 Volume: 369,476,526
 Value: N 1,606,875,201.75
 Cap.: N 5,284,809,763,104.71

Business

FG outlines distribution plan for power

By Fidelis Mac-Leva

THE Minister of Power Dr. Lanre Babalola has said that the activities of his ministry have revolved around rehabilitation and reinforcement of existing facilities adding that without adequate reinforcement and expansion in the network whatever achievements recorded would not have the desired impact.

Babalola, who spoke through his Special Adviser on Media, Yakubu Lawal, said with recent improvement in actual power generation to 3,700MW, government has intensified its effort to ensure that various projects in the Transmission and Distribution sectors of the industry are vigorously pursued to boost electricity delivery to the final consumers.

To this end, he said, over 1,106 projects were embarked upon to enhance delivery of power generation to consumers. According to the Minister out of these projects, 428 have been completed while 678 are now at various stages of completion adding that the projects will support about 2,740 MVA or 2,349MW in the national grid in addition to the existing distribution capacity.

He explained that the task before the administrators of the power sector was enormous yet surmountable; bearing in mind that the progress recorded in power generation currently was a clear demonstration of the Present administration's commitment to the issue of power in the country.

"We are tackling the problems in the sector by improving our capacity which is currently over 5,600MW and we are also reinforcing both transmission and distribution networks so that we can deliver this power to Nigerians. We have the capacity and with availability of gas more electricity will be delivered" he said.

He stressed that with effective monitoring of the activities of contractors handling the NIPP projects, there was no doubt that before long Nigerians will begin to see more relief in power supply pointing out that the head of Distribution companies have been given autonomy to take vital decisions in addressing the challenges in their respective zones.

According to him, Nigerians deserve improved services in power supply and that the Ministry was doing everything possible to improve on service delivery stressing that, investment in the sector takes time to mature and that most of the equipment were not manufactured in the country.

FG approves N10bn fund for textile manufacturers

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

THE Federal government yesterday began move to revive the nation's textile sector as it approved the sum of N10bn intervention loan to assist textile and cotton manufacturers in the country.

The N10bn is part of the N100bn bond-funded Cotton, Textiles and Garment Industries Revival Scheme which was launched on December 18th 2009 by the Federal government.

Announcing the approval at a meeting in Lagos with

stakeholders in the textile sector, the Managing Director of Bank of Industry (BOI) Mrs. Evelyn Oputu, said the N10bn approval was sequel to the N14bn applications the bank received from interested textile manufacturers.

She said some textile and cotton industries whose application were granted have already been disbursing from the fund. She however did not disclose the identity of the companies.

According to her, the fund carried 6% interest rate and other conditionalities which does not compare with con-

ventional loans in commercial banks in the country.

She explained that the loan would be spread to closed mills whose operating machinery were still intact as the objective of the fund was to evolve a new phase in the growth of the cotton and textile industry in the country. "The fund belongs to all of us not only the textile industry. There would be no favouritism. We have approved a number of applications. We are going to do more," she said.

According to her, the loan is an ongoing exercise

as it will be rolled over periodically until the N100bn is exhausted.

She added that the exercise is not limited to the N100bn, adding that plans are also in place to commence a new regime of the scheme after it might have been exhausted.

She further disclosed that the Bank of Industry had in recent time and continually disbursed loans to textile and cotton manufacturers in the country as a way of rescuing it from its present comatose.

Throwing more light into the N100bn scheme, Oputu

explained that the proceeds of a N100bn bond to be floated by the Debt Management Office [DMO] and utilized in the scheme's implementation, shall be made available to interested and genuine industry participants across the value chain of Cotton, Textiles and Garment [CTG] sector.

"Beneficiaries shall include farmers [producing cotton and other fibre products], ginnery operators, spinning and textiles millers, and investors in garmenting. The Bank of Industry shall be in charge of management and disbursement of the fund".



LEFT-right: Chief Marketing Officer and representative of the Group Managing Director of First Bank of Nigeria Plc, Mrs. Celine Loader; Business Development Manager for Enugu, Mrs. Nwanneka Okolori; and Vice Chancellor of the University of Nigeria Nsukka, Professor Barth Okolo at the official commissioning of the Faculty of Dentistry building donated by FirstBank to the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, January 13, at the permanent site of the hospital at Ituku/Ozalla, Enugu State.

Bamaiyi urges sacked bank staff to invest in Micro financing

By Sunday Williams

THE Chairman Board of Directors, Think Microfinance Bank and former Chief of Army staff, retired Lt-Gen. Ishaya R. Bamaiyi has urged the recently disengaged bank professionals to team up and invest in Small and Medium Enterprises especially in the area of Microfinance Banking.

Speaking yesterday in Abuja during the opening ceremony and commencement of operations of Think Micro finance

Bank, the former Chief of Army staff said the introduction of Microfinance Banks in Nigeria has positively changed many lives.

He said in the face of economic downturn in the last three years, Microfinance banks have strived to sustain the Nigerian economy by giving new lease of life in the area of employment, job creation and providing necessary assistance to SMEs to grow.

He said the Think Microfinance bank will

see to the well-being of the people within Abuja and beyond, adding that it will made possible credit advancement and cheque discounting to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises as well as salary advances to workers irrespective of their class and status.

In his remarks, the Managing Director of Think Microfinance bank, Mathias E Amuta, said 65% of active Nigerians are excluded from services provided by the formal financial system.

Nigeria gets alternative fuel for cars

By Hamisu Muhammad

THE first Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) plant that will be producing alternative fuel for cars will be commission today in Benin City, Edo State by the Minister of Petroleum Resources, Dr Rilwan Lukman.

The CNG plant will produce fuel for vehicles as alternative to the hydrocarbon fuel such as petrol. The plant, owned by the Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN) is said to be a pilot plant by the company.

IPMAN President Alhaji Aminu Abdulkadir who informed our reporter about the development said any car can use the CNG to run in so far a conversion machine is installed in it, saying that the conversion machine is sold at the rate of N35,000.

He said when installed the vehicle can be using both CNG and normal petrol as fuel. But he said the CNG is cheaper and environmentally friendly.

The Chairman, Advisory Board
DAILY TRUST African of the Year Award

Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim

Announces the



DAILY TRUST African of the Year 2009 Award & Dinner



Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim
Former Sec. Gen., OAU (African Union)
and Ex-Prime Minister of Tanzania

Date Wednesday, 20 January, 2010

Venue Congress Hall, Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja

Time 8.00 pm

SPECIAL GUESTS

Mrs. Winnie Madhikizela-Mandela
Anti-Apartheid Fighter and Member of Parliament

Alhaji Ahmed Joda
Chairman, Nigeria Communication Commission

Hajiya Laila Dogonyaro
Former Chairperson, National Council of Women Societies

Ms. Samia Nkrumah
Member of Parliament, Republic of Ghana

For Seat Reservation, please call:
08059100210, 08052100453

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Star Feature

A journey to Mecca

The attitude of Nigerian pilgrims at the airport and right inside the plane itself, as the journey commences to the Holy Land, is significant for the overall good image of the country.

By Auwalu Umar, who was in Mecca

RECENTLY, a pilgrim told a story of an unpleasant episode in an already air-borne Jeddah-bound pilgrims' plane. He was among the 7,000 pilgrims from Kano state who performed the Hajj in 2008, and that was the first time for him to travel by air. No sooner had the aircraft stabilized mid-air after take-off from Kano Airport, than a pilgrims' official suddenly unfastened his seat-belt, stood up and walked straight to the plane's emergency door, he narrated. The official, according to him, simply wanted to use the toilet. He said the official mistook the door for that of a toilet, and he faithfully struggled to force it open, as he was hard pressed by nature's call. Then there was an alarm at the plane's control room, and soon afterwards one of the flight engineers dashed to the scene to enquire what the problem was, he said.

The flight engineer was so irritated by the action of the official that he shouted at and pushed him down. 'You want to kill all of us', said the engineer. 'That single remark attracted the attention of the fellow air passengers, and almost everyone around the area descended on the man. It was a rowdy scene anyway, and it took the intervention of a Kano based

cleric who pleaded on his behalf, to douse the tension that lasted 30 minutes. The Muslim cleric cited lack of exposure for his action, and said the man erred by his inability to ask for guidance from the flight interpreters or co-passengers. The engineer adjusted the computerized door, and went back to the control room in anger", he concluded.

It was a member of the Kano State Media Committee for the just concluded Hajj in Saudi Arabia. The general observation was that the behavior of pilgrims inside the plane, during the out-bound and return trips, leaves much to be desired. I could see how the air-hostesses try to comfort every pilgrim inside the plane, by responding to every inquiry the pilgrims would make, pertaining to the flight protocol. The flight officers would warn against certain behaviour in the plane, such as the use of GSM, smoking and Internet browsing, among other things. They also warn against indiscriminate use of water in the plane's toilet. But most pilgrims would turn a deaf ear to this. They would tell you the implication of GSM communication while air-borne, as that could affect the communication between the flight captain and the radar engineers at both ends. The indiscriminate use of water

in the toilet could leak, and it could equally affect the electrical wiring of the plane, and all these could lead to a disaster of great magnitude.

The rate at which pilgrims visit the toilet mid air is enough to scare other passengers with flight phobia. You would find pilgrims queuing up to use the toilet. And those who could not use the toilet simply out of shyness, refrain from going forward, and this probably explains why one could see several pilgrims openly disposing their urine indiscriminately all over the tarmac at Kano Airport, soon after arriving from Jeddah. This cannot happen at Jeddah Airport because of sufficient toilet facilities all over the place. You could see many others still making phone calls at the time the plane was about to take off, in defiance of the flight order. Some would even ignore the simple instruction to fasten their seat belts. This may probably be part of the rea-



SYMBOLIC stoning of the devil by pilgrims in the Holy Land.

sons why international airlines operators, decide not to enter into agreement with Nigeria for airlift operations.

Flight engineers argued during the post-hajj conference in Jeddah that there was a limit to the amount of luggage which every plane could carry, hence the decision

of the Nigerian government to enforce the luggage policy. It was a common sight to see pilgrims on a home-bound journey carrying huge loads of luggage. Apart from the 10kg hand bag, you would see pilgrims carrying extra luggage with them. Women, for example, carry extra loads on their backs and tummies, while the men

“The official, according to him, simply wanted to use the toilet. He said the official mistook the door for that of a toilet, and he faithfully struggled to force it open, as he was hard pressed by nature's call.

PIC: JIBRIN ABUBAKAR



given shades among other pilgrims from all over the world, right in the heart of Jeddah Airport. This was unlike in the past when only Nigerian pilgrims would be quarantined in one lonely location of the airport, because of their negative attitude. Nigeria was lucky to have this time been allowed into the main airport for improvement in the attitude of its pilgrims, during the 2008 Hajj. Most pilgrims from other countries always looked composed while waiting for their departure back home. I was at the Indonesian section when I saw their officials distributing food and drinks to them. None of them was struggling for the food, as they all remained calm as the items were being distributed.

passengers from the cock-pit. Our flight interpreter, some said, erred in translating what the pilot announced when the air-borne plane was in the turbulent area. The pilot was misquoted when the flight interpreter said the plane was in a 'critical situation' in Hausa, instead of saying the aircraft was in a 'turbulent area' as earlier announced by the pilot in English. It was also observed that sometimes the foods and drinks distributed inside the plane were either rotten or expired. A female pilgrim from Jigawa told me of her experience inside their Jeddah-bound plane, when she said the pilgrims on board the plane, raised alarm over the rotten bread distributed to them. The bread, she said, was later retrieved, and an apology was thereafter tendered to the pilgrims. Another pilgrim spoke of airlines operators' negligence by allowing too many mosquitoes inside their boarded plane. He said what amazed him most, was when flight officials began spraying the plane with insecticides at the time of boarding.

It was observed that lack of adequate care is largely responsible for the negative attitude of most Nigerian pilgrims in both Nigeria and the Holy land. We spent 24 hours at Jeddah Airport before the turn of our flight, and there was a contingent of pilgrims that spent 48 hours before they could fly back to Nigeria. A pilgrim told me his contingent had to spend close to three hours at a screening hall at Jeddah Airport to clean up their bodies, as Saudi screening officials said they would not attend to them because they were all 'smelling.' These pilgrims might have spent days at pilgrims' camp without a bath and change of cloth in Nigeria, before their eventual departure to Saudi Arabia.

Observations have it that pilgrims' air carriers have a great task in putting in place measures to ensure the safety of passengers and the planes themselves. Many pilgrims, including some of their officials, said the usual short demonstration by flight interpreters on what to do inside the plane before take-off was not enough. They said there should be separate practical lessons on flight manners itself, mainly for pilgrims' safety. Many pilgrims, according to them, do not have flight experience, and this should be part of what was being taught at the seminars and workshops being organized for intending pilgrims..

Some colleagues of mine on the trip who occasionally travel overseas had faulted the pilgrims' flight officials, as regards dishing information to

Some of the experienced pilgrims in a chat said it was not a misplaced effort by the authorities concerned to make it a duty, by integrating some of the things expected of the pilgrims inside the plane, in the Hajj lectures for pilgrims. A good number of pilgrims come from rural settings, and so most of them are not familiar with flight protocol and other basic things, either in the airport or right inside the plane. A cabin crew member during the return flight, lauded the courage of pilgrims, especially those who travelled by air for the first time. He however agreed that there should be continuous tutorials for pilgrims on what is expected of them at the airport, and also when they are aboard the plane.

would have the extra luggage wrapped round their waists, in addition to wearing at least five sets of clothes, just to beat security checks. I also learnt of the reason the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) banned the carrying of Zam-zam water inside the plane. The container could break and the water could leak.

journey. These delays could be responsible for the pilgrims' negative attitude at airports. Neither the pilgrims' officials nor their carriers would come to explain the delays. This also often results in quarrels among the pilgrims themselves. I was a living witness to an averted crisis between Nigerian pilgrims and their Iranian counterparts, over rugs during the return trip at Jeddah Airport last month. Unlike the clumsy waiting stands provided for Nigerian pilgrims at King Abdul Aziz International Airport Jeddah, those for Iranian pilgrims were well furnished with Persian rugs. That singularly angered some Nigerian pilgrims who accused the Saudi government

of partiality, and soon after the Iranian pilgrims left the shades to board a plane, the pilgrims from Nigeria went there to pick those rugs for use in their shabby shades. No sooner had the Nigerian pilgrims laid down the rugs, than their counterparts from Iran descended on them and took back the rugs. That hurt the Nigerian pilgrims, and so they reacted by showering uncomplimentary words on their Iranian counterparts. But the Nigerian pilgrims gave up the fight when they were told the Iranian shades were furnished by their authorities, for their own comfort at the airport.

Nigeria was lucky this time around when its pilgrims were

“Apart from the 10kg hand bag, you would see pilgrims carrying extra luggage with them. Women, for example, carry extra loads on their backs and tummies, while the men would have the extra luggage wrapped round their waists, in addition to wearing at least five sets of clothes, just to beat security checks.”

Sometimes all the behaviors are as a result of accumulated frustrations at the airport before departure. Some pilgrims could spend two to three days before departure at the Hajj camps in Nigeria, for example. It is the same scenario in Jeddah during the home-bound

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DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE
NIGERIA

Business/Aviation

FAAN generates N400m from port in Dec

Stories from Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

THE Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) generated about N400 million from Port Charges in December 2009.

According to figure made available to Daily Trust, FAAN made N400, 135, 287.11 from the charges, just as it has remitted N96, 122, 345.20 into its account.

Pan Express Service Limited

was controlling the port charges for FAAN, before the concession agreement the agency had with the company was terminated due to its inability to fulfil the concession agreement to the latter.

FAAN had entered into a monthly concession agreement of N60 million with Pan Express Services Limited in 2008, but the concessionaire before the termination of the contract owed the agency about N600 million.

The contractual agreement which was signed in 2003 due for renewal in 2005 but FAAN refused to renew it when the initial agreement lapsed due to controversy surrounding its debts profile.

After much lobbying however, the contract was renewed early 2008 and the company continued in its debt tradition.

Meanwhile, Aviation Minister Babatunde Omotoba wielded the big stick by suspending air-

lines and concessionaires who owe FAAN over N5 billion and insisted that the government would not lift the suspension until the debtors pay at least 30 per cent of their total debts.

Most of the airlines responded while some concessionaires including Pan Express Services Limited could not meet up.

The situation later provoked stakeholders especially workers unions and called for the termi-

nation of the contract.

The port charges agreement between FAAN and Pan Express Services Limited was eventually terminated in March 2009 by the Minister.

FAAN had since then deployed its staff to the revenue points hitherto controlled by the former concessionaire while the management commended the workers for their performance so far.

NCS introduces automated machines to monitor operations

NIGERIAN Customs Services (NCS) has stated that it would upgrade its operations to international standard through the introduction of automated machines across the nation's ports to monitor all shipments coming into the country.

The Controller General of Customs CGC Abdulahi Dikko gave the hint in Lagos yesterday when he paid a familiarization visit to the Murtala Muhammad Airport Command.

According to him, this was part of measures put in place to ensure that goods are cleared from the ports in less than 48 hours.

He said imported goods coming into the country will now be recorded in the new automated system for monitoring and documentation.

Dikko said that the Federal Government will not tolerate any fraudulent act in the clearing of goods, adding that the new system will reveal such illegality.

He added that new monitoring system will also assist the agency to meet its revenue generation drive.

His words: "Goods must be cleared in Nigerian ports in less than 48 hours, paper works must be fixed out. Ship coming into the country will now be seen and monitored through automated internet facilities".

He said the agency has approved 100 percent salary increment for all staffs.

Dikko said: "The command must also work assiduously to improve on its revenue generation as that is the major cardinal obligation. Officers must live up to their responsibility by being disciplined and committed to work. Measures have been put in place to motivate the officers through increments in their salaries".



FROM left: Chief Executive Officer, Nigerian Eagle Airlines, Captain Dapo Olumide; Marketing Communications Manager, Mrs. Susan Rotimi and Publisher of ATQ Magazine, Mr. Ikechi Uko displaying a copy ATQ magazine following its adoption as Nigerian Eagle Airlines' In-Flight Journal at the weekend in Lagos

Japan Airlines shares hit new record low of 5 yen

SHARES in the troubled carrier Japan Airlines (JAL) have plunged to a record low of 5 yen (6 cents, 3 pence) ahead of an expected bankruptcy filing.

The bankruptcy is part of a government bail-out that is likely

to be announced on Tuesday, reports say.

The company, which lost about \$1.5bn in the six months to September, is now worth just \$150m - less than the price of a new jumbo jet.

The company's stock reached a high of 366 yen a share back in 2003.

While the turnaround plan backed by the government will see the airline continue to fly, investors in the company are likely to

lose most of their money.

Along with other major global airlines, JAL has been hit hard by falling passenger numbers during the downturn and is struggling with debts of \$15bn.

BBC.

Dana Air commences flight operations to Uyo

YESTERDAY Dana Air commenced scheduled flight operations to the new Akwa Ibom International Airport, Uyo.

According to the Dana management, the airline will offer services from Uyo to Lagos and Abuja.

