

DAILY TRUST

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2010 RABI'U THANI 23, 1431 A.H.

TRUST IS A BURDEN

www.dailytrust.com VOL. 24 No 4 N150

Jonathan warns against friction between ministers



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Atiku Abubakar opts for a return to PDP



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'I killed my mum because of neglect'

From Yahaya Ibrahim & Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri, with agency report

A 28-year-old photographer allegedly killed his mother by pouring acid on her on Tuesday, ostensibly because she abandoned him after taking a new husband.

Sunday James of Ikot Usekong in Eket Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State also accused the mother of bewitching him and causing him misfortunes, according to witnesses.

"I have been suffering as a photographer with my bicycle since I left secondary school but instead of

Sunday James also accused the mother of bewitching him

my mother, a teacher who knows the value of education to send me to school, she abandoned me and faced her new husband," Sunday said, according to a News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) report. "She was the one working against my progress, she was a witch and that was why I killed her."

Sunday later died in police custody, though the police have not given an account of what led to his death. But NAN quoted an unnamed witness saying Sunday attempted to commit suicide after attacking his mother.

Sunday's mother Mrs. Iko James was, until her death, the Deputy Head-
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Jibril Aminu:

Removing Yar'adua will be wrong

From Abdullahi Tasiu Abubakar, Yola

CHAIRMAN of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs Professor Jibril Aminu said yesterday that it will be calous and irresponsible to contemplate removing President Umaru Yar'adua from office because of his illness.

There are speculations that the new cabinet, made up of acting President

Goodluck Jonathan's loyalists, may set up a medical team to examine President Yar'adua's health in an attempt to remove him from office, based on Section 144 of the 1999 Constitution.

But speaking to journalists in Yola, Aminu, who is a professor of medicine, said there was no need to move against President Yar'adua when all the powers acting President Jonathan requires

have been conferred on him by the National Assembly.

He said the current administration is Yar'adua/Jonathan regime, and any attempt to make it different would spell doom for the country.