Jacky Hathiramani, Chief Executive Officer of Dana Air, said in a statement: "We are pleased to

extend our world-class services to the good people of Akwa Ibom State. Indeed, the addition of Uyo on our route network is further proof of our commitment to the growth of Nigeria's fledgling aviation industry and in fulfilment of our promise to fly to key destinations across the federation." Hathiramani added: "At Dana Air, we recognize the impor-

tance of Akwa Ibom State in the socio-economic development of the country as an oil producing state. With the State playing host to several multinational companies in the oil & gas industry, we are confident that our new services from Uyo to Lagos and Abuja will make the State even more attractive to investors". He explained

that the new services from Uyo to Lagos and Abuja will operate seven days a week, Monday to Sunday. "From our operational base at MMA2 Lagos, we will operate one daily flight to Uyo at 10:35hrs with a return flight from Uyo to Lagos at 15:30hrs. We will also offer daily flights from Uyo to Abuja at 12:15hrs with a return trip to Uyo

at 13:50hrs" he stated. Dana Air currently operates twelve flights daily on the Lagos-Abuja-Lagos route, four flights daily on the Lagos-Port Harcourt-Lagos route, two flights daily on the Lagos-Enugu-Lagos and Lagos-Kano-Lagos routes, and two daily connecting flights between the cities of Abuja and Kano.

at 13:50hrs" he stated. Dana Air currently operates twelve flights daily on the Lagos-Abuja-Lagos route, four flights daily on the Lagos-Port Harcourt-Lagos route, two flights daily on the Lagos-Enugu-Lagos and Lagos-Kano-Lagos routes, and two daily connecting flights between the cities of Abuja and Kano.

Business/International



WORKERS in a Chinese factory.

Chinese online revenue up 30% in 2009

ONLINE revenue generated in China surged by more than 30% to 74.3bn yuan (\$10.9bn, £6.7bn) in 2009, a research firm has said.

Research predicts that online earnings in China from advertising, games, shopping and other activities will surge 51% to 112.3bn yuan this year.

Separately, a report said that Google has begun talking to China about not filtering content on its search engine.

It refused to confirm this, saying it "won't be giving a running commentary".

"We've said already that we will be taking a new approach in China," a Google spokesman in London said.

"We will be discussing with the Chinese authorities the basis on which we could operate an unfiltered search engine within the law, if at all."

On 12 January, the company said in its blog that Chinese human rights campaigners using its Gmail service had been hacked.

It said it would hold talks with the Chinese government to stop censoring its search engine, and would leave the country if an agreement could not be reached.

China has said that foreign internet firms are welcome to do business there "according to the law".

Google currently holds about one-third of the Chinese search market, far behind Chinese rival Baidu, which has more than 60%.

China has more internet users - about 380 million - than any other country and is a lucrative market.

When Google launched google.cn in 2006, it agreed to censor some search results - such as the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests, Tibetan independence or Falun Gong - as required by the Chinese government.

The Chinese business magazine *Caijing* reported that Google has already moved some of its Beijing-based employees to Hong Kong. *BBC*.

When Google launched google.cn in 2006, it agreed to censor some search results - such as the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests, Tibetan independence or Falun Gong - as required by the Chinese government.

Competition law will check dumping in W/Africa — ECOWAS

By Sunday Williams

COMPETITION law will protect consumers against anti-prices for goods/services and will check dumping of products in the West African Sub-Region, ECOWAS Programme Officer, Trade and Competition Dr. Sacko Seydou has said.

He made the remarks in Abuja during a regional training on competition law enforcement entitled, 'Strengthening constituencies for effective competition regimes in West African countries', organised by Consumer Empowerment Organisation

of Nigeria (CEON) in partnership with Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS).

Dr. Seydou said competition law is against monopoly of prices and gives opportunity among suppliers to win consumers by offering them a product at a price which is lower than their competitors' price.

He said: "Competition law is to regulate against anti-prices in goods and services and will help check dumping of bad products. The Multi-national anti-prices from Europe and other countries can bring bad things into the countries. That's why we want

all the countries in all the regional level to have competition laws."

He said in December 2008, ECOWAS got its own supplementary act on competition laws in the sub-region, adding that the Head of states has also adopted the supplementary act for the establishment of competition authority whose institutions are supposed to implement the laws.

Speaking, Centre Coordinator & Deputy Head, Unity & Trust Society (CUTS), Rijit Sengupta, said competition law will give the consumers the freedom of choice from quality products and thereby helping them to save

money.

"Competitive markets with large number of players competing on merit with quality products will help poor consumers in alleviating their poverty," he said.

In his remarks, Coordinator General/Founder, Consumer Empowerment Organisation of Nigeria (CEON), Adedeji B. Abiodun, said the purpose of the workshop is to equip participants from government agencies/authorities from select countries of West Africa with necessary skills and knowledge on competition issues.

Abu Dhabi's Dubai aid shrinks to \$5bn

ABU Dhabi's \$10 billion December bailout to Dubai included \$5 billion already committed by two banks controlled by the emirate, signalling Abu Dhabi's cautious approach to helping its debt-laden neighbour.

Analysts said news that Abu Dhabi had directly lent less than previously thought also indicated the wealthy emirate wanted more evidence of Dubai's fiscal probity, after helping it avert an embarrassing default on a state-linked bond.

A Dubai government spokeswoman said on Monday that the last minute lifeline on December 14, included \$5 billion raised from Al Hilal Bank and National Bank of Abu Dhabi which had been announced on November 25.

Dubai rocked global markets that

same day when it requested a standstill on \$26 billion in debt linked to its flagship conglomerate Dubai World and its two main property developers, Nakheel and Limitless World.

"Obviously it's a lot less cash than we had assumed," said Raj Madha, an independent analyst based in Dubai. "The interesting thing is what it says about the behavior of Abu Dhabi: whether they are just rushing through a large amount of money or whether they are providing funding where required."

Five-year credit default swaps for Dubai stood at 426 basis points, up from 423 basis points on Friday.

The \$5 billion raised from the two Abu Dhabi banks was part of a \$20 billion bond programme announced early last year, and the UAE central

bank had signed up for \$10 billion of that in February.

But it had been unclear whether Abu Dhabi's \$10 billion bailout on December 14 - which enabled Dubai World to repay a \$4.1 billion Islamic bond, or sukuk by developer Nakheel - was entirely new money or included the bond to the Abu Dhabi banks.

The government spokeswoman, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Gulf Arab emirate had already drawn down \$1 billion of the \$5 billion from the banks, provided under a five-year bond priced at 4 percent, with the rest yet to be used.

Dubai World is in the midst of talks with its creditors to finalize a formal standstill agreement that would last for six months, during which the conglomerate will restructure its remaining debt

burden, estimated at some \$22 billion.

Uncertainty over the restructuring has weighed on UAE markets as investors fret about the outcome amid a dearth of information and lack of transparency.

The conglomerate said this month it is "some time away" from presenting its formal plan to creditors, though it is expected in coming weeks.

"Clearly there were critical time deadlines last year that required extraordinary measures," said Mashreq Capital Chief Executive Abdul Kadir Hussain, of Abu Dhabi's bailout.

"But whatever form is required, whether it's the federation or Abu Dhabi, what is critical now is a well-documented plan for repayment and ... a strategy that will show how all of this will be taken care of." *Reuters*.

Business/Agric

'Fertilizer subsidy is a complete fraud'

Mr. Shedrack Madlion is an agricultural scientist and a farmer par excellence. He is also an Executive Director in the Admiral Environmental Care Limited. In this interview, he says when it comes to agriculture Nigeria has missed the way.

By Jibrin Abubakar

ARE you comfortable with the way fertilizer subsidy is being administered in Nigeria, and how would you relate this to advance economies, perhaps we can learn from them?

No, not at all, I am not comfortable. It is totally wrong. Don't go far from Nigeria. Look at our neighbours-Ghana, Burkina Faso, etc. The fact is that the fertilizers that are imported into Nigeria are not compatible with our soils. There has not been any natural soil survey programme in Nigeria to determine our fertilizer requirement. The fertilizers that Nigeria imports add Acidity to its soil. In most cases, the fertilizers that are being brought into this country are not actually fertilizers. They are toxic to our soil. So we need to hand over distributorship to the real farmers. You don't just bring us NPK and Urea. Some of us need lime to dislodge the high acidity in our soils. We need to allow the local fertilizer firms to grow and give them directives on what we need in different places and regions. Agriculture is not a guess work or logic. It is a science.

So what is your take on fertilizer subsidy?

Fertilizer subsidy is a fraud. This kind of subsidy has never worked anywhere. Subsidise what the farmers have produced, don't subsidise inputs. Reintroduce what you call the Buhu guarantee scheme. Let the farmers pay for the international cost of fertilizer but when he produces buy them from him at a reasonable price, and then government should subsidise it and sell at a reduced price at the market. If you subsidize output, you will rekindle the interest of the young people in agriculture. People will abandon their offices and go back to the farms. Input subsidy is a way government used to remove a lot of resources from tax payers. The so called subsidized fertilizers find their ways to Niger and Chad. Nigeria still records a high rate of fertilizer diversion. You say you subsidised but it is being diverted and returned to the middlemen and still finds its way to the market. At the end, the farmers buy it at the market price. If you are not a PDP or ANPP card-carrying members, you don't get these toxic material they called fertilizer. But at the market you don't see PDP or ANPP written on tomatoes.

Does the United States of America subsidise agriculture?

Yes America subsidises output and not input as we do here in Nigeria. They subsidise output to the tune of \$1 billion in every farming season. The farmers don't sell to the market, government buy from them at a reasonable and encouraging price and then sell at a reduced price to the market. They don't want to discourage the farmers from producing. Here farmers are discouraged. This is the kind of subsidy that Sardauna Ahmadu Bello introduced but was abandoned later in the 1980s. Our roads and rail system have gone down. Nigeria still practised backbreaking agricultural system. This will never take us anywhere. Let us stop calling on government to subsidize inputs, government should subsidize output. Fertilizer subsidy in Nigeria categorically is a complete fraud. It has killed our own industry. If there is anything worse than corruption is excessive importation. It has killed our own local content.

Government is disbursing N200 billion in its Commercial Agric Credit Scheme. Small farmers will get N40 billion from it. What is your take on this?

The disbursement of this N200bn is also another fraud. The two banks this money was lodged should also be able to account for the N666million as cash flow from this money that has been with them. The rural farmers have not gotten any money. The procedures for disbursement of this money was not feasible and achievable. Farmers that put food on the Nigeria's table do not have bank account. Government has not been able to come up with a proper programme to reach him, so who are you disbursing to? There were 166 commercial farmers in Nigeria in the early 1980s that have dwindled to 66. Of these 66, you can hardly have 10 that are operating fully. In the 1980s we still had the cocoa and cotton boards. I stand to be corrected to say that we have to go back and get it right on how our late leader the Sardauna set up agricultural programme.

What was Sardauna's agric policy like?

He set up the marketing boards. He set up the Wakilin noma and Wakilin dabbobi. We have what we called the buhu

guarantee scheme. We have what we called one community one product. This gave room to every community to produce what it has advantage over. It was never the dream of Sardauna to allow cows to leave life to Lagos. All cows are supposed to be slaughtered here in the North and the skin taken to Italy or Spain. That is why you have the Dakatas and the Bumpais. Zamfara, Katsina and Kano were made to produce cotton we used in running our ginnery in Kaduna. These were the Sardauna programmes which gave birth to Ahmadu Bello University today that has one the best templates in Africa. If some of the people in government say they were too young to remember the Sardauna policies on agriculture, I am sure there are some that are old enough to remember.

Fourty years after Sardauna, do you think these policies are still feasible in Nigeria?

These policies are still there. They only need to be greased. Yes there are no mobile phones during Sardauna. There were no satellite images data system then. Now you can stay in the comfort of your house and give us statistics of your farm but yet we could do better. It was the Sardauna's principle that Murtala Nyako used to build his farms, it was the Sardauna's principle that brought about green revolution that became Otta farms today. So these are histories that we can trace. The next bomb that is about to happen and why government must act fast is that the young generation of today is not interested in agriculture. They are interested in other sectors. No country calls itself a nation until it is able to produce enough food for itself. As you know that N28 billion is spent on food importation annually. If there is anything that is worse than corruption it's excessive importation. We depend on China to clothe Nigerians, we depend on Burkina Faso to give us beans to eat, we depend on Thailand to give us rice to eat, we depend on Italy to give us shoes to wear and we outsource everything in this country.

What is your take on the cassava initiative of the former president Olusegun Obasanjo?

The government was not serious about the cassava policy. You cannot bring in such policy without bringing in its value chain so that when the farmers produce they can buy from them. We have not exported up to one bag of chips out of the shores of this country. I don't want anybody to get offended by my interview with the Daily Trust, but I want to say the basic truth that we need to go back to the principles of agriculture. And that we should subsidize output and not inputs. That solves everything. Government has no business in the business of agriculture. Government should only provide policies and enabling environment. Are you aware that about 147 dams in Northern Nigeria are not being utilized. These dams were built by Sardauna. Only few are functional-may be the one at Kura in Kano State and the one at Shagari in Sokoto State. Most of the agrarian centres including the Lake Chad are gone.

What is the Admiral Environmental Care Limited all about?

The Admiral Environmental Care Limited is a one stop shop agricultural centre. Its aim and objective is to provide services to our rural farmers. At the same time, it is helping to boost agriculture generally. As you know agriculture is one of the seven-point agenda of the president. We cover virtually 87 per cent of the sector. What we don't do is that we don't provide expertise advice on swine and snail. But apart from these, we do virtually everything. Every aspect of agriculture is properly provided here.

What has been your contribution to providing extension services to Nigerian farmers?

We run a life programme which is the life wire of agriculture. We call it the Wakilin Noma and wakilin dabbobi. The wakilin Noma is the arable farm extension services programme while the wakilin dabbobi is the livestock extension services programme. As you know that since the discovery of oil in Nigeria and the subsequent oil boom, the extension officers no longer found extension services as a productive venture in Nigeria. Instead they went for white collar jobs. But we have provided programme that will be of interest to them. We have introduced a toll-free line for the extension officers and for we in this office. We are five years old in this office. We have trained 2,833 extension officers across the nation so far. We also try to bring in today's modern technology.



SHDRACK Madlion

Who is sponsoring these training of extension officers and the free telephony system?

Some lawmakers see it as part of their constituency responsibilities. They bring us people who we train on their behalf. One of them is Senator Saudatu Sani. She has trained about 60 extension officers from Lere here in Kaduna State. We have Senator Dahiru Umar who has trained extension officers in Tambuwal. We collaborate with them. We give them vehicles to carry out their services. There are others who are bringing people to be trained. Extension officers are more relevant in our community than Okada riders.

What about your online extension service. How much did it cost admiral environmental care to bring in this agric technology into Nigeria?

We spent over N5million to bring in this technology to Nigeria. We also collaborated with the Nigerian Communication Commission. Now our farmers can now call us freely on our lines. They need not to have credit before they reach us, so that we can actually advise them on telephone on some basic things to do. One of the numbers is 08034005006 in sequence like that. There are six of them. We have about 587 people calling a day from different parts of Nigeria. This has really been helping our rural farmers. The point we are making here is that we have taken up the problems of our farmers in Nigeria as our problem. They call us and we tell them, for instance, the kind of fertilizer to use in their regions or states or local governments. This helps the farmers, improve productivity, linking them to what we call one community one product.

Do you get any support from the government?

Yes. I want to say the National Food Reserves Agency from time-to-time provide us some support and the honourable minister from time-to-time also place a call to ask the problems we are facing. I want to give this to them that they see this place as a gate way for the promotion of private public partnership in agriculture.

How do you determine the crop type suitable for soil of certain region from your office?

We have a laboratory here where we do soil and water analyses. Our extension officers are being given the knowledge to do on-the-spot soil and water analyses, and at the same time defining the compatibility of fertilizer to the soil. Over the years this country has been working on the map that certain product has to be from certain region. That is what we are disproving. Today agriculture is science and we bridge these differences using our extension officers to do that.

Business/Finance



Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Monday, January 18, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)	SECTOR Totals	590	13,569,847	176,071,344.45
2ND-TIER SECURITIES								
ADSWITCH PLC	5	2.30	130,000	299,000.00				
CAPITAL OIL PLC	3	0.55	180,000	100,000.00				
SECTOR Totals	8		310,000	399,000.00				
AGRICULTURE								
AFPRINT NIGERIA PLC	1	0.86	2,500	2,150.00				
FTN COCOA PROC. PLC	15	0.61	1,081,850	688,668.00				
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	6	0.71	190,440	135,962.40				
PRESCO PLC	1	5.60	100	532.00				
SECTOR Totals	23		1,274,890	827,312.40				
AIR SERVICES								
AIR/SERV.AND LOG. PLC	10	2.44	168,300	400,152.00				
NIG. AV. HANDLING COY PLC	360	7.82	1,035,075	7,977,266.97				
SECTOR Totals	370		1,203,375	8,377,418.97				
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE								
DN TYRE & RUBBER PLC	24	0.50	1,439,327	719,663.50				
INCAR NIGERIA PLC	1	2.91	70,500	205,155.00				
R. T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC	3	6.27	17,270	102,992.00				
SECTOR Totals	33		1,527,097	1,027,810.50				
BANKING								
ACCESS BANK PLC	163	8.03	5,676,759	45,353,422.32				
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	70	2.73	1,260,671	3,395,417.91				
DIAMOND BANK PLC	52	7.55	1,810,269	13,703,366.22				
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	4	10.10	49,383	474,076.80				
FIRST CITY MON. BANK PLC	48	7.92	3,056,219	23,871,388.42				
FIDELITY BANK PLC	151	2.66	42,836,236	111,603,192.34				
FIRST BANK OF NIG. PLC	876	14.30	13,261,575	190,161,462.47				
FINBANK PLC	94	0.63	17,806,342	11,392,137.46				
GTBANK PLC	351	16.90	7,367,345	123,848,033.06				
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	36	7.65	559,813	4,275,807.35				
INTERCONT. BANK PLC.	194	2.23	4,901,228	11,308,445.55				
OCEANIC BANK INT. PLC	214	2.33	14,798,962	35,223,830.94				
BANK PHB PLC	299	1.89	30,431,617	60,406,057.93				
SKYE BANK PLC.	105	5.94	3,965,084	23,310,061.07				
SPRING BANK PLC	29	0.79	1,981,684	1,563,630.36				
STERLING BANK PLC		50	1.36	6,215,274				
8,431,818.66								
UNT. BANK FOR AFRICA PLC.	219	11.01	4,697,077	51,789,121.80				
UNION BANK OF NIG. PLC	158	6.40	2,997,020	19,460,356.97				
UNITY BANK PLC	43	1.01	6,144,183	6,219,131.49				
WEMA BANK PLC	83	1.16	3,909,371	4,602,581.19				
ZENITH BANK PLC	246	16.00	18,849,325	299,862,850.29				
SECTOR Totals	3,485		192,575,437	1,050,256,190.60				
BUILDING MATERIALS								
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	68	13.02	1,111,408	14,392,753.18				
BENUE CEMENT COY PLC	30	50.80	595,347	30,024,131.97				
CEM. CO. OF N/NIGERIA PLC	63	13.50	701,509	9,584,556.83				
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	30	30.00	84,439	2,538,663.88				
SECTOR Totals	191		2,492,703	56,540,105.86				
CHEMICAL & PAINTS								
BERGER PAINTS NIG. PLC	1	3.20	1,142	3,837.12				
CHEM. & ALLIED PROD. PLC	4	28.00	6,336	172,904.40				
DN MEYER PLC	1	5.39	20	102.60				
SECTOR Totals	6		7,498	176,844.12				
COMMERCIAL/SERVICES								
COURTVILLE INVEST. PLC	2	0.50	21,000	10,500.00				
NAT. SPORTS LOTTERY PLC	1	3.57	500	1,700.00				
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	22	2.37	700,372	1,671,711.47				
SECTOR Totals	25		721,872	1,683,911.47				
COMP. & OFFICE EQUIP.								
NCR (NIGERIA) P. C.	1	8.51	400	3,236.00				
OMATEK VENTURE PLC	17	0.58	5,684,970	3,191,977.50				
TRIP/GEE AND COY PLC	1	4.60	706	3,085.22				
SECTOR Totals	19		5,686,076	3,198,298.72				
CONGLOMERATES								
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIG.) PLC	9	2.42	78,224	188,722.20				
PZ CUSSONS NIG. PLC	42	25.00	348,945	8,750,104.88				
TRANS. CORP. OF NIG. PLC	95	0.50	39,297,570	19,827,745.90				
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	52	39.38	446,650	17,530,367.76				
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	80	24.50	820,551	19,841,810.47				
SECTOR Totals	278		40,991,940	66,138,751.21				
CONSTRUCTION								
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	29	3.80	308,732	1,190,802.99				
JULIUS BERGER NIG. PLC	41	29.60	593,426	16,707,189.12				
MVERSE RESOURCES PLC	7	0.50	1,186,000	593,000.00				
SECTOR Totals	77		2,088,158	18,490,992.11				
FOOD/BEVERAGES & TOB.								
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	12	29.40	10,431	309,075.00				
BIG TREAT PLC	16	0.89	465,100	412,552.90				
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	63	12.80	801,001	10,116,150.64				
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	210	13.00	3,987,649	51,957,059.38				
DANGOTE SUGAR REF. PLC	65	14.90	3,059,612	45,505,381.54				
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	74	38.00	753,695	28,846,984.70				
NAT. SALT COY NIG. PLC	87	6.04	3,296,324	19,838,512.62				
NIG. BOTTLING COY PLC	5	25.00	80,441	2,040,641.00				
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	33	252.00	50,339	13,135,274.90				
N/NIGERIA FLOUR MILLS PLC	3	21.80	142,742	3,111,775.60				
TANTALIZERS PLC	12	0.86	739,955	634,727.30				
UTC NIGERIA PLC	10	0.90	182,558	163,208.87				
HEALTHCARE								
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	4	1.00		27,839	27,839.00			
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	142	2.10	26,413,274	57,319,806.60				
GLAXOSM. CONS. NIG. PLC	22	23.00	84,883	1,878,631.71				
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.	30	5.21	444,027	2,352,210.31				
NEIMETH INT. PHARM. PLC	15	1.63	259,650	423,637.90				
UNION DIAG. & CLIN. SERV. PLC	14	0.62	1,381,500	870,850.00				
SECTOR Totals	227		28,611,173	62,872,975.52				
HOTEL & TOURISM								
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	4	1.05	122,424	128,545.20				
SECTOR Totals	4		122,424	128,545.20				
IND./DOMESTIC PROD.								
FIRST ALUM. NIGERIA PLC	1	0.50		4,800	2,400.00			
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC	10	5.55	21,500	113,670.00				
VONO PRODUCTS PLC	5	0.69	40,000	26,400.00				
SECTOR Totals	16		66,300	142,470.00				
INF. & COMM. TECH.								
CHAMS PLC	22	0.70	959,904	672,582.80				
IHS NIGERIA PLC	1	4.24	200	806.00				
MASS TEL. INNOV. NIG. PLC	1	0.50	8,000	4,000.00				
STARCOMMS PLC	21	2.00	538,776	1,054,775.93				
SECTOR Totals	45		1,506,880	1,732,164.73				
INSURANCE								
AIICO INSURANCE PLC.	86	0.97	4,627,939	4,387,791.46				
CONT. REINSURANCE PLC	9	1.05	755,374	793,694.70				
C/STONE INSUR. CO. PLC.	27	0.56	5,833,396	3,228,903.78				
CUST. AND ALL. INSUR. PLC	23	2.92	4,367,811	12,381,170.88				
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	1	0.50	100,000	50,000.00				
GREAT NIG. INSUR. COY PLC	1	0.50	25,000	12,500.00				
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	11	0.67	277,000	185,590.00				
GUAR. TRUST ASSUR. PLC	29	2.30	1,445,958	3,267,113.72				
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC.	17	0.50	1,025,000	512,500.00				
CONS. HALLMARK INS. PLC	1	0.50	50	25.00				
INT. ENERGY INS. COY PLC	27	0.61	6,915,596	4,203,267.26				
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	54	0.57	6,164,035	3,370,067.07				
LAW UNION & ROCKINS. PLC	9	0.54	644,720	348,008.94				
MUTUAL BEN. ASSUR. PLC	45	0.64	7,780,437	4,979,479.68				
N.E.M. INS. CO. (NIG.) PLC.	24	0.56	667,955	369,698.85				
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	7	0.97	121,370	121,150.00				
SOVEREIGN TRUST INS. PLC	1	0.50	11,111	5,555.50				
STACO INSURANCE PLC	3	1.09	46,000	47,840.00				
STAND. ALLIANCE INS. PLC	7	0.61	555,000	338,550.00				
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	13	0.80	712,969	579,934.76				
UNIVERSAL INSUR. COY PLC	4	0.50	125,000	62,500.00				
INTERC. WAPIC INSUR. PLC	13	1.05	799,625	839,606.25				
SECTOR Totals	412		43,001,346	40,084,947.85				
MARITIME								
JAP/OIL & MARIT. SERV. PLC	100	1.26	3,042,843	3,791,688.45				
SECTOR Totals	100		3,042,843	3,791,688.45				
MEDIA								
DAAR COMMUNIC. PLC	18	0.52	117,000	62,960.00				
SECTOR Totals	18		117,000	62,960.00				
MORTGAGE COMPANIES								
ASO SAVINGS & LOAND PLC	28	0.60	4,973,127	2,994,906.94				
RESORT SAV. & LOANS PLC	3	0.50	1,420,000	710,000.00				
UNION H. SAV. & LOANS PLC	30	0.90	7,176,844	6,163,471.61				
SECTOR Totals	61		13,569,971	9,868,378.55				
OTHER FINANC								

Offer-Circular



Pursuant to the Debt Management Office (Establishment) Act 2003 and the Local Loans
(Registered Stock and Securities) Act (Cap 214) LFN 1990

THE CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA

on the authority of the

DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

on behalf of the

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

Offers for Subscription by Auction

and is authorized to receive applications for

- ₦20,000,000,000 FGN Bond 10.50% May 22, 2012 (Re-opening 3-year bond)***
- ₦25,000,000,000 FGN Bond 7.00% October 23, 2019 (Re-opening 10-year bond)***
- ₦30,000,000,000 FGN Bond 8.50% November 20, 2029 (Re-opening 20-year bond)***

Auction Date: January 20, 2010
Settlement Date: January 22, 2010

SUMMARY OF THE OFFER

ISSUER:

Federal Government of Nigeria ("FGN")

UNITS OF SALE:

₦1,000 per unit subject to a minimum subscription of ₦10,000 and in multiples of ₦1,000 thereafter

INTEREST RATE:

For **Re-openings** of previously issued bonds, (where the coupon is already set), successful bidders will pay a price corresponding to the yield-to-maturity bid that clears the volume being auctioned, plus accrued interest from the original issue date.

INTEREST PAYMENT:

Payable semi-annually

REDEMPTION:

Bullet repayment on the maturity date

STATUS:

1. Qualifies as securities in which trustees can invest under the Trustee Investment Act
2. Qualifies as Government securities within the meaning of Company Income Tax Act ("CITA") and Personal Income Tax Act ("PITA") for Tax Exemption for Pension Funds amongst other investors
3. Listed on the Nigerian Stock Exchange
4. All FGN Bonds qualify as liquid assets for liquidity ratio calculation for banks

SECURITY:

FGN Bonds are backed by the full faith and credit of the Federal Government of Nigeria and are charged upon the general assets of Nigeria

INTERESTED INVESTORS SHOULD CONTACT OFFICES OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING PRIMARY DEALER MARKET MAKERS (PDMMs):

Access Bank Plc.
Afribank Nigeria Plc.
Associated Discount House Ltd.
Bank PHB Plc.
CitiBank Nigeria Ltd. (Citigroup)
Consolidated Discounts Ltd.
Diamond Bank Plc.

Ecobank Nigeria Plc.
Express Discount Ltd.
Fidelity Bank Plc.
First Bank of Nigeria Plc.
First City Monument Bank Plc.
First Securities Discount House Ltd.
Guaranty Trust Bank Plc.

Kakawa Discount House Ltd.
Oceanic Bank International Plc.
Stanbic IBTC Bank Plc.
Standard Chartered Bank Nigeria Ltd.
Union Bank of Nigeria Plc.
United Bank for Africa Plc.
Zenith Bank Plc.

* (1) The DMO reserves the right to alter the amount allotted in response to market conditions
(2) An additional sum of N18.5 billion will be allotted as non-competitive bid.



NIGER STATE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR CONTRACTORS TO TENDER FOR MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs) CONDITIONAL GRANTS SCHEME 2009 PROJECTS.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) office Niger State, wishes to invite interested and qualified contractors for the PRE-QUALIFICATION TO TENDER documents for verification in the preparation for the execution of the 2009 Conditional Grants Scheme projects across the 25 local Government Areas of the State. The projects will cover the health and water/sanitation sectors.

HEALTH (nature of works involved)

1. Construction of comprehensive primary health care centers (PHCs).
2. Renovation and equipping of health institutions.
3. Supply of drugs and equipments to the PHC's.

WATER (Nature of work involved)

1. Construction of solar powered boreholes.
2. Constructions of hand pump boreholes.
3. Reactivation of water works.
4. Reactivation of Bi-water schemes.

PRE QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Evidence of incorporation with corporate affairs commission.
2. Evidence of registration of business premises with Niger State Ministry for commerce and investments for non-limited companies.
3. Evidence of registration with Due process.
4. Evidence of registration with state MDGs office.
5. Tax clearance certificate.
6. Financial capability/bankers references.
7. Company profile with evidence of similar works carried out.
8. List of personnel, vehicles and equipments.
9. VAT registration.
10. Annual turnover.

SUBMISSION OF PRE QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

The documents must be signed and submitted within two weeks from the date of this publication in a sealed envelope clearly marked, pre-qualification to tender for MDGs 2009 CONDITIONAL GRANT SCHEME(CGS) PROJECTS to- Office of the Director General, Millennium Development Goals on or before Monday 1st February, 2010 by 12 noon.

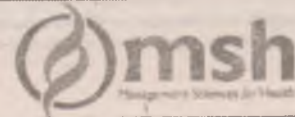
All documents will be opened on Monday 1st February, 2010 at 1:00pm at the conference room of the State MDGs secretariat.

NOTE:

- a. This advertisement should not be confused as a commitment on the part Niger State MDGs office, nor shall it entitle companies to make any claim whatsoever and/or seek any indemnity from the MDGs or the State Government.
- b. The State MDGs Secretariat reserves the right to verify any claim by the bidders so made.
- c. Full bidding procedure shall only be applied to contractors that have been pre-qualified and found capable of executing the projects.
- d. All MDGs projects are covered by performance bond to ensure the security of public funds.

All submissions to reach:

The Head of Admin Unit,
Office of the Director-General,
Millennium Development Goals,
No F4 Ebitu Ukiwe Road, GRA
P.M.B 109, Minna
Niger State.



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

LMS, PRO-ACT is an MSH-implemented project in Nigeria that aims at supporting State Ministries of Health and State Action Committees on AIDS (SACA) to deliver comprehensive HIV/AIDS/TB services including providing antiretroviral therapy for the hundreds of thousands of people in need in Nigeria. The project will scale up the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) programming to achieve its goals for provision of ART, palliative care services for HIV-TB co-infected individuals, and prevention of HIV transmission from mother-to-child (PMTCT).

POSITION: ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING

Location: Abuja

The objective of the Associate Director Health Systems Strengthening position is to collaborate with the federal level government and partners and provide overall technical direction of health systems strengthening strategies and interventions at the State, LGA, and community levels to result in sustainable government-led greater access, quality and use of priority HIV/AIDS and TB services and lead to improved health outcomes.

Description of duties

- Member of the Project Management Team that is responsible for overall project management and performance
- Coach/mentor the assigned system advisors to provide coordinated quality technical assistance in the following system areas: health planning and financing, health management information systems and supply chain management systems, planning human resources for health; and public-private partnerships for health.
- In collaboration with project staff and key federal, state and local government, private organizations and community stakeholders, take lead in the development of Pro-ACT project strategy and implementation plan for health systems strengthening.
- Build functional collaboration with the line Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) to ensure on-going health reforms are translated into state and local governments systems and plans.
- Lead project effort to support government-lead health and HIV/AIDS financing mechanisms.
- Working with the Abuja project staff and State Teams, build the capacity of state and local government HIV/AIDS management structures in leadership and management for a coordinated HIV/AIDS response
- With support from Project State Teams, assist the state and local governments through participatory methodologies to develop a shared vision and renew their commitment for control of HIV/AIDS.
- Provide oversight over an integrated HIV/AIDS and TB M&E system that generates information for evidence-based decision-making, planning and policy formulation.
- Work with AXIOS and the project Supply Chain management Advisor and the FMOH to assist federal, state and local governments forecast, budget and manage HIV/AIDS commodity supply system for eventual government ownership.
- Liaise with the Director Services and other Associate Directors to ensure health delivery systems and health care facilities consistently meet the quality standards of care.
- Champion the building and management of partnerships with government and the private sector
- Represent LMS Pro-ACT project at the federal level on matters of health systems strengthening.

SPECIFIC QUALIFICATION AND/OR EXPERIENCE

1. Post-graduate degree in public health, health planning, health economics or a health related field with extensive field experience managing programs in the developing world.
2. At least 8 years experience working at a senior level on health systems strengthening including health planning, health financing, human resources for health, and decentralization of health services in a public or private organization. Nigerian Ministry of Health or West African country experience is preferred.
3. Significant involvement in health sector reform activities is desirable
4. Substantial experience and demonstrated success in designing, implementing and managing complex health project in developing countries.
5. Experience working with PEPFAR and USAID-funded HIV/AIDS projects is highly desirable.
6. Excellent facilitation skills' supporting decentralized entities to translate policies into strategic plans for implementation is a must.

POSITION: PROCUREMENT OFFICER

LOCATION: ABUJA

The role of the Procurement Coordinator is to procure goods and services in compliance with MSH procurements policies and procedures. S/he collects proforma invoices on approved purchase requisitions, prepares offer analysis and makes recommendations. Once the purchase order has been completed, the procurement officer will follow up to assure delivery. S/he maintains procurement data including supplier list and standards of goods and services, and ensures the effectiveness of procurement in timely and cost effective manner.

Description of duties

- Facilitate the preparation of procurement plan
- Receives approved Purchase Requisitions (PR) for procurement of goods and services
- Tracks all PRs, for both local purchases and those requested through Cambridge
- Determines price reasonableness
- Responsible for collection and analysis of proforma invoices and presents to the supervisor for further processing or approval;
- Inquires immediately for more specifications from requesting units if the purchase request is not clearly specified and completed;
- Handles field office purchases when required;
- Ensures that purchases are made in the best interests of the donor and MSH;
- Assures delivery or pickup of PO for collection of goods;
- Prepares weekly procurement status report and submits to the supervisor;
- Regularly updates the supervisor of all partial collection of the procured goods;
- Informs the supervisor about prices and qualities of goods if purchases are not of routine nature.
- Does quarterly or 6 month reviews of preapproved vendors for routine items such as office supplies, cleaning products, etc.
- Also performs other duties as requested by the immediate supervisor.
- Inform supervisor immediately if asked to compromise integrity by any vendor or other.

SPECIFIC QUALIFICATION AND/OR EXPERIENCE

1. College degree in purchasing or related field.
2. Three years experience in procurement
3. Ability to work under pressure
4. Planning and scheduling skills;
5. Experience in a USG or donor funded project or NGO preferred.
6. Excellent interpersonal skills; demonstrated ability to interact professionally with a culturally diverse staff, clients and consultants.
7. Ability to work independently, take initiative and ability to meet deadlines with attention to detail and quality.
8. English fluency including business terminology required.
9. Demonstrated intermediate computer skills in Microsoft Office Suite applications

Note: There are no relocation allowances available for these positions.

Interested persons may send comprehensive resume with a brief cover letter as ONE MS Word document to lnigeria@msh.org, not later than January 29, 2010. If you wish to be considered for a post, please specify the position for which you are applying in the subject line. Note that if the underline instructions are not followed application will not be considered.

Suitable candidates living with HIV/AIDS will have an added advantage.
Women are encouraged to apply.

DIGEST

Breastfeeding for more than six months leaves children less likely to suffer mental health problems later in life

CHILDREN who are breastfed for more than six months are less likely to have mental health problems in later life, according to new research.

Experts believe that nutrients in mothers' milk, and the bonding process, may have a long-lasting effect on their babies' brain development.

The finding, to be published in *The Journal of Pediatrics*, came after researchers analysed the medical records of more than 2,000 children in Western Australia.

Professor Wendy Oddy, who led the study, said breastfeeding appeared to have 'significant benefits for the mental health of a child into adolescence'.

She added: 'There has been much evidence about the benefits of early breastfeeding but the importance of this study is that it shows continued benefits from extended feeding.'

'Given the rising prevalence of mental health problems, interventions to assist mothers to breastfeed, and to breastfeed for longer, could be of long term benefit

to the community.

'As with any of these types of studies, it should be stressed that the findings do not mean that individual children that weren't breastfed will have mental health problems, it's about lowering the risk at a population level.'

Of the children studied just over half were breastfed for six months or longer, 38 per cent were breastfed for less than six months. The rest were not breastfed.

They underwent mental health assessments when they were aged two, five, eight, ten and 14.

For each additional month of breastfeeding, the behaviour score improved, the research by the Perth-based Telethon Institute for Child Health Research revealed.

This remained valid even after other social and economic factors affecting parenting were taken into account.

Dr Oddy added: 'There are a number of ways extended breastfeeding could assist child development. We know that



FEEDING time: Nutrients in mothers' milk, and the bonding process, are thought to have a long lasting effect on their babies' brain development

breast milk is packed full of nutrients that help with the rapid brain development that occurs in the early years.

It might also signal a strong mother-child attachment and these benefits may last.'

UNICEF and the World Health Organization recommend infants should be exclusively breastfed for the first six months and 'that breastfeeding should continue to contribute an important part of a baby's diet through the second year of life and beyond'.

The girl who could talk in signs at three...



BILINGUAL: Six-year-old Mia, right, is teaching her sign language skills to her brother Oliver, three

AT an age when most children are struggling with their first words, Mia Jones was already chattering away in sign language.

The six-year-old girl has been

using the language of gestures and expressions since she was eight months old and was as fluent as an adult by the age of three.

Though she has perfect hear-

ing, her parents Craig and Jacqueline are both deaf.

Now she is teaching sign language, known as signing, to her three-year-old brother Oliver. The two children happily switch between talking to their friends and grandparents, and signing with their parents.

Mr and Mrs Jones, who both work full-time, say their children's skill is just a normal part of their family life. Mrs Jones, 34, a youth worker, said: 'Mia has been signing since she was eight months old. Her first signs were mummy and daddy. 'She didn't get the shape perfectly, like a baby will say "mama and dada" but we understood. We were as thrilled as hearing parents when their child speaks for the first time.' Mrs Jones, who has a degree in education and her 40-year-old husband, who works

for their local council in Darlington, have vowed never to let their deafness stand in their way and are teaching their children to be at home with their two different 'cultures'. Mrs Jones said: 'The children have deaf culture and hearing culture. We go and see deaf friends at the weekends and they sign with them. 'But she's also got hearing culture and it's important that she communicates well, which she does with her grandparents and her friends at school. She's completely bilingual.' However, she said she would never ask the children to interpret on her behalf.

'Some deaf parents rely on their children, but I am totally against that, I would never take Mia to the doctor with me and ask her to interpret, it would be totally unfair.' The couple, who both have hearing parents and learned sign

language as adults, met at a club for the deaf 17 years ago.

They say they did not mind whether their children were deaf. Mr Jones added: 'We knew it was a 50-50 chance and we didn't mind at all, as long as they were healthy. The important thing is that we could communicate as a family.'

Mrs Jones said there was a difficult period when Mia started school. 'I was talking to her, and she wasn't responding because she didn't want people to know we were deaf. 'I told her she should be proud that we are deaf. We have the same lives as everyone else - except we can't hear. And within a short while she was fine.'

Mia said: 'I can say anything in sign language now. Oliver's not as good but I'm teaching him. My friends are always asking me to show them.'

Sign Language



Noisy reception

Photo location: Paradise Inn, Cook Island, by Robert Lindley

Culled from the telegraph.co.uk

EASY CROSSWORDS

ACROSS

- 1. Foul caller
- 4. Heights (abbr.)
- 8. Explosive device
- 12. "___ Lay Dying" (2 wds.)
- 13. Roman tyrant
- 14. Good
- 15. Glorious
- 17. Not different
- 18. "Laughing" predator
- 19. Country lane
- 21. Kind
- 23. Gives the impression of
- 26. British royal family name

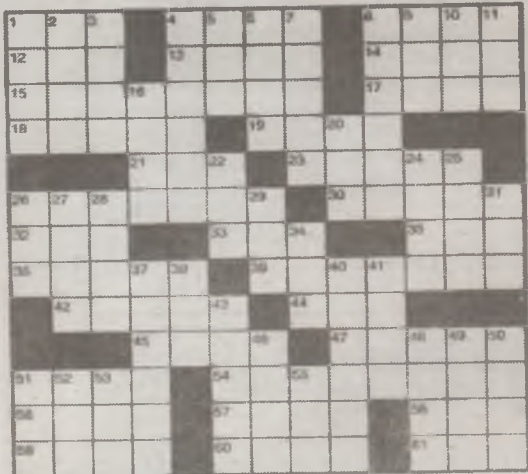
- 30. Cool and distant
- 32. WALL-E's love
- 33. Hang loosely
- 35. ___ Lanka
- 36. Rafters
- 39. Wheel-running rodent
- 42. ___ one's mind
- 44. Cat's foot
- 45. Was in arrears
- 47. Enlisted men
- 51. Diamond defect
- 54. One engaged in a lawsuit
- 56. Love foolishly

- 57. Slim
- 58. Off ___ good start (2 wds.)
- 59. ___ Lang Syne
- 60. Local place for swimming (abbr.)
- 61. ___ up to (admit)

- DOWN**
- 1. Careless
 - 2. Catch sight of
 - 3. Emery board
 - 4. Chronicles
 - 5. Had more points
 - 6. Junket
 - 7. Some mixers
 - 8. ___ basket
 - 9. "Are you a man ___

- mouse?" (2 wds.)
- 10. Film studio letters
- 11. Seinfeld's "___ Movie"
- 16. Author Bagnold
- 20. Celestial Seasonings product
- 22. Boxing results (abbr.)
- 24. Majority
- 25. Needing liniment
- 26. Spider's home
- 27. "Big Daddy" Burl
- 28. Lowest tide
- 29. Rooter's yell
- 31. Evergreen
- 34. Opening
- 37. Sounded like Garfield
- 38. Carpenter's tool
- 40. Yacht spot
- 41. Booty
- 43. Gene or Grace
- 46. Per ___
- 48. Alliance acronym
- 49. ___ it all
- 50. Comedian Laurel
- 51. Drug-regulating org.
- 52. Actor Jacobi
- 53. Large ocean (abbr.)
- 55. Sea-___ (Seattle airport)

55



Solution to Easy Crosswords

54

A	L	V	A		P	O	D	S		L	B	J			
F	O	I	L		E	A	R	P		E	A	U			
T	A	C	T		A	F	A	R		E	D	D			
					A	S	S			W	I	C	K	E	D
L	Y	C	R	A		H	I	G	H						
O	E	R			X	M	E	N		E	L	M	S		
B	L	E	W		A	R	G			T	A	U	T		
S	L	E	W		G	O	S	H		M	T	A			
					I	A	N	S		R	I	P	E	N	
D	O	M	I	N	O		E	S	S						
A	T	E			G	L	I	B		A	I	M	S		
M	I	A			L	I	R	A		A	G	U	A		
P	S	T			E	A	S	Y		C	O	D	Y		

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.

67

		8	5				6	
	2			1			9	5
		1					2	
		4			9	5		
7	9			5			1	6
		5	1				2	
	4						3	
1	5			2				7
	3				1	9		

Solution to Sudoku 66

3	2	5	9	6	7	8	4	1
8	6	4	1	3	2	7	5	9
7	9	1	4	8	5	6	3	2
5	7	2	6	9	8	4	1	3
4	8	9	3	5	1	2	6	7
6	1	3	2	7	4	9	8	5
1	4	6	7	2	3	5	9	8
2	3	8	5	4	9	1	7	6
9	5	7	8	1	6	3	2	4

News Extra

Italian border guards find a 15-year-old Afghan boy hiding inside luggage



THIS Afghan illegal immigrant, 15, was discovered hiding in a zipped suitcase in the boot of a Peugeot 207 by Italian border guards



POLICE arrested the Greek driver of the car, Alexandros Lepesiotis

This was the amazing sight that greeted Italian immigration police during routine spot check - a teenage boy hidden in a suitcase as he tried to illegally enter the country.

The 15-year-old Afghan boy was discovered curled into fetal position inside the case while his 17-year-old brother other was hidden in the foot well covered

with blankets.

Officers immediately arrested the Greek driver of the car, Alexandros Lepesiotis, 42, and charged him with illegally smuggling people into the country.

The discovery was made at the Adriatic port of Bari, a well known entry point for people smugglers, on a ferry which had just arrived from Greece, the Sea Trade.

Officers pulled over Lepesiotis

for a spot check in his Peugeot 207 and became suspicious of him as he reacted nervously when they began examining the car.

The boys told police they had paid €2600 to be smuggled into the country, raising the money by doing waiting jobs in Greece when they were told Lepesiotis would be willing to smuggle them into Italy.

Yesterday the teenagers were in care in the care of Bari social

services while investigations were trying to track their parents or decide whether they should be given asylum.

A Bari police spokesman said: 'We get thousands of people passing through the port every day and like any other immigration authority we do spot checks.'

'We have found in the past people hiding in the boot or hiding in

the foot well but we have never found anyone curled up and hidden in a suitcase. The poor boy looked so frightened when we found him.'

'It just goes to show the desperate measures and the high prices people are willing to pay to be smuggled into Italy.'

'This is just one success story but for this there are probably dozens who get through.'

Meet the asylum seeker who has been trying to escape FROM Britain

Unlike the many asylum seekers desperate to remain in Britain, all Rashid Ali wants is to leave and get out



RASHID Ali has pleaded to be sent home to Morocco

of the cold. The 31-year-old Moroccan has spent the past six years trying to escape and has stowed away on cargo ships at least six times.

Yet more than 12 months after a judge vowed to 'kick some backsides' and get him deported, he remains stuck in the system.

He is being held in a detention centre costing taxpayers more than £100 a night.

Immigration officials say they will not send him home until he produces his passport, as the authorities in his native country will not allow him in without proof that he is one of its citizens.

But Ali ripped up his passport and identity papers on arriving in Britain in 2004, hoping he would have more chance of gaining asylum if he pretended to be Algerian.

It was in December 2008 that Judge Michael Hubbard, QC,

vowed to 'kick some backsides', saying he would write to government ministers to make sure Ali was promptly repatriated.

But with border officials still at an impasse with Moroccan authorities, there appears little prospect of Ali being allowed to leave, even though the saga has cost the public more than £300,000.

Since then Ali has been held at Colnbrook Removal Centre, near Heathrow, as officials fear he will abscond.

Immigration staff are liaising with Moroccan authorities to find some documents that will prove his nationality.

It costs around £43,000 a year to lock up failed asylum seekers - more expensive than sending them on a world cruise.

Figures obtained by the Tories show it costs £119 a day to hold a detainee compared to £90 for a prison cell.

WHY HE'S STILL HERE

2004 Rashid Ali claims asylum in Britain but is turned down. He is caught attempting to board a ship leaving Bristol.

2005 Found stowing away on four more ships and sent back every time. In June he is caught stealing food and a coat. He is jailed and a deportation order is issued. In October he is released from prison and put in a detention centre.

October 2008 Released from detention. Two days later, he is arrested for hiding on sixth boat.

December 2008 Pleads guilty to two burglary charges and criminal damage. Judge orders inquiry into his continuing detention.

January 2010 Still being held in Colnbrook Removal Centre waiting for the right documents from Morocco to replace his missing passport.

News Extra

Longest solar eclipse for 1,000 years turns Sun into a blazing ring of fire

The sun is reduced to a ring of gold against the black sky as the Moon slips between it and Earth.

This solar eclipse on Saturday lasted for 11 minutes and eight seconds, setting a record that will not be beaten until December 23, 3043.

Such events, which only blot out the middle of the Sun, are known as annular eclipses. They occur about 66 times a century and can only be viewed in the narrow band on the Earth's surface below their path.

Saturday's light show began in Africa before crossing the Indian Ocean, where it reached its peak at about 7am GMT.

It then continued into Asia where it could be seen in the Maldives, southern India, parts of Sri Lanka, Myanmar and China.

In other parts of Africa as well as the Middle East and Eastern Europe, skywatchers were treated to a partial eclipse.

In India, the phenomenon gave an extra auspicious edge to the Kumbh Mela festival, where thousands of people immerse themselves in the Ganges river, an act believed to purge all sins.

'Taking a holy dip during the solar eclipse is a very pious act,' said Hindu priest Babu Ram Sashtri from the banks of the Ganges.

'It is very auspicious. It is very fruitful and it can get one salvation.'

The eclipse sent sea birds in Sri Lanka looking for a place to roost for the night - shortly after lunchtime.

'Many amateur astronomers have taken time off work and spent a lot on money on travel to see it,' said Lin Qing, head of the Sheshan Station of Shanghai Astronomical Observatory in China.

'We will travel across China simply to witness the magnificent astronomical phenomena,' she added.

The eclipse, the first of its kind to cross over Sri Lanka since 1955, sent sea birds along the oceanside capital of Colombo looking for a place to roost for the night, shortly after lunchtime.

A pelican looped over the city as the skies darkened from the north and the eclipse neared its peak.

'Wow, it's marvellous,' said an army officer, who was on security duty in Sri Lanka's capital Colombo.

'This is the first time I have



THE skies over Hongdao, China, where the spectacular 'ring of fire' was seen. The eclipse was annular, meaning the Moon blocked most of the Sun's middle



THE sea darkens as the eclipse takes effect over waters in Hongdao, China

seen this kind of eclipse.'

According to astronomical websites, the last annular eclipse

occurred roughly one year ago on January 26, 2009. The next one will happen May 20, 2012.



A girl uses a filter to view the solar eclipse in Bangalore, India



WHAT IS AN ANNULAR ECLIPSE?

Not every eclipse of the Sun is a total eclipse. On occasion the Moon is too small to cover the whole of the Sun. This is because of the Moon's orbit around Earth which is oval or elliptical in shape.

This means that as the Moon orbits Earth its distance varies from about 221,000 to 252,000 miles. This 13 per cent variant makes its apparent size, from our perspective, vary by the same amount.

It is this effect that leads to the difference between total and annular eclipses. When the Moon is on the near side of its orbit, it will block out all of the Sun's light resulting in a total eclipse.

This will only be experienced at a specific point on Earth where a shadow cast by the Moon, called an umbra, reaches our planet.

However, if an eclipse occurs while the Moon is on the far side of its elliptical orbit, it appears smaller than the Sun and can't completely cover it. When this happens, the umbra cannot reach Earth and an antumbra shadow is created over the planet's surface.

The track it creates is called the path of annularity. If you are within this path, you will see an annular eclipse where, at its maximum phase, a ring (annulus) of sunlight surrounds the Moon.

News Extra



SURVIVORS gather around bodies in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

All the deadliest earthquakes since 1900

Last week, Haiti was hit by a devastating earthquake. Where have the deadliest earthquakes struck over the past century? The United States Geological Survey keeps track of the deadliest earthquakes around the world since 1900. According to their data, the most deadly earthquake to strike over the past 110 years hit Tangshan in China in July 1976. Measuring 7.5, the quake caused 255,000 deaths.

Check out the table below for the deadliest earthquakes since 1970.

ID	Date	Location	Deaths	Magnitude
1	4 January 1970.	Tonghai, Yunnan Province, China	10000	7.5
2	28 March 1970.	Gediz, Turkey	1086	6.9
3	31 May 1970.	Chimbote, Peru	70000	7.9
4	22 May 1971.	Turkey	1000	6.9
5	10 April 1972.	southern Iran	5054	7.1
6	23 December 1972.	Nicaragua, Managua	5000	6.2
7	10 May 1974.	China	20000	6.8
8	28 December 1974.	Pakistan	5300	6.2
9	4 February 1975.	Haicheng, China	2000	7
10	6 September 1975.	Turkey	2300	6.7
11	4 February 1976.	Guatemala	23000	7.5
12	6 May 1976.	northeastern Italy	1000	6.5
13	25 June 1976.	Papua, Indonesia	422	7.1
14	27 July 1976.	Tangshan, China	255000	7.5
15	16 August 1976.	Mindanao, Philippines	8000	7.9
16	24 November 1976.	Turkey-Iran border region	5000	7.3
17	4 March 1977.	Romania	1500	7.2
18	16 September 1978.	Iran	15000	7.8
19	10 October 1980.	El Asnam, Algeria	5000	7.7
20	23 November 1980.	southern Italy	2735	6.5
21	11 June 1981.	southern Iran	3000	6.9
22	28 July 1981.	southern Iran	1500	7.3
23	13 December 1982.	Yemen	2800	6
24	30 October 1983.	Turkey	1342	6.9
25	19 September 1985.	Mexico, Michoacan	9500	8
26	10 October 1986.	El Salvador	1000	5.5
27	6 March 1987.	Colombia-Ecuador	1000	7
28	20 August 1988.	Nepal-India border region	1000	6.8
29	7 December 1988.	Spitak, Armenia	25000	6.8
30	20 June 1990.	Western Iran	40,000-50,000	7.4
31	16 July 1990.	Luzon, Philippine Islands	1621	7.7
32	19 October 1991.	Northern India	2000	7
33	12 December 1992.	Flores Region, Indonesia	2500	7.5
34	29 September 1993.	Latur-Killari, India	9748	6.2
35	16 January 1995.	Kobe, Japan	5502	6.9
36	27 May 1995.	Sakhalin Island	1989	7.5
37	10 May 1997.	Northern Iran	1567	7.3
38	4 February 1998.	Hindu Kush region, Afghanistan	2323	5.9
39	30 May 1998.	Afghanistan -Tajikistan Border Region	4000	6.6
40	17 July 1998.	Papua New Guinea	2183	7
41	25 January 1999.	Colombia	1185	6.1
42	17 August 1999.	Turkey	17118	7.6
43	20 September 1999.	Taiwan	2400	7.6
44	26 January 2001.	Gujarat, India	20085	7.6
45	25 March 2002.	Hindu Kush Region, Afghanistan	1000	6.1
46	21 May 2003.	Northern Algeria	2266	6.8
47	26 December 2003.	Southeastern Iran	31000	6.6
48	26 December 2004.	Sumatra	227898	9.1
49	28 March 2005.	Northern Sumatra, Indonesia	1313	8.6
50	8 October 2005.	Pakistan	86000	7.6
51	26 May 2006.	Indonesia	5749	6.3
52	12 May 2008.	Eastern Sichuan, China	87587	7.9

PRESS NOTICE/ADVERTISEMENT

NOTICE/INVITATION TO ONE DAY IPAC ROAD-SHOW IN ANAMBRA STATE

Date: Thursday, January 21, 2010

Venues: Women Centre (Awka); Nkwo-Edo Square (Nnewi); Zik's Roundabout (Onitsha)

Theme: Voter Sensitization on the Code of Conduct for Political Parties and Politicians: Entrenching Positive Electoral Behaviours

Sequel to the successful IPAC NATIONAL CONFERENCE which held in Abuja on December 8, 2009, on the Theme: CODE OF CONDUCT FOR POLITICAL PARTIES -- ENTRENCHING POSITIVE ELECTORAL BEHAVIOURS, and in our quest to promote violence-free conduct in the forthcoming February 6, 2010 Gubernatorial election in Anambra State, the Inter-Party Advisory Council (IPAC) of Nigerian Political Parties, the body representing all the registered Political Parties in Nigeria that subscribed and signed the Political Parties' Code of Conduct Agreement in 2007, in partnership with the Joint Donor Basket Fund (JDBF), invite all eligible voters in Anambra State, National and Anambra State Chairmen/Secretaries of Political Parties, Civil Society Organizations, Law Enforcement Agencies, The Press, Independent National Electoral Commission, National Assembly Members from Anambra State, and the General Public to a ONE DAY ROAD-SHOW IN ANAMBRA STATE on Thursday, January 21, 2010.

The objectives of the ROAD-SHOW are to:

- sensitize the voting public on the Code of Conduct for Political Parties and Politicians;
- encourage violence-free elections in the February 6, 2010 elections; and
- mobilize for free, fair and credible outcome of the elections in conformity with global "best practices".

Eminent Nigerian political leaders, Anambra State and the South East Zone political leaders, front-line leaders of Civil Society Groups, the Press and International Organizations have been duly invited in this patriotic exercise of entrenching positive electoral behaviour and deepening democracy in Nigeria through deepening of the Code of Conduct for Political Parties.

This Program is Sponsored by the Joint Donor Basket Fund (JDBF) comprising the EU, DFID, CIDA and UNDP in their Quest for Violent-Free, Fair and Credible Elections in Nigeria

For: INTER-PARTY ADVISORY COUNCIL (IPAC)

Prof. Ihenyichukwu Godswill Nnaji
Chairman IPAC

Mallam Yunusa Tanko
Secretary IPAC



Sponsors: JDBF EU, DFID, CIDA, UNDP

HEALTH REPORT

Briefs

Complications harm 30% of pregnant Nigerian women

COMPLICATIONS kill or maim up to 30 percent of pregnant women in Nigeria, one of the highest rates in the world.

The situation drew Evelyn Castle and Adam Thompson to Nigeria recently, working with UC Santa Cruz's Global Information Internship Programme, to improve maternal and child health in the country.

The team spent three months at the Shehu Idris School for Health Sciences and Technology's clinic in Kaduna. They designed a digital record keeping system for the clinic's reproductive and children's health teams, then taught the employees to enter and find patient records.

The team is in discussions with Pathfinder International, a global nongovernmental organization working to improve maternal care in Nigeria, to set up the record-keeping software in more clinics.

If successfully implemented, the records will inform what doctors do on a clinical level and how they treat patients on a policy level.

New swine flu virus identified

U.S. health authorities have found a single case of human infection with another new swine flu virus.

The Centers for Disease Control says a child from Iowa was infected last fall with an H3N2 virus of swine origin, but recovered.

The child had no known contact with pigs, and it's not clear whether he was infected by pigs or by a person. But a CDC spokesperson says the case was closely investigated and the agency has seen no signs of continued spread of the virus.

Tom Skinner says while human infections with swine influenza viruses are rare, they do happen from time to time and they need to be investigated when they are discovered.

Canadian officials found two cases of human infection with a different H1N1 virus of swine origin last summer in two hog farm workers in Saskatchewan.

Source: AP

Shorter people more likely to develop COPD

SHORTER people are more likely to have chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), say British researchers who looked at more than one million people over age 35.

The study found that COPD patients were 1.12 centimeters shorter on average than those without the lung disease, BBC News reported.

This shorter stature may be a "marker" that these patients come from a poorer background, said the University of Nottingham researchers. Historical studies have shown a strong association between adult height and COPD risk.

People who grew up in poor families may be more likely to have had poor nutrition during their early years, which has a negative effect on lung development and general growth, the researchers said, BBC News reported.

In addition, people from poorer backgrounds may be more likely to have had mothers who smoked and are more likely to live in smoking households and to smoke themselves. Smoking is a major cause of COPD.

Courtesy: *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*.

Summary of 2009 World Malaria Report

THE 2009 World Malaria Report summarizes information received from 108 malaria-endemic countries and other sources and updates the analysis presented in the 2008 Report. It highlights progress made in meeting the World Health Assembly (WHA) targets for malaria to be achieved by 2010 and 2015, and new goals on malaria elimination contained in the Global Malaria Action Plan (2008):

An increased percentage of African households (31%) are estimated to own at least one insecticide-treated net (ITN) in 2008 compared to 2006 (17%), and more children under five years of age used an ITN in 2008 (24%) compared to previous years, but the percentage of children using a net is still below the WHA target of 80%. These weighted averages are affected by low ITN ownership in several large African countries for which resources for scale-up are only now being made available. Household ITN ownership reached more than 50% in 13 high burden African countries.

Use of artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs) has increased compared to 2006 but remains very low in most African countries; in 11 of 13 countries surveyed during 2007-2008, fewer than 15% of children under five years of age with fever had received an ACT, well below the WHA target of 80%.

More than one-third of the 108 malaria-endemic countries (nine African countries and 29 outside of Africa) documented reductions in malaria cases of > 50% in 2008 compared to 2000. The number of cases fell least in countries with the highest incidence rates.

Ten countries are implementing nationwide elimination programmes of which six entered the elimination phase in 2009. Eight countries are in the pre-elimination stage and a further nine countries have interrupted transmission and are in the phase of preventing reintroduction of malaria.

In countries that have achieved high coverage of their populations with bed nets and treatment programmes,



DIRECTOR General, WHO Margaret Chan

recorded cases and deaths due to malaria have fallen by 50%, suggesting that Millennium Development Goals (MDG) targets can be achieved if there is adequate coverage of key interventions. While these results were observed in some island settings (Sao Tome and Principe and Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania), they were also seen in countries on the African mainland, including Eritrea, Rwanda, and Zambia.

There is evidence from Sao Tome and Principe, Zanzibar and Zambia that large decreases in malaria cases and deaths have been mirrored by steep declines in all-cause deaths among children less than five years of age, suggesting that intensive efforts at malaria control could help many African countries to reach, by 2015, a two-thirds reduction in child mortality as set forth in the MDGs.

Parasite resistance to anti-malarial medicines and mosquito resistance to insecticides are major threats to achieving global malaria control. Well conducted surveillance of drug efficacy in endemic countries with support from WHO has shown early

evidence of resistance to artemisinins, and WHO is leading a major resistance containment effort. Continued use of artemisinin monotherapy is a major factor in parasite resistance; yet, despite WHO's call for a halt to their use, marketing of artemisinin monotherapies continues in many countries.

International disbursements to malaria-endemic countries (US\$ 0.65 billion in 2007, the latest year for which data are available), still fall short of the US\$ 5 billion required annually to ensure high coverage and maximal impact worldwide. Approximately 80% of external funds were targeted to the WHO African Region. The South-East Asia Region received the least money per person at risk for malaria and saw the lowest increase in external financing between 2000 and 2007.

International funding commitments for malaria control have increased from around US\$ 0.3 billion in 2003 to US\$ 1.7 billion in 2009 due largely to the emergence of the Global Fund and greater commitments by the US President's Malaria Initiative, the World Bank, and other agencies. This increase in funding is resulting in dramatic scale-up of malaria control interventions in many settings and measurable reductions in malaria burden.

High levels of external assistance are associated with increased procurement of commodities and decreases in malaria incidence. However, external funds for malaria control are disproportionately concentrated on smaller countries with lower disease burdens.

More attention needs to be given to ensuring success in large countries that account for most malaria cases and deaths, and protecting the gains that have been made. This will require not only adequate financial

resources but also the strengthening of health systems capable of delivering vector control interventions, providing diagnostics for the parasitologic confirmation of malaria alongside treatment with ACTs, and the development of routine surveillance systems for malaria as well as for parasite resistance to anti-malarial medicines and mosquito resistance to insecticides.

(WHO)

NGO asks Nigerians to rally round kidney patients

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE President of Musibel Global Kidney Foundation, Prince Bello Usman, has appealed to Nigerians to always help people suffering from kidney problem.

Usman who spoke at the launch of an appeal fund of 100 million naira to assist people with kidney problem in the country said his Foundation was

formed to render humanitarian services to people with kidney problem.

"If people would come up with assistance, kidney patients, especially those at the grassroots who could not afford money for treatment, would be greatly relieved," Usman said.

He said his organisation targets poor people with renal failure who may lack the means or awareness to help themselves.

"If proper information is given at the local level, the issue of kidney or renal failure will definitely reduce," he said.

He stressed that the organization was determined to take care of those with kidney problem or renal failure with the support of meaningful Nigerians, adding that government alone cannot solve all problems facing the people.

ENVIRONMENT

property@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079

C'ttee on climate adaptation plan set up

By Nasir Imam

A 25-MEMBER committee has been inaugurated by the Federal Government to drive the process leading to the formulation of a National Climate Adaptation Strategy and Plan of Action (NASPA), which will provide a sound basis for integration of climate change adaptation

into national policies and programmes at all levels of government, the private sector, and civil society.

Minister of Environment and Urban Development, Mr. John Odey, who inaugurated by the forum recently in Abuja, said the forum was put together as requirement for the preparation of the NASPA, and

applauded the development partners and groups for collaborating with government in making the initiative possible.

The committee, which members are drawn from such stakeholders' groups as civil society, government, private industry and environmental groups, is known as the Multi-Stakeholder Forum (MF) and is sad-

dled with the task of developing the NASPA and ensuring a systematic harmonisation of efforts to effectively address the impact of climate change in the country.

A pact between the Special Climate Change Unit (SCCU) of the Federal Ministry of Environment (FME), United Nations Development Pro-

gramme (UNDP), Building Nigerian Response to Climate Change (BNRCC)/Nigeria Environment Study/Action team (NEST), Nigeria-CAN supported by Coalition for Change (C4C), and Heinrich Boll Foundation provided the impetus to anchor the forum and enhance the adoption of adaptation efforts.

The World's Most Polluted Places (8)

FROM lead in the soil to toxins in the water and radioactive fallout in the air, The Blacksmith Institute has created a list of the world's worst ecological disaster areas

Chernobyl, Ukraine

Number of people potentially affected: Initially estimated at 5.5 million, currently disputed

Type of pollutant: Radiation**Source of pollution:** Nuclear meltdown

WHEN Chernobyl melted down on Apr. 26, 1986, the ruined plant released 100 times more radiation into the air than the fallout from the nuclear bombs at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Today the 19-mi (30-km) exclusion zone around the plant remains uninhabitable, and between 1992 and 2002 more than 4,000 cases of thyroid cancer cases were diagnosed among Russian, Ukrainian and Belarusian children living in the fallout zone. "It's the largest industrial accident in the world," says Fuller. "It'll be contaminated for tens of thousands of years." Fortunately, work is being done to prevent further radiation spill from the ruined sarcophagus of the nuclear plant.



CHERNOBYL, Ukraine



Some 12 million tourists come every year to see the mighty Niagara Falls. Located on the Niagara River on the border between New York and Ontario, Canada, this famed cataract comprises three separate falls: Horseshoe, American, and Bridal Veil.

Lokoja residents charged on sanitation

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

RESIDENTS of Lokoja in Kogi State have been charged to cooperate with the authority in its efforts to keep the capital city clean.

The acting General Manager of the State Environmental Sanitation and Waste Management Board, Mrs Florence Joseph, yesterday made the appeal in Lokoja, the state capital, in a chat with our correspondent.

She attributed the dirtiness of the city to the attitude of residents whom she said were not using the refuse dumps strategically stationed across the state capital.

"Most people don't believe that it is the responsibility of everybody to keep Lokoja clean. We have refuse dumps all over the place provided by the government.

These dumps are there for people to use so that the officials of the Board would pack them

to the final disposal sites. People don't use these refuse dumps", she alleged.

She, therefore, admonished residents to change their attitude towards the environment.

"They should desist from dropping pure water remnants on the roadsides. Our staff go out every day to pack refuse.

We have two compacted trucks and two refuse vans which are used daily for this purpose", she said.

Causes of collapse of water facilities in Imo identified

From Johnkennedy Uzoma, Owerri.

THE General Manager Imo State Water Development Agency (IWADA), Engr. Emeka Ugoanyanwu, has attributed the collapse of facilities for water supply to lack of sustainability.

Ugoanyanwu in a chat with newsmen in Owerri Monday regret-

ted that both rural and semi-urban water sectors are both problematic and complex because of difficulties to sustain the facilities by communities. He condemned the situation where communities in the state see these facilities as government owned projects.

The General Manager pointed out that the rural people today do not have access to safe drinking water,

blaming it to their refusal to contribute their quotas to make the facilities functional to serve them.

He lamented that some of the rural people resort to going back to the old traditional source of water such as river and the pond or water vendor. Following the development government through IWADA persuaded communities with water facilities or intends to have one to set

up Water Environment Sanitation Committee that will liaise with the agency, community and government to establish ownership. He said that the committee which would include Women will take responsibility and management of the rural water supply facility in order to sustain it while IWADA will train the committee on operation, maintenance and community management of rural water

supply scheme. While stating that the essence of good drinking water lies on its sustainability, he said that agency will also encourage the local government councils to strengthen water committee at that level.

To strengthen the water committee at the local level, Ugoanyanwu disclosed that engineers and geologist would be employed to give technical assistance to the committee.

ENVIRONMENT

Residents still practice open defecation Lafia

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

PEOPLE in Lafia, the Nasarawa State capital, still practice open defecation, while authorities look the other way.

The practice is common among male residents, most of whom have been passing faeces at areas designated as green areas within the grubby metropolis of Lafia, observation by our correspondent have shown.

A recent survey report on sanitation by WaterAid says 38 countries in Africa, Nigeria inclusive might not attain the Millennium Development Goal in sanitation as their coverage is less than 50% in the sanitation sector.

The survey which was jointly conducted by WHO/UNICEF joint monitoring programme for water supply (JMP) is the official UN mechanism tasked with monitoring progress towards MDG tar-

get 7c on drinking water and sanitation. The survey which described open defecation as the most 'riskiest sanitation practice' says Africa has dropped from 33% which was recorded in 1990 to 24% in 2006 although the absolute number of people practicing open defecation has increased with over 20 million.

Our correspondent reports that this "riskiest sanitation practice" is common among residents of Lafia. Although the monthly environmental sanitation exercise is still been observed in the metropolis, compliance to environmental regulations is absence as urban authorities have relaxed while residents flouts the orders with impunity.

It is common to observe residents sit out at roadsides, even at broad day light, to pass faeces.

This practice knows no boundary as such reckless

residents have been spotted in several areas including Shandam Road where most government offices are located.

A shop owner who gave her name only as Miss Silvia told our correspondent that often times; she would wake up to clear the surrounding of faeces that have been passed overnight before opening for her daily business.

"There are times, I will forget and then by afternoon, the surrounding would burst with acrid smell oozing from sun-baked and stale shit.

That is what we witness on this road everyday." She appealed to authorities to strengthen enforcement of urban regulations to curb this practice.

State commissioner for Information, Mustapha Aliyu had said residents of Lafia and environs are not friendly to the environment, outstretching the Nasarawa State Urban Development Board (NUDB).

Newspaper vendors to get free stands in Abuja

By Nasir Imam

AS the federal capital territory administration carries out its directive to remove newspapers' vendors on Abuja streets, the Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB) has concluded plans to supply the vendors with newspapers stand at no cost.

According to the AEPB director, Dr. Abubakar Yabo who made this known in Abuja at the weekend, the board through a Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement would go into a mass production of the stands in collaboration with a private firm, Adventures Models.

The FCT administration has given newspapers' vendors

in Abuja to vacate the streets on or before January 7 or face the wrath of the law as they are regarded in Abuja as hawkers.

Dr. Yabo, while unveiling the prototype of newspaper stands to the journalists, said that the newspaper stand was designed in line with the international standard which according to him befits the federal capital city.

He explained that Adventures Model has the mandate of the FCT administration to manufacture enough newsstands so that the banks and other corporate organizations can purchase and brand them with their product and distribute to the vendors for free.

Dr Yabo advised vendors to revert to their designated

newspaper sale stands, stressing that beggars and other criminals disguised as vendors to perpetrate criminal activities in the city warning that any vendor found criss-crossing junctions and running after moving vehicles in the name of selling newspapers would be arrested and prosecuted henceforth.

His word: "Newspapers vendors are not allowed to sell on the street, they are allowed only to operate at designated point, bus stop and newspaper stand and considering the economic situation of the vendors since they cannot afford to buy the newsstand on their own we came up with method of assisting by giving them the stand for free".



THE flight of Angel Falls, the world's highest waterfall, ends more than 3,000 feet (910 meters) down the face of Auyan-tepui. More than a hundred tepuis — a Pemón Indian word for mountains — rise mainly in southeastern Venezuela

Haiti earthquake, deforestation heighten landslide risk

THE combination of widespread deforestation and the recent earthquake in Haiti could lead to more landslides in the already hard-hit country, scientists say.

Many of Haiti's people, the poorest in the Americas, routinely cut down trees for fuel—either to burn "raw" or turn into charcoal.

As a result, the destruction of Haiti's natural forests is almost total, making the Caribbean country one of the most deforested in the world.

As Haiti's trees have disap-

peared, landslides have become a major concern, especially during the rainy season, and the destabilizing effects of an earthquake on soil only worsen the problem.

Forest canopies serve as natural buffers against wind and rain, and the deep roots of trees help keep the granular soil from shifting. "If you remove the trees, you have no buffer. So the water—and soil—"tends to very quickly move downhill," said Mark Ashton, a professor at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

'Himalayan glaciers will not melt within 25 years'

CLAIMS by the world's leading climate scientists that most of the Himalayan glaciers will vanish within 25 years were exposed as nonsense.

The alarmist warning appeared two years ago in a highly influential report by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

At the time the IPCC insisted that its report contained the latest and most detailed evidence yet on the risks of man-made climate

change to the planet.

But the experts behind the warning have now admitted their claim was not based on hard science - but a news story that appeared in the magazine New Scientist in the late 1990s.

That story was itself based on a telephone conversation with an Indian scientist who has since admitted it was little more than speculation.

The revelation is a major blow to the credibility of the IPCC

which was set up to provide political leaders with clear, independent advice on climate change.

It follows the 'Climategate' email row in which scientists at the University of East Anglia appeared to have manipulated data to strengthen the case for man-made climate change.

Dr Benny Peiser, of the Global Warming Policy Foundation, said: "The IPCC review process has been shown on numerous occasions to lack transparency and due

diligence. 'Its work is controlled by a tightly knit group of individuals who are completely convinced that they are right. As a result, conflicting data and evidence, even if published in peer reviewed journals, are regularly ignored, while exaggerated claims, even if contentious or not peer-reviewed, are often highlighted in IPCC reports.

'Not surprisingly, the IPCC has lost a lot of credibility in recent years. It is also losing the trust of more and more governments

who are no longer following its advice - as the Copenhagen summit showed.'

The flawed claim appeared in chapter ten of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, which stated: 'Glaciers in the Himalaya are receding faster than in any other part of the world and, if the present rate continues, the likelihood of them disappearing by the year 2035 and perhaps sooner is very high if the Earth keeps warming at the current rate.'

ENVIRONMENT

Fire dept raises alarm over fire outbreaks

THE Kebbi State Fire Service Department has raised the alarm over rampant cases of fire incidents because of the current harmattan season.

The Director, Fire Service, Alhaji Ahmed Zagga, said in Birnin Kebbi on Monday, that the department had so far recorded

18 fire outbreaks this month, recalling that 118 cases and one death were recorded last year.

He attributed the rampant cases of fire this month to "careless handling of fire and the use of inferior electrical cables.

"Our people are fond of using sub-standard electrical cables,

instead of genuine ones that result in loss of wealth and lives".

He said that 60 per cent of the fire outbreaks were caused by indiscriminate exposure of animal feed close to fire source, while 40 per cent was caused by electrical fault. He appealed to the public to avoid careless exposure

of animal feed to fire sources and to ensure the use of genuine electrical cables.

He noted that old towns in Birnin Kebbi, Gadongwaji, Kalgo and Ambursa villages recorded the highest rate of fire incidents this year, although no life was lost.

The fire service director, who

said financial estimates of property lost had not been compiled, added that "we do that only in cases of victims seeking compensation".

He complained of inadequate manpower and a lack of maintenance of fire fighting vehicles. (NAN)

NOSDRA loses DG

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE Director General and Chief Executive Officer of National Oil Spillage Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA), Dr. Bamidele Ajakaiye, is dead.

He died on Sunday evening at the National Hospital Abuja after a brief illness at the age of 62.

The Minister of Environment Mr. John Odey yesterday paid a condolence visit to the deceased's family at Karu in Abuja, urging them to take heart and pray God to grant the late D.G eternal rest.

In the condolence register he wrote: "A gem is lost, a caring father and long compassionate boss. Adieu. Rest in peace."



REFUSE in a non authorised zone in Lafia, Nasarawa State

Why FG cannot dump sinking of boreholes — Senator

Senator Bassey Ewa-Henshaw (PDP, Cross River South) is Chairman, Senate Committee on Water Resources. In this interview with newsmen after a four-day oversight visit at the River Basins Development Authorities (RBDAs) in the South-East and South-South zones, he explains the position of the Senate on water supply and irrigation projects.

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

WHAT is your view on arguments that the Federal Government should pull out of micro-water projects such as boreholes?

I think that there is good reason for that argument. There is this feeling that what people need to understand is that the water needs of the various geo-political zones of Nigeria are different. There are areas that need boreholes and not dams or irrigation. So you cannot say because you don't need dams in your area therefore you cannot benefit or participate from any federal

government investment from water it must be your state or local government. The needs are different. I think that to the extent that we understand that we have to try and accommodate every interest. The problem as I see it has been that successive administrations at the federal level have tried to sit in Abuja and control the projects across the country. It is not just possible to do it. That is one area where I think we have to reactivate the River Basins because they can be eyes and the ears of the Federal Government because the directors or deputy directors or assistant directors in Abuja cannot sit there and monitor even the dams or bore holes or irrigations or what have you that are going on across the country. They simply don't have the capacity to do that. Therefore, if they insist on doing so, those projects will fail because then there will not be effective monitoring of the consultants and the contractors that are handling these projects. What they need is some kind of delegation of authority and power down to the River Basins who are on ground. In various areas of the country that they can supervise and monitor what is happening and report back.

If they do that I think that the success rate of the various water projects whether they be boreholes or dams or what ever will increase and the failure rate will decrease and the failure rate will also decrease.



SENATOR Bassey Ewa-Henshaw

That argument that the federal government shouldn't be doing boreholes will not be there because it is that failure that has generated the argument that why should the federal government be doing boreholes.

YOU recently visited water projects in the South-South and the South-East, what is your assessment?

I think the problem has been lack of consistency in government policy with regard to the River Basins. Initially, they were involved in agriculture and extension services and so on. Somewhere along the line, they were asked to sell off all their agricultural assets and once they did that, successive governments found out that they were not doing much. And gradually they

found out that the little that they were doing was taken away from them and there were increased redundancy on the part of the River Basins. We want to try and restore that. We think that the River Basins are a useful connects between Federal Government policies and the rest of the country. They are on the ground in the various geo-political zones therefore, they need to be restructured, and they need to be empowered to try to meet the expectations of the federal government in terms of agricultural production and water resource management policies.

There seems to be a disconnect between the River Basin Authorities and State governments taking for example the statement made by the Rivers States governor about the Niger Delta Basin Authority?

I think it is a combination of factors. It's not only the Rivers State governor that made that observation. The same observation was made in Ebonyi State. Clearly, the management of the River Basins must realize that they are like federal ambassadors in their various areas of jurisdiction and they need to find ways to integrate with the state governments. Let me say this, it is not only in the South. When went through the North-West we found the same thing. Federal government projects that had been completed there were problems handing over to the states. And because there was no clear lay down guidelines; some of these

projects were allowed to be vandalized so clearly the federal ministry of agriculture needs to get the River Basins to engage the state governments within the area of their jurisdiction so that there will be some kind of synergy between what the federal government is doing and what the states and perhaps what the local governments are doing. We will, when we look at the laws already there is a law ... we will also try to find ways that will empower the River Basins to be more proactive in what they are required to do.

There was this allegation that the Itu community in Cross-River State was demanding N15 million compensation to allow an irrigation project in the area.

There was some kind of misinterpretation about the intentions of the federal government through the River Basins at the irrigation project at Itu. Some members of the Community think government is trying to acquire their land and therefore they are going to loose their agricultural land but it is not so. The other thing is that there is a difference between the land tenure system in the north and here.

In the north, it is possible to explain to whole communities that 'we want to make your land more arable' and so we need to build irrigation and ensure that you have water to water your crops.



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA
STEP-B



Invitation for Bids (IFB)

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION POST
BASIC PROJECT (STEP-B PROJECT)

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COLLEGE,
IKOM. CROSS -RIVER STATE

IDA CREDIT No. 4304-UNI

PROCUREMENT OF GENERATING SET,
SCIENCE EQUIPMENT AND CHEMICAL

(IFB No. STEP-B/FGC/IKOM/NCB/G/01/2009/NS/G/01/2009)
Bid Issuance Date Tuesday 19th. January, 2010

1. This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in Development Business, issue no. 591 of 2nd July, 2007.
2. The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has received a credit from the International Development Association toward the cost of Science and Technology Education Post Basic Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the Contract for the Supply of Generating Sets, Science Equipment and Chemicals at Federal Government College, Ikom Cross River State. (IFB No. STEP-B/FGC/IKOM/NCB/G/01/2009/NS/G/01/2009)
3. The Federal Government College Ikom, Cross River State now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Procurement of the following:

Item No.	Description of Item.	Quantity	Bid Security	Delivery Period
1.	Procurement of Science Equipment and Chemical.	Various.	2.5% Bid Price	90 days
2	Textbooks	Various.	2.5% Bid Price	90 days

4. Bidding will be conducted through the National Shopping Bidding (NCB), a procedure specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.
5. Interested and eligible bidders may purchase the bidding document on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Ten thousand Naira (N10,000.00) only or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency. Interested bidders may also obtain bidding document and further information at the same address by 11.00AM-4.00PM on Monday to Friday, except on public holidays. The bidding documents should be collected by hand from the address below or can be forwarded to bidders by courier service on request.
6. Qualifications requirements include:
 - Evidence of previous supply (sale) of similar Equipment proposed for the last 5 years.
 - Audited Financial Statements for the last 3 years to demonstrate the financial capability of the Bidder in terms of Profitability and adequate working capital.

A margin of preference for eligible national contractors shall not be applied; Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.

7. Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by security of at least 2.5% of the Bid Price in a bank draft from a reputable Nigeria commercial bank, and shall be delivered to the Federal Government College Ikom, Science and Technology Education Post Basic Project, Cross River State, State, on or before 2.00pm on Monday 22nd. February, 2010, at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders or representatives who wish to attend. Electronic bidding will not be permitted *Late bids will not be accepted.*
8. Evaluation will be on Lot by Lot basis or combination of Lots. Award shall also be on Lot by Lot basis or combination of Lots. Bidders may bid for any one or more lots and discounts offered for the award of combined lots will be considered in bid evaluation.
9. The address referred to above is:

The Project Manager,
Federal Government College, Ikom,
Cross River State,
Nigeria

0703-112-7420, 0806-572-4525
and 0806-613-3603.

E-mail: stepbfgcikom@yahoo.com

Signed
Project Manager.



WORLD BANK
JOB VACANCIES

The World Bank, Nigeria Country Office, requires the services of highly organized and energized professionals, capable of operating effectively and discreetly in a very demanding, fast-paced and culturally diverse environment, to fill the vacant position of Social Protection Specialist – Youth Employment.

Job Title: Social Protection Specialist – Youth Employment.
Location: Abuja Country Office
Duration: One Year Extended Term Consultant Appointment

Job Context

Youth Unemployment is a growing phenomenon in the Africa region. In Nigeria, youth unemployment is estimated at about 20 – 25% of the population. It is also increasing, especially given the current state of economic challenges. The Federal Government recently created a Ministry of Youth Development and the Ministry along with other stakeholders developed a Youth Development Strategy with an Action Plan. (2009 – 2015). A Youth Development Fund has also been created. The Ministry along with Ministry of Labor and Productivity, Ministry of Women Affairs, Ministry of Niger Delta and the National Planning Commission are currently fashioning interventions on youth employment and job creation. Several State Governments, Local Governments and Non Government Organizations are also executing pilot youth employment and empowerment schemes across the Country.

The World Bank is geared to assist the Federal and State Government of Nigeria in addressing the challenges of youth unemployment. The Country Partnership Strategy (2010- 2013) identifies Youth Employment interventions as one of the initiatives of Government that the World Bank will support in the contribution to improve human capital in the Country and ultimately promoting growth and development. Within the Region, the Social Protection (SP) Unit of the World Bank (AFTSP) provides policy and technical advice as well as financial support to initiatives of Government on provision and protection basic services for the extreme poor. In Nigeria the Unit is currently focused on Community-based social services delivery, Safety Nets, Labor and Youth employment. AFTSP is recruiting a local Social Protection Specialist on extended term consultancy basis for two years, based in Abuja, Nigeria. The SP specialist will help strengthen the current SP team to identify youth-related priority areas for support, and work with local counterparts to help formulate specific interventions, accelerate results on the ground especially on the youth employment program.

Duties and Accountability.

The Social Protection Specialist will work closely with the World Bank country teams, to provide technical and policy advice and operational guidance to government teams, at both federal and state levels, and consultants on social protection interventions, especially the youth employment initiatives. The SPS will work under the management of the AFTSP Sector Manager and guidance of the AFCW2 Country Director. He/she would report to the SP Task Team Leader.

Key responsibilities include:

- Help in compiling knowledge of operational activities on the ground, their impact and scalability.
- Providing technical inputs into all aspects of youth employment initiatives and operations of the Unit, including developing concept notes, terms of reference for consultancy, project appraisal documents, monitoring and evaluation frameworks systems and other documents to be prepared by the Unit.
- Supervising and providing guidance for the implementation of consultancy undertaking to produce documentations, framework and system designs for youth employment and other social protection initiatives.
- Supporting capacity building of Federal and State teams and institutions for effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the National Youth Development Action Plan and Strategy.
- Working with other development partners and civil society in the Country to develop effective youth employment mechanism in specific and social protection strategy in general.

Selection Criteria

The successful candidate will have:

- An advanced degree in social sciences, or related subject area, and at least five years of relevant experience in development work, including design and implementation of targeted poverty reduction interventions. Youth-development work related experience will be an asset.
- Relevant experience in Development Agencies operations, including provision of technical, or operational support for projects or country assistance strategies, in the area of human capital development
- Superior organizational and logistical skills; capacity to work simultaneously and effectively on a variety of tasks;
- Excellent writing, oral and presentation skills.
- Behavioral competencies that facilitate dialogue with country partners and country teams, including listening skills, effective teamwork, knowledge sharing, training and capacity development skills, and ability to adapt advice to the local institutional realities.

Electronic Applications:

For the full position description and complete selection criteria, qualified candidates are requested to visit and submit the electronic application at www.worldbank.org/careers. Once on the site, candidates should follow link to access job number 100073 and submit their application online. Paper applications will not be considered. The closing date for receipt of your electronic application is close of business on February 02, 2010. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

Qualified male and female candidates of diverse background (gender, religious, ethnic) are encouraged to apply.

CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513

email: citynews@dailytrust.com

News about your capital city

Crisis looms over police stickers

By Abubakar Yakubu

TROUBLE appears to be brewing between the Self Employed Commercial Drivers Association (SECDA) and the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) over the continued sales of a police sticker by persons alleged to be members of NURTW at Area 1, Mararaba and Jabi.

The sticker was printed through an agreement reached between NURTW and the police, in order to enable the latter raise funds for a sporting event that was cancelled last year.

SECDA's President, Chief Ugwu Kenneth Ezeh, said their members' patience has been tested for so long over the sticker issue as they are harassed by NURTW members at Area 1, Jabi and Mararaba.

"They force SECDA drivers to collect the stick-

ers for either N8,500 or N3,000 depending on what is negotiated between the seller and buyer," he stated.

Chief Ezeh said the police through its force public relations officer last year informed people that the games have been cancelled and the sticker sales stopped.

According to him, when SECDA drivers were forced to buy the stickers recently, he inquired from the force public relations officer, who again reiterated that the stickers are not for sale and begged them to maintain peace.

He said SECDA has instructed their lawyer to take up legal action over the sticker sales so that refunds can be made to members of the association.

Reacting, NURTW President, Dr Gidado Hamman, informed the police to arrest any NURTW member selling the stickers.



THE controversial police sticker.

He said NURTW officials in braches all over the country have been directed to stop selling the stickers and render accounts, adding that they have complied with the money collected for the police still intact in an account.

In another development, SECDA has called on the FCT Administration to stop heavy duty vehicles from plying the AYA-Kugbo expressway during peak periods in order to

prevent accidents.

SECDA's President, Chief Ezeh, advised FCT authorities to construct parks close to AYA so that such vehicles park until the road is free for them to pass.

He also called on passengers, who lost items in commercial buses operated by SECDA members to visit the association offices to retrieve their items.

"Our drivers are honest and return forgotten items to SECDA stores," he said.

Charcoal seller narrates how bank duped her

By Hussein Yahaya

A charcoal seller at Bwari, Mrs Kehinde Sanni, yesterday narrated how a micro-finance bank duped her of the sum of N17,750.

The trader said two female officials of the bank approached her to operate a daily contribution account with them early last year and at the end duped as well as forced her out of business.

According to her, the bank officials came to her business place to collect my daily contributions as deposit with an assurance that if "I am able to save up to N30,000, I will have access to their loans facility.

"After collecting my money for a long period, the bank officials requested for my deposit card so that they could make some adjustments in their office and return the next day but till date I have not seen them," the charcoal seller lamented.

Mrs Sanni said the case was not reported to the

police because the deposit card which shows the transaction between the bank and herself is with the bank officials.

Meanwhile, market women in rural communities of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) have called on Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to carry out detailed investigations into the operations of micro-finance banks in the territory.

Many of them who spoke with City News at Bwari, Payi and Dusten, complained of the fraudulent activities of some of the microfinance bank officials.

Mrs. Asmau Jimoh, a trader, said she pulled out quickly from such daily contribution when she suspected the activities of some microfinance banks operators.

"Honestly, it looks like some microfinance banks are not properly monitored as their operators rent apartments in order to dupe people," she added.



FROM left: SECDA's Financial Secretary, Sunday Igwe, President, Chief Ugwu Kenneth Ezeh and Vice-President, Prince Osita Adingwu, after a meeting at Nyanya yesterday.

PIC: ABUBAKAR YAKUBU

Bus conductor jailed six months

By Chioma Anozie & Catherine Korie

AN Abuja Area Court has sentenced a bus conductor, Stephen Omeje, to six months imprisonment for stealing from his master.

Prosecutor Musa Abdullahi stated in court that on January 4, 2010, the accused went to his master's house and stole 100 litres of petrol, clothes valued at N6,000 and N87,000 cash.

He said the total estimate of items stolen, including cash amounted to N136,000 and that the accused ran to Nsukka, Enugu State, where he was eventually arrested with a stolen pair of shoes and clothes valued at N28,000.

The accused pleaded guilty to the charge and begged for leniency.

Judge Manir Lawal sentenced him to six months imprisonment on two-count charges or to pay N3000 for each count as fines.

The judge also ordered the accused to pay N136,000 to the complainant within 30 days.

Man jailed for giving false information

By Usman A. Bello & Foluke Ojumo

A 36-year-old man, Solomon Abbah, has been sentenced to four months imprisonment by an Abuja Area Court for giving false information to the police.

Police prosecutor, Mayaki

Makadas, told the court that on November 22, 2009, the accused reported to the police that one Umar Malaifia, who resides at Mpape village, allowed cattle to destroy farm produce worth N80,000 in his farm.

The prosecutor said during

police investigation, the accused deliberately took the police to a different farm belonging to one Hassan Yusuf, adding that on getting to the farm, they discovered that no farm produce was destroyed.

"The offence is punishable under Section 140 of the Penal

Code Law," the prosecutor submitted.

The accused pleaded guilty to the charge and begged for leniency.

Magistrate Babangida Hassan sentenced him to four months imprisonment with an option of N10,000 as fine.

Judge's absence stalls hearing in suit against minister

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

PROCEEDINGS in a N250 million suit filed by farmers against the FCT Minister could not be heard yesterday following the absence of Justice Mwada Balami, of the FCT High Court sitting at Gwagwalada.

The suit filed by Ngibolo Bawa, Yohanna Bawa, Zhanya Ndeye and Dallato Ndeye is challenging an encroachment into their farmlands at Piwoyi and Kabusa communities of the territory.

Other defendants in the suit are, the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA), the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) and the National Space Research and Development Agency.

The plaintiffs' counsel, Mr. James Nydeye told the court that the alleged trespass had caused untold hardship to his clients following the uprooting and

destruction of their crops by the defendants without compensation.

He said their fundamental right to life, dignity, fair hearing, right to property and right to compensation as guaranteed under the constitution has been infringed by the alleged trespass.

The court had in 2009, granted an order restraining the defendants from further trespass into the farmland pending the determination of the suit before it as a result of an application filed by Nydeye.

The plaintiffs' counsel in a fresh motion had alleged violation of the court's order by the defendants, following recent encroachment into the farmland in which economic crops were destroyed.

He had therefore urged the court to summon the defendants to explain why its order was violated, while the case was adjourned till March 18 for hearing.

Two deny raping girl

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

TWO men yesterday denied abducting a 16-year-old girl for three weeks and gang-raping her while in their custody.

The accused persons, Taofeek Makinde and Ademuriyi Adeola, both of Mpape village, Abuja, were alleged to have collaborated with two others now at large to abduct the girl on December 17, 2009 and rape her for three weeks.

Police Prosecutor, Emmanuel Hosseini, had earlier informed the court that on December 23, 2009, one Mr. Emmanuel reported to the police that he sent his house maid (name withheld) to Miatama shopping complex to cut her hair on December 17, 2009.

"Since December 17, 2009, the girl's whereabouts was not known until January 12, 2009, when the accused persons were arrested with the girl in their room," the prosecutor stated.

He went further to state that between the day the accused persons abducted the girl and January 12, 2010, they were taking turns to rape her against her wish, thereby committing offences punishable under Sections 79 and 272 of the Penal Code Law.

"During police investigations, the accused persons were arrested with the lady and two of them confessed to have abducted and ganged raped her," the prosecutor added.

When the charges were read to the accused persons, they pleaded not

guilty, while their counsel, Musa Jibril applied for their bail.

After taking the plea, the prosecutor asked the court for a hearing date, saying the court should apply its discretion on whether to grant the accused persons bail or not.

In her ruling, Chief Magistrate Hafsat Soso, granted each of the accused persons bail in the sum of N100,000 with two reliable sureties in like sums, adding that one of them must be a civil servant, while both must reside within the court's jurisdiction.

The case was adjourned to March 8 for hearing.

Our reporters later gathered from the prosecutor that the 16-year-old girl is now pregnant and currently receiving treatment in an Abuja hospital.



PIC: NASIR IMAM

A bulldozer at work along Kubwa expressway recently.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The general public is hereby informed that there would be temporary diversion of traffic on Abuja - Keffi Expressway near the Mogadishu Cantonment (Sani Abacha Barrack). This is to allow for the construction of Fly-Over Bridge at Mogadishu Cantonment/Sunrise Hills Estate Junction.

The traffic diversion is expected to start from Thursday, 21st January, 2010. There would be traffic signs and road bumps to guide motorists and all other road users on the diversion.

The inconvenience that may arise are highly regretted.

Signed:

Director, Engineering Services, FCDA

CAVEAT EMPTOR

The management of MultiChoice Nigeria Limited wishes to inform her numerous subscribers and members of the public that one of its accredited dealers, AMG SKY GLOBAL Communications Limited, has been discredited as MultiChoice Nigeria Limited dealer with effect from Friday 15th January, 2010.

Going by this decision, AMG SKY GLOBAL Communications Limited ceases henceforth to represent MultiChoice Nigeria and its DStv services in any capacity whatsoever. Members of the public are therefore warned to desist from transacting business with AMG SKY GLOBAL Communications Limited or its agents, surrogates, proxies, representatives etc with regards to MultiChoice Nigeria as a company and DStv as a product or service as MultiChoice Nigeria will not be held responsible for any breach or injuries sustained from ignoring this notification.

Signed
Management

Gwagwalada to build schools in 2 communities

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

THE Secretary of Gwagwalada Area Council, Alhaji Usman Yahaya, says the council is looking at the possibility of constructing one block of three classrooms at Old Kutunku and Ibwa communities of the council.

He said the decision is a deliberate attempt to increase the intake of pri-

mary school pupils into secondary schools in order to encourage parents to send their children to school.

He explained that it is not within the council's limit to provide secondary school but the council will deliberately create areas where a piece of land can be acquired to build a school and hand it over to the FCT secondary education board.

According to him, the construction of a secondary school in the two communities will no doubt go a long way to ensure that students have easy access to quality education.

He further said the council is also making plans to procure about ten tricycles (Keke Napep) in order to boost transportation within the council.

The secretary said the

tricycles will be given to motorcycle transport union as loans,

noting that with the introduction of tricycle in the council, excessive pollution and accident will be reduced, adding that arrangements have been put in place by the council to train some youth and women in various trades so that they can be self employed.

DRTS, APRI partner to ensure genuine spare parts

By Benjamin Auta

THE Directorate of Road Traffic Services (DRTS), in partnership with Accident Prevention and Rescue Initiative (APRI), have commenced annual registration and licensing of Spare Parts dealers in the Federal Capital Territory.

The FCT Director of DRTS, retired Major A.S. Argungu disclosed this at a meeting with executives of various spare parts dealers held at the conference room of the directorate's headquarters at Mabushi.

This was contained in a press state-

ment made available to *City News* and signed by the Coordinator of APRI, Prince Fidelis Nnadi.

"Sections 24-26 of the FCT Road Transport Regulation 2005 empower DRTS to regulate the sale and distribution of spare parts in the FCT," the statement read.

It stated that the spare parts under this registration and licensing are motor vehicles, generators, motorcycle and earth moving equipment, adding that the exercise stated on January 1 this year.

The statement appealed to all spare parts dealers to co-operate with

the FCT Administration in order to ensure that there is total compliance as the exercise will enable the FCTA have a data of spare parts dealers for its developmental planning.

Speaking, the Executive Director of APRI, Prince Nnadi, said that his organization will do everything within its powers to actualize the aims and aspirations of the FCTA to reduce accidents in the city, adding that his organization will continue to sensitize Nigerians on the dangers of using sub standard spare part as well as dangerous and drunk driving in the nation's capital.



THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR POLICY AND STRATEGIC STUDIES (NIPSS), KURU,

In conjunction with

Relevant Stakeholders

hold a one day International Conference
with the theme

INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND DEMOCRATIC STABILITY

The conference, NIPSS CATEGORY 'A', will address the various contending issues and challenges affecting peace and security in a democratic polity.

Date: Thursday 21st January, 2010

Time: 10 : 00 am prompt.

Venue: ECOWAS Secretariat, Abuja

The audience will include representatives of all foreign missions in Nigeria, State Governors, Members of the National Assembly, Judiciary, Honourable Ministers, Military and Paramilitary Organisations, Heads of Parastatals, Traditional Rulers, Civil Society Organisations, the Academia and the general public.

Resource Persons

Lead Paper: Prince Bola Ajibola (CFR)

Former Attorney General &
Minister of Justice and Former Judge
of the ICJ, The Hague

Discussants.

1. Professor Isawa Elaigwu
2. Ambassador Mahmud Yahaya
3. Prof O. B.C. Nwolise
4. Prof Femi Odekunle
5. Amb. (Prof) Ade Adefuye
6. Prof. Pat Utomi

Chairman of the Occasion,
Gen. Yakubu Gowon, Ph.D., (GCFR)
Former Head of State &
Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces

Key Note Address
Mahmud Yayale Ahmed, (CFR)
Secretary to the Government of the Federation

Special Guest of Honour:
Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'adua, GCFR
President and Commander-in-Chief, Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Signed
Danfulani Ahmed Dsc, FICTr
Director General, NIPSS

PLEASE CONTACT: A .S MOHAMMED-08036074947 & E. A. MAMMAN- 08025014804

Inside Politics

Gishiwari's defection no big deal to Yobe ANPP – Shettima Ali

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

Alhaji Lawan Shettima Ali, one-time member of the Yobe State House of Assembly, is the Special Adviser to Governor Ibrahim Gaidam on political and legislative matters. In this interview, he speaks on the recent decamping of Alhaji Baba Gishiwari, member of the House of Representatives, from the ruling ANPP to the PDP, saying it will not harm the ANPP because his action did not get the backing of his constituents. He also re-echoed the need to strip elected officers of their positions if they abandon the party that gave them the mandate. Excerpts:

Do you feel bad that a member of your party in the National Assembly has defected to the PDP?

Baba Gishiwari is from Fune-Fika Federal Constituency and was elected on the platform of the ANPP in 2007 but defected to the PDP for reasons best known to him. In politics, the position of a single voter matters therefore I cannot say his defection is not a minus to the ANPP. But it is not to the extent that he might be thinking or other people from outside would think of. What you should know is that he moved alone...all his important supporters did not follow him. His action is a betrayal of the party and its followership because he had been in the fold of the progressives since the aborted Third Republic. We have been together in the State House of Assembly under the SDP and he was elected into the same position under the ANPP before he went to the Federal House of Representatives. Unfortunately, he decided to defect to PDP which, to me, was more because of personal reason than political. Though observers may think that the defection of such a highly placed figure may affect the fortune of ANPP, the truth is that he has only shot himself in the leg. There is no doubt that the ANPP has been good to him and we believe he would not enjoy such goodwill in the PDP.

It seems you know Gishiwari



ALHAJI Lawan Shettima Ali

for a long time. How would you rate his performance on legislative matters?

He is a local politician but in terms of performance in the legislature, he is without much substance. He has never sponsored or co-sponsored any bill or motion that affected the life of his people. He hardly comes down to his constituency in Damagum, and most of the time you cannot get him on the telephone talk-less of seeing him. Again, by defecting to the PDP, he has wasted his privilege and let's exercise patience, 2011 is fast approaching. Someone will take over from him Insha Allah because the people he thought would follow him have disassociated themselves from him.

Gishiwari had told Journalists that his action was prompted by his people's desire, is that not enough reason for him to move to the PDP?

There was a sort of agreement between the people of Fune and Fika local government areas whom he represents that after one person goes to the House of Representatives on the platform of the ANPP, the next one will be from the other local government area. Now that election

is approaching, Gishiwari doesn't want to leave that seat for someone from the other local government so he thought that if he defects to PDP, he will either get that ticket without hitches or he will be picked by one of the PDP gubernatorial aspirants as his running mate. This is exactly the arrangement.

Are you saying is he running away for the gentleman agreement?

Exactly, he's just betraying his people. He has been enjoying the support of his people but it is obvious that this time around he has made a political miscalculation.

But the lawmaker said that he was deregistered by the ANPP during the revalidation exercise that took place last year. How true is that and what informed the new registration exercise?

As I told you earlier, his Excellency had spoken to him but Gishiwari said he had made up his mind on joining the PDP because his supporters are being undermined in the party, which is not true. The essence of the new register for members is to dispel caretaker committee which we have been having for a very long time. In fact that is why the national head-

quarters of our party directed us to conduct fresh congress which we did. So his claim that he was excluded or his people were not registered is not true. He deliberately refused to tell you his purpose of leaving the party which is what I said earlier.

Do you think ANPP will win future elections?

Insha Allah ANPP will win all the elective offices because we have been talking with prominent politicians of other political parties who are ready to work with us.

What about Senator Usman Albishir who, in spite of the problems between him and the ANPP, is the party willing to work with him ahead 2011?

He is very welcome because our governor has no grudge against him. You witnessed how Albishir recently came to Damaturu freely after more than two years. Governor Gaidam believes that only God gives power to whom He pleases. Many members of the National Assembly, particularly those of Nguru, Machina, Karasuwa, Bursari, Gaidam and Yunusari, among others, are now with the government and many more are coming back to identify with him.

How we'll upstage ANPP in Kano, by Rimi

FROM Ja'afar Ja'afar, Kano

FORMER civilian governor of Kano State Alhaji Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi said he would sacrifice himself for the success of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) come 2011 in Kano State.

Addressing the state PDP Unity Forum rally in Kano yesterday, the former governor said the founding fathers of the party had decided to make the sacrifice in order to upstage the ruling All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) from the Government House

"We, as founding fathers of the PDP in Kano State in particular and Nigeria in general, are prepared to make the required sacrifice to put the PDP back in government in Kano State," Rimi said.

Rimi, who is the chairman of the Unity Forum, said the chances of winning the 2011 elections in the state might not be possible if the selfish desire of impositions by the so-called party leaders was not addressed.

While inaugurating the 17-member committees for each of the 44 local government areas of the state, the former minister of communication said: "it is time the PDP returned to power in Kano State so that people of the state are redeemed from the backward and rudderless leadership of the ANPP government."

Rimi noted that in the last six to seven years, Kano has been misruled and its resources mismanaged to such an extent that projects aimed at providing people's welfare and economic advancement of the state have been wasted.

"In his remark, a member of the House of Representatives, Alhaji Faruk Lawan, said the issue of unity in the PDP had become a thing of great concern over the years, saying the time had come for the stakeholders to mend fences and move the party forward. "That is why if truly we mean to wrest power from the ANPP we must swallow our differences and bear no grudge against one another," he said.

My goal is to create jobs for the people — Rep Khadija

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

A member of the House of Representative, representing Damaturu, Gujba, Gulani and Tarmuwa federal constituency of Yobe State Rep. Khadija Bukar Abba Ibrahim says that her desire is to help get jobs for members of her constituency so as to kick out poverty.

Khadija who spoke to Daily Trust yesterday noted that the best approach to sustainable development rests in changing the lives

of the people so that they can either be employed for wages or be self employed through small scale entrepreneurship that could grow to become conglomerates. She said that is why she has so far focused on job creation. The representative said she has so far assisted over 50 indigents of her constituency in securing jobs across different federal establishments including military and paramilitary organisations using her membership in the House Committee on Internal Affairs to lobby paramilitary establishments under the ministry of Internal Affairs. She said she

is passionate about helping to secure jobs for her constituents because that way their lives would be changed positively.

Khadija recalled that besides securing jobs, she has many people to be self employed through various efforts including her recent distribution of 500 motor cycles to youths; distribution of 430 sewing machines (10 for each of the 43 wards in the constituency); 430 spaghetti machines; 430 knitting machines and so on in each ward in the constituency.

**Invitation for Bids (IFB)
NIGERIA
MALARIA BOOSTER PROJECT
2,566,667 DOSES OF SULFADOXINE PYRIMETHAMINE TABLETS
CREDIT NO: 4250-UNI
PROCUREMENT OF 2,566,667 DOSES OF SULFADOXINE
PYRIMETHAMINE (SPs)
IFB NO: UCB/NMCBP/SP/003/09**

- This invitation for bid follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in the Development Business, issue no. GNP/001/06 of 13th September 2006
- The Federal Republic of Nigeria has applied for a credit from the international Development Association toward the cost of Malaria Control Booster Program (MGBP), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for procurement of Sulfadoxine Pyrimethamine Tablets
- The National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for providing Sulfadoxine Pyrimethamine Tablets. Eligible bidders are invited to submit separate bids for one or more Lots described below; each Lot will be considered as a separate offer leading to a separate contract:

Lot	Description	STATE	QUANTITIES DOSES	PLACE OF DELIVERY	BID SECURITY	BID VALIDITY	DELIVERY SCHEDULE FROM DATE OF CONTRACT SIGNING
LOT 1	Sulfadoxine Pyrimethamine (SP) 1x3 tablets	Anambra	295,500	Central Medical Store, State Secretariat Complex, Abak Road, Uyo, Anambra State, Nigeria	A bid security of at least 2.5% of bid price is required	120 days	Within 60 days
LOT 2	Sulfadoxine Pyrimethamine (SP) 1x3 tablets	Anambra	315,235	Central Medical Store (HSCP Store), Beside Amaka General Hospital, Maduka Street, Anambra Junction, Anambra State, Nigeria	A bid security of at least 2.5% of bid price is required	120 days	Within 60 days
LOT 3	Sulfadoxine Pyrimethamine (SP) 1x3 tablets	Bauchi	362,500	Central Medical Store, Ahmed Abdukkadir Road, By Bank Road, Behind Prof. Iya Abubakar Resource Centre/State Library, Bauchi State, Nigeria	A bid security of at least 2.5% of bid price is required	120 days	Within 60 days
LOT 4	Sulfadoxine Pyrimethamine (SP) 1x3 tablets	Gombe	177,432	Central Medical Store (Cold Store) Behind Railway Station, Gombe, Gombe State, Nigeria	A bid security of at least 2.5% of bid price is required	120 days	Within 60 days
LOT 5	Sulfadoxine Pyrimethamine (SP) 1x3 tablets	Jigawa	247,700	Central Medical Store, Primary Health Centre, Agency OIC Secretariat, Jahun Local Government Area, Gaji, Jigawa State, Nigeria	A bid security of at least 2.5% of bid price is required	120 days	Within 60 days
LOT 6	Sulfadoxine Pyrimethamine (SP) 1x3 tablets	Kano	787,300	Central Medical Store, Boshiki Tano Road, Off Radio Kano, Kofar Nassarawa, Kano, Kano State, Nigeria	A bid security of at least 2.5% of bid price is required	120 days	Within 60 days
LOT 7	Sulfadoxine Pyrimethamine (SP) 1x3 tablets	Rivers	360,668	Central Medical Store, No 9b Industry Road, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria	A bid security of at least 2.5% of bid price is required	120 days	Within 60 days

- Bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and are open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.
- A complete set of Bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee N 10,000:00 (Ten thousand naira only). The method of payment will be certified cheque/bank draft in favor of Nigeria Malaria Control Booster Project, or in cash. The document will be collected by bidder's representative.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 0800 to 1600hrs, Monday to Friday, except on public holidays.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 11:00am 18th February, 2010. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the address below at 12:00 noon, 18th February, 2010. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security as mentioned above, in USD or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.
- The address referred to above is:
CONFERENCE ROOM,
NIGERIA MALARIA CONTROL BOOSTER PROJECT (NMCBP)
NATIONAL MALARIA CONTROL PROGRAM (NMCP)
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH
1ST FLOOR, ORJI UZOR KALU (ABIA) HOUSE,
1ST AVENUE, OFF SHEHU SHAGARI WAY, CENTRAL AREA, ABUJA
NIGERIA
Tel: +23480672067, 2348085143679
Email: folakeayo@gmail.com, itorogodfrey@yahoo.com

Signed
National Coordinator
National Malaria Control Program

Inside Politics

'Sokoto DPP lawmakers plan to decamp to PDP'

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE Democratic Peoples Party (DPP) yesterday said it uncovered plans by some members of the party in the Sokoto State House of Assembly to cross-carpet to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in few weeks time.

DPP National Publicity Secretary, Dr Anyigor Vincent, who informed the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) on the development in a statement, said the plan was being spearheaded by Ibrahim Almustapha, the Minority Whip of the House.

Efforts to speak with the Minority Whip yesterday failed as his numbers failed



JEREMIAH Useni

to go.

Dr Vincent said the move which was allegedly supported by Governor

Aliyu Wamakko was the reason for the purported faction in DPP. He attributed the opening of a parallel DPP Headquarters in Utako District, Abuja as part of the decamping plot.

The spokesman said the party had resolved to reunite DPP members having realized that the entire process was aimed at destroying the towering influence of the chairman of the party's Board of Trustees (BOT), Alhaji Attahiru Bafarawa.

He said: "We wish to inform Nigerians that we took this position in order not to allow ourselves to be used as tools to wage a political war, believing that democracy and good governance should be over and above all other things."

FCT SECONDARY EDUCATION BOARD AREA 3, GARKI ABUJA.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The FCT SEB hereby invites successful candidates in the Aptitude Test conducted on 4th October, 2009 for oral interview.

Dates and Venues for the interview is as reflected below.

TEACHING

Date: Tuesday 26th - 28th & 30th January, 2010

Time: 9:00am prompt

Venues: GSS Garki - Abuja

S/NO	DATE	AREA	TOTAL NO. OF CANDIDATES
1	Tuesday 26/1/10	Sciences	355
2	Wednesday 27/1/10	Arts & Social Sciences	323
3	Thursday 28/1/10	Voc. & Tech.	391
4	Saturday 30/1/10	Languages, Religion & Special Education	300

NON TEACHING

Date: Monday 1st - 2nd February, 2010

Time: 9:00am prompt

Venues: GSS Garki - Abuja

2. Candidates are requested to bring along with them originals and photocopies of their credentials

3. Shortlisted candidates name can be found at www.fctseb.org

Note: Candidates are to note that their transportation to and from Abuja as well as accommodation would be at their own expense.

Please strictly adhere to Time and Date

Signed
Management

SPORT

Eagles confident of full points against Mozambique

Page 53



Presidency orders Amodu's sack

By Orkula Shaagee with Agency reports

APPARENTLY not satisfied with the poor showing of the Super

Eagles at the 2010 African Cup of Nations in Angola, the Presidency has directed Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) President Alhaji Sani Lulu Abdullahi to sack the

team's coach, Shaibu Amodu.

In his place, the Presidency also directed that an expatriate be hired to take the team to the World Cup in South Africa in

June.

The decision to give the ex-BCC Lions and Orlando Pirates of South Africa handler the boot was announced at an emergency

meeting between the NFF Board members and the Presidential Task Force on Saturday after the 1-0 win over Benin Republic in Benguela.

"NFF President Sani Lulu Abdullahi has been given what amounts to a 'Presidential directive' to fire Super Eagles coach Shuaibu Amodu and replace him with a foreign coach.

"Lulu and members of his NFF board met with the Presidential Task Force led by Governor Chibuike Amaechi on Saturday night, where Lulu, who has dug his heels in supporting Amodu, was told in no clear terms that there was a direct order from the Vice Presidency to fire Amodu, especially after the performance against Benin", the report stated.

It was also gathered that Lulu resisted as usual, but was told that further intransigence would be construed as direct contravention of a Presidential order; and at the end of the meeting, NFF management staff were set to work to review Amodu's contract with a view to ensuring that the terms of termination are properly followed.

Another group was directed to look into the cost of hiring a new coach, and means of sourcing the financing.

No timeline has been set for the final disengagement, neither has a decision been made as to whether the coach will be part of any arrangement.



SUPER Eagles coach Shaibu Amodu holds the ball as he talks to his players during a training session. The Presidency has ordered the NFF to sack him regardless of whether Nigeria qualifies for the quarter final of the Africa Cup of Nations in Angola.

...It's too little, too late, says Shofoluwe

By Ibraheem A. Fatai

AS Nigerians continue to condemn the unconvincing performance of the Coach Shuaibu Amodu-led Super Eagles in the ongoing AFCON, former Eagles defender, Yisa Shofoluwe, said it is already too late to sack the coach.

Shofoluwe who stated this in an interview with Trustsports

yesterday frowned at Amodu's selection, but was quick to add that it will be better to allow Amodu take the team to South Africa than to sack him.

"Sacking Amodu now is too late, because if we sack him now, who are we going to bring in that will do wonders between now and June when the World Cup will take a centre stage. After the African Nations Cup, there is not going to be any

tournament for the new coach to test his team.

"After the World Cup, we can now start to rebuild our team by bringing in a more competent coach who will not give room to any sentiment and select players based on their current forms. But, that can't be done between now and June.

"World Cup is for serious team, who plan years before its commencement, not months before it.

The major problem now is that it will be very difficult for us to get a World class coach who would like to take up the job of coaching the Super Eagles for now. The situation is already very bad," he said.

He noted that it would take a new coach more than six months to prepare a good team capable of making an appreciable impact at the World Cup, saying if engaged a new coach will not struggle in vain to put a

strong team together within six months.

While foreseeing a very difficult time ahead for Amodu and his team in the ongoing tournament, the ex-international expressed pessimism about the ability of the current Super Eagles to fly high, saying the team has no character to bring back the African coveted cup to Nigeria.



2010 AFRICAN CUP OF NATIONS

Eagles confident of full points against Mozambique

WITH their confidence restored after beating Benin on Saturday, Nigeria's Super Eagles left Benguela for Lubango yesterday for Wednesday's crucial game against Mozambique.

The Eagles take on the Mambas of Mozambique in the last game of Group C to decide who joins group leaders Egypt in the quarter-finals.

Egypt face Benin Republic in the second game of the group in Benguela also on Wednesday.

While Egypt are through with six points from their wins over Nigeria and Mozambique, Benin and the Mambas still nurse an outside chance of making it to the quarter-finals if they annex the maximum points in their matches.

Speaking at the Benguela Airport before their departure, Eagles Coach, Shaibu Amodu, admitted that the Mozambicans were no pushover.

Amodu said the two World Cup and Nations Cup qualifiers against Mozambique last year and the game with Egypt on Saturday attest to their quality.

He said the team would be gunning for the full points, describing the encounter as "a must-win match for us".

"We are not going for entertaining football but playing to win. The victory against Benin was the motivating factor, the spirit in the team is high now," Amodu added.

Midfielder Dickson Etuhu agreed that the team must clinch the three points on Wednesday to ensure a safe passage to the quarter-finals.

Etuhu said they had a difficult tie with the Squirrels of Benin but were able to secure the vital points.

He promised that they would also go for an outright victory on Wednesday by playing better than they did on Saturday.

He said the victory over Benin had restored confidence in the team.

Mikel Obi said they were now able to hold their heads



SUPER Eagles warm up during a training session at Ombaka stadium in Benguela, Angola. The Eagles have moved to Lubango for tomorrow's clash with Mozambique

high after Saturday's victory over Benin.

He said victories motivate teams, adding: "You always look good when you win, your spirit is high and you are well motivated."

"But when you lose, your head is down. The win over Benin was the tonic the team needed to win other matches," Obi said.

Striker Osaze Odemwingie also agreed with his coach and colleagues that the tie with Mozambique would be tough but assured that they would emerge victorious.

Odemwingie said the Eagles collected four points out of the six at stake last year in the qualifiers.

The Moscow-based player said they would play better than they did since the campaign started as their confidence had gone a notch higher.

The Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) President, Sani Lulu, told NAN that they decided to leave early for Lubango to familiarise themselves with the pitch as well as the city.

"We were told that the city is cold and had been raining for some days now."

The last group game is very important for us, we are not going to take any chance at all," Lulu said.

He admitted that the second ticket from the group was still open as the Mozambicans and

Beninois have a point each and any slip could earn either of them the quarter-final ticket.

"Outright victory is the only way out for us," said the NFF chief.

Head of the NFF Technical Department, James Peters, said the tactical approach to the game had been worked out.

Peters promised that there would be some changes in the remaining games after his department and the coaching crew reviewed the formations used in the two previous matches.

"The match is a must-win and we are going to win. The goal margin I don't know, but I am sure the Eagles will live up to expectation," he added.

Enyeama: 'Blame the ball'

NIGERIA goalkeeper Vincent Enyeama has risen to the defence of other goalkeepers after a series of howlers by them at Angola 2010, saying the new match ball is very fast and really to blame for some of their mistakes.

Zambia's goalkeeper Kennedy Mweene's howler late in the second half handed Cameroon the lifeline to get back into Sunday's Group D match and go on to win it 3-2. "We're not used to the new ball even though we have had some time to train with it," said Enyeama, who was beaten thrice by the new ball in Nigeria's opening Group C match against champions Egypt.

"It is a very fast ball and because of this, it is often very difficult to judge its flight."

"You could see that a top goalkeeper like (Carlos) Kameni of Cameroon was almost beaten from about 40 metres in the match against Gabon."

Enyeama from Israeli club Hapeol Tel Aviv will take solace in the fact that he and the members of the African goalkeeping fraternity would have mastered the new ball in time for the World Cup in June. "All the same, it's good that we will now have much more time to practise with it before the World Cup," he said.

The Nations Cup match ball is called Jubulani, which in Zulu ironically means 'celebrate'. It will also be used at the World Cup but it was modified to carry the colours of hosts Angola.



Essien's Nations Cup over

MICHAEL Essien's 2010 Nations Cup has ended in injury misery after the Ghana camp confirmed that a knee injury picked up in training on Sunday rules him out for the remainder of the tournament. The Chelsea star had just returned from a one month lay-off because of a hamstring injury and could only manage forty five minutes in the 1-3 loss to Ivory Coast. But he picked up a knock in training on Sunday morning in preparation for the must-win encounter against Burkina Faso on Tuesday before being rushed to hospital.

Ghanaian officials say the player will be out for at least four weeks which means his campaign in the tournament is over.

Some of Ghana's players admit they have lost a key man in midfield. "This is a big blow because Michael is so important to our team," striker Matthew Amoah told BBC Sport. "We've lost the motor in our midfield, and this is very bad."

Mambas: 'We can shock Nigeria'

THE Mambas of Mozambique have not given up hope of advancing to the knockout stage of the Africa Cup of Nations from Group C even though they are bottom of the standings and face Nigeria in their final game on Wednesday in Lubango.

Mozambique may not have gone past the group rounds in their previous three appearances at the Nations Cup.

However, they ran the Super

Eagles very close during last year's World Cup qualifiers, which also served as an eliminator for the Nations Cup.

They were held to a goalless draw in Maputo in March and needed a stoppage time goal in September for the star-studded Nigerians to win in the reverse fixture in Abuja.

"It is not impossible for us to beat Nigeria," boasted Mamelodi Sundowns midfielder Elias

Pelembé. "We will therefore fight to win against Nigeria."

"We still have a chance to qualify for the quarter-final. If we beat Nigeria, we will reach the quarter-final," added Mozambique coach, Mart Nooij, who has incidentally been linked with leading the Super Eagles to the World Cup in June.

The Dutchman said that despite the fact that they have only recorded a point after

two matches in Angola, he is proud that the Mambas have proved that they play football in Maputo.

"Mozambique are here to show that we exist in international football after 12 years out of the competition," said the Dutchman. "The world has now seen that we play football in Mozambique and against Nigeria, we will again show what we are capable of on the pitch."

'Eagles must buckle up'

SOCCKER fans in Maiduguri have urged the Super Eagles to buckle up if they intend to make an impact in the ongoing Africa Cup of Nations in Angola.

A cross-section of fans who spoke with the *News Agency of Nigeria* (NAN) in Maiduguri on Sunday expressed dissatisfaction with the performance of the team so far in the tournament.

"The performance of the team can best be described as dismal, especially when you look at the performance of other teams such as Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire and others.

"We were just lucky to have secured that penalty kick against Benin Republic, otherwise the story would have been much different," said Grema Goni.

Goni said the Super Eagles lacked technical depth in their game as they failed to create chances.

"The Beninise players played better as far as I am concerned because the Eagles could not match them.

"If they had been able to convert the two good chances they created they would have taken the day," the fan said.

He blamed Coach Shaibu Amodu for the poor performance, saying that the Eagles lacked pattern in the Saturday encounter.

"We thank God that we won the match, but the team must work hard to win its next match against Mozambique."

Solomon Mamza, another fan, agreed with Goni, saying that the Eagles might not go beyond the quarter-finals going by their current form.

"This team cannot go beyond the quarter-finals going by its performance so far.

"We have been lucky to have met weaker teams at the group stage, but you know that the knockout stage is where the men will be separated from the boys.

"This is where the Eagles will have a big problem if care is not taken," Mamza said.

But Usman Abubakar, also a fan, was optimistic that the Eagles still had great a great chance of proceeding further in the biennial tournament.

"The team is made of up players with great abilities and I still believe we will reach at least the semi-finals," Abubakar said.

The Eagles, with only three points from two matches, need to beat Mozambique to remain in contention.

The group leaders and defending champion, Egypt, have six points, having beaten Nigeria and Mozambique.

The Republic of Benin and Mozambique have one point each, having played a 2-2 draw earlier.



2010 AFRICAN CUP OF NATIONS

Angola, Algeria qualify after goalless draw

HOSTS Angola and Algeria qualified for the African Nations Cup quarter-finals after playing out a goalless draw in their final Group

A match yesterday.

Angola top the standings with five points and will stay in the capital for the weekend's quarter-

final.

Algeria also qualified thanks to tournament rules that take into account head-to-head record

despite finishing tied on four points with Mali. Algeria beat Mali 1-0 last week.

Both Angola and Algeria were content to settle for the draw long before the final whistle but Algeria might have snatched victory with two good second half opportunities.

Both involved the Blackpool winger Hameur Bouazza, who first set up a chance in the 48th minute with an inviting square ball but neither team mate Abdelkader Ghezzal nor the two Angolan defenders sandwiching him got a touch.

A jinking run from Bouazza on the hour mark was also a rare forward foray but his attempt at a flick went tantalisingly wide.

The two teams then irritated the 50,000-strong by choosing to keep possession of the ball from then on rather than making any attempt at breaking the deadlock.

"Once we knew Mali were winning (in the other group match against Malawi) we played with more circumspect," said Angola coach Manuel Jose.

His counterpart Rabah Saadane, added: "We had our chances and we showed we are progressing game and game. Every match we've got better."

Madjid Bougherra had a close-in chance saved by Angola goalkeeper Carlos Fernandes midway through the first half while Angola's only real chance of the game fell inside the opening 10 minutes to Djalmá, but his final effort on goal lacked the necessary power.

Both countries will discover the identity of their respective quarter-final opponents on Tuesday when Group B is concluded with the game between Burkina Faso and Ghana.

Ivory Coast have already gone through from Group B but it is yet to be determined whether they finish first or second in the standings.



MALI'S Seydou Keita, left, vies for the ball with Malawi's Joseph Kamwendo yesterday at the Chiazi stadium in Cabinda, Angola. Mali won the match 3-1 but failed to qualify to the knockout stage

House C'ttee on Sports meets on NFF, Amodu

By Ismaila Lere

WORRIED by Super Eagles shambolic performance at the ongoing Africa Cup of Nations, the House of Representatives Committee on Sports will meet to deliberate and decide on the team's technical crew led by Shaibu Amodu and that of the Nigeria Football Federation.

House Committee Chairman on Sports, Hon. Bello Sulaiman said it is disturbing that this is the team Nigeria will parade in the

World Cup.

He described the Nations Cup team as technical weak and short of the expectation of Nigerians and wonders why the NFF seem to be folding its arms.

"Although we still have hope to qualify at least for the quarter-final if the boys can beat Mozambique. However, personally I believe we need a team beyond what we are seeing now at the Nations Cup. As a committee we have not taken a stance or decision on Amodu yet but shall meet

on Thursday to come out with a position. But if you ask me we don't have a team and it is obvious the technical crew is poor."

In the same vein deputy chairman of the House Committee on Sports Hon. Gbenga Elegbeleye did not spare Amodu and his backroom staff.

He said he is surprised that the NFF is still tolerating Amodu when it is glaring Nigeria does not have a team.

"To put it straight, Amodu must not take us to the World Cup

in South Africa. In this present Eagles, we have not seen any technical input of coaching. It is obvious that even without Amodu, the Super Eagles can still qualify to the quarter-final of the Nations Cup. We don't have a team and I am still very surprised that Amodu is still there as the coach. The House will start full deliberation on Thursday on necessary changes in Nigerian football," revealed the legislator representing Akoko North East/West Federal Constituency of Ondo State.

Emeteole worries over players going for trials abroad

KELECHI Emeteole, Chief Coach, Heartland FC of Owerri, has expressed worry over the number of his players going for trials with foreign clubs.

Emeteole said after the club's 3-1 victory over visiting Kwara United FC of Ilorin on Sunday that eight players had travelled abroad for trials.

"The development is now affecting the team's performance in the Globacom Premier League and may hamper their chances in the CAF Champions League next month," he said.

Emeteole said the team might begin the quest for the continental trophy next month without the players.

The players who are seeking

greener pastures in Europe, he said, are Stanley Okoro, Alausa Kabiru, Augustine Brown, Joshua Obaje, Thankgod Ike and King Osanga.

"You can see the avoidable mistakes in this match, it would not have happened, if I have the full squad against Kwara United.

"I am worried because we are using the premiership league to prepare adequately for the CAF Champions League and Heartland had been drawn in the second round," Emeteole said.

He urged the Imo Government to boost the players' morale which was dampened after losing the finals of the

last edition of the Champions League to TP Mazembe of Congo DR.

Joshua Obaje who had rejoined the team but would soon travel abroad again opened scoring for Heartland in the 46th minute after a barren first half.

Gabriel Adike scored the second in the 50th minute, while Musa Bello Kofarmata, a new player from Kano Pillars sealed the victory with a third in the 72nd minute.

Kwara United's Sibi Gwar scored the only goal for his side in the 60th minute.

Coach Austin Tenger of Kwara United, however, appealed to Nigerian referees



STANLEY Okoro

to help improve the game by remaining impartial umpires at all times.

WAUG: BUK allays athletes' fear

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

BAYERO University, Kano (BUK) has said that there is no cause for alarm in Kano State over the fresh crisis that erupted in Jos, Plateau State, saying the crisis did not spill-over to the state.

Speaking to our correspondent yesterday, the university's spokesman, Alhaji Mustapha Zahraddeen, said the university had taken precautionary measures to protect the lives and property of the athletes.

"We hereby assure all the universities within and outside the country participating in this historic sports fiesta of their safety. We are well prepared for the hosting, we provide accommodation and other logistic materials for the successful hosting of the tournament," said the spokesman.

Zahraddeen revealed that over 1,500 athletes and officials from 40 universities would participate in the tourney, noting the number comprises the athletes, technical and administrative officials.

According to him, the arrival date is still unchanged. "The arrival date is still Wednesday, the accreditation is Thursday and Friday, while the kick off is Saturday," he said.

The games will hold on the Old Campus as construction work on the New Campus mini stadium is still in progress.

Pillars coach laments away losses

IN spite of Kano Pillars FC defeating visiting Enyimba FC of Aba 2-0 in the current premiership, coach Salisu Yusuf says he is worried about their away losses.

"Our continued losses at away matches is worrisome. The situation is a challenge to the technical crew," he told newsmen at the

Sani Abacha Stadium on Sunday in Kano.

Yusuf cited Pillars' loss to Dolphins FC 1-3 in a midweek game as one of the away losses militating against the club's progress in the league.

He said the coaches were working to stop the trend, expressing

their determination to top the table league and play in the CAF Champions league again.

He called on the club's fans to continue to support the team with prayers to enable them realise the dream.

The coach also expressed satisfaction with the victory over Eny-

imba, attributing it to the recovery from injury of some utility players.

With the win, Pillars now have 21 points from 14 matches.

During the match, watched by at least 15,000 fans, Usman Abba opened scoring for Pillars in the 5th minute, while Ahmed Musa made it two in the 86th minute.

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THE TUESDAY COLUMN

Sanusi Abubakar

sanusiabubakar@dailytrust.com

Bill Gates should outsource some services to Malumfashi

Someone should invite Microsoft founder Bill Gates to Malumfashi, in Katsina State. Though he has tons and tons of money, I still think the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation could do with some out-sourcing to cut costs, and the current executives of Malumfashi Local Government are just the right people to give them that. By outsourcing some of its services, the Foundation would be helping some of Africa's poor. The service I am referring to is male circumcision. In a nutshell, Gates' Foundation is budgeting US 50,000,000 dollars to circumcise 650,000 Africans, and media reports indicate that Malumfashi LGA could do that for a pittance. Or, for much less than US\$43,000!!

But first a brief background. Research findings show significant correlation between male circumcision and lower incidence of HIV in a population. Though disputed by some, most global health actors are convinced. Consequently, The World Health Organization (WHO), US Centres for Disease Control (CDC), among a host of others, recommended voluntary circumcision as part of HIV prevention programs, in addition to other prevention strategies, namely using condoms and becoming educated as to what causes HIV and how it is spread. In 2008, focusing on Kenya, the Gates' Foundation donated US\$18.5 million to establish the Male Circumcision Consortium (MCC), a partnership with the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and EngenderHealth, an international NGO. The CDC's National HIV Prevention Conference held last August in Atlanta even discussed whether to recommend routine circumcision for all baby boys to protect them from the disease. Some felt the evidence was not sufficiently compelling to justify such a drastic change in the USA, thus the meeting was split in its recommendations.

Globally however, the groundswell of opinion supported some sort of universal circumcision policy.

Donor funding from USAID, WHO, the Gates' Foundation and others, is now flowing into Africa, which helps to explain the Malumfashi circumcision drive. Last week, the Abuja-based *People's Daily*, the *Lagos Punch*, and a host of other papers carried identical write-ups, obviously from the wire services, to the effect that 400,000 children are to be circumcised free of charge in Malumfashi Local Government Area. I was thoroughly confused and had to check again. Yes, the headline shouted 400,000 children. But wait a minute; the total population of that LGA is less than 185,000 people, both male and female. So what is happening? Reading the details, I noticed a more likely figure of 40,000 children. The two papers had identical figures, so the mistake could be from the original press release, copied and sent out by the news agency without anyone bothering to even read it. Yet even 40,000 seems ridiculous because the total male population is under 95,000, so, unless all the children born in the last 15 years (about 40,000) were never circumcised (a very unlikely scenario for a predominantly Muslim population) I fail to see where they could round up such a large number. It is not at all surprising that the figures don't make sense, when we think about it. Voodoo statistics abound in this country, and every director-general, permanent secretary or minister seems eager to throw fake data and statistics at us, without any explanation on how they come about it, so perhaps we should not blame Chairman Dan-Yari, or his Primary Health Care Coordinator.

All the foregoing is just an aside. My main point is that the Gates' Foundation and other actors could outsource circumcision to Malumfashi, since they can do it cheaper. Since they are spending N400,000 to cover 40,000 people, their cost is N10 per person, as against the Gates' Foundation's N11,770. So, if the target of 650,000 Africans is contracted to Malumfashi LGA, they can send out their experts and finish the job in 3-4 months at less than US\$5 million at most, leaving them with an operating surplus of over US\$45 million, or N6,885 billion. How about that for internally generated revenue drive?

On a more serious note, must external donor-agencies dictate our development agenda? Has Malumfashi abandoned circumcision that they need to resort to government funds to circumcise their boys? Maybe they have solved all other pressing health issues like child mortality, maternal mortality and malaria and now want to use free money pay to for this one. Was the project even properly scoped?

Kpakol's back-of-the-envelope calculations

Yet even the Malumfashi case fades to insignificance after listening to our job creation expert. When Magnus Kpakol, Senior Special Adviser to the Nigerian President and Coordinator of the National Poverty Eradication Programme, said neither the illness of President Yar'adua, nor constant power outage, nor even the low performance of the economy, affect his war against poverty, and that poverty has declined in the country, I thought he was just plain confused. In his talk with *Daily Trust* about a week ago, he was adamant that "The poverty rate has dropped because for example if you look at the economy, and look at what happens in say agriculture, you will realise that there is growth in the sector last year and that growth in out-

put means something happened there. If you look across board, you will see that the overall GDP growth rate in the economy grew by about 6.9%. All of that growth took place in the non-oil sector where you have people getting jobs."

Is this guy failing to understand and refusing to even listen, cocooned in his comfortable fiction? Even the World Bank, the IMF and others not known to be usually worried about the fate of the poor before now, have pointed out time and time again, that Nigeria's development model does not lead to growth of jobs or to a reduction in poverty, and are advising us to change our approach. Why is he adamant in his preferred fiction? Listen to him again: "If between 1999 and 2004, that is 5 years the poverty rate dropped 16 points, it is not unreasonable to think that in another 5 years, the poverty rate couldn't have dropped more than 4 points. As an economist, doing the *back of envelop calculations*, I know at the back of my mind that unless we change the yardstick that we use in measurement, the poverty rate will be under 50%." No, Kpakol, there is no reason under the sun for us to believe that just because poverty rate has declined over some past period, then it must continue this decline in future. In addition, non-governmental estimates put last year's growth rate at 2.9% (see IMF Country Report for example), and not the 6.9% you prefer to cite.

Anyway, we shall await the National Bureau of Statistics' report that Kpakol promises, which is expected to come up this year, and then we can examine his claims. Hope it is not another example of the usual voodoo stats, on a higher plane than the much simpler Malumfashi one.

“Has Malumfashi abandoned circumcision that they need to resort to government funds to circumcise their boys?”

SPORTS REPORT



STEPHEN Keshi, Mali Coach

Meaningless win for Mali

Mali scored twice within three minutes of the kick-off en route to an ultimately meaningless 3-1 victory over Malawi in an Africa Cup of Nations Group A match yesterday.

Hosts Angola topped the mini-league after a goalless Luanda draw with Algeria, who finished level on four points with Mali but reached the quarter-finals because of a superior head-to-head record.

Frederic Kanoute and Seydou Keita were the early scorers for the 'Eagles' and Mamadou

Bagayoko wrapped up the three points after Russell Mwafulirwa had reduced arrears during the second half.

Kanoute, 32, was distraught at getting knocked out despite these three points in what is his last appearance in the competition.

"I can't find the words to describe how upset I am," said Sevilla's 2007 Africa Footballer of the Year, who was the first non-Africa-born player to win the award.

"It really hurts me that after we were knocked out in 2008 we really wanted to do well here."



MARIA Sharapova

Sharapova upset at Australian Open

Maria Sharapova was the big loser at the Australian Open, suffering a shock first-round loss to Maria Kirilenko, but Clijsters and Henin won easily on a day when everything, except Melbourne's fickle weather, followed the usual script.

Instead of the extreme heat that has left competitors soaked in sweat and gasping for air, the opening day of this year's first grand slam was severely disrupted by unseasonal wind and showers.

Sharapova, seeded 14th and making her first appearance at Melbourne Park since winning the championship two years ago, lost 7-6 3-6 6-4 to her good friend and fellow Russian Kirilenko.

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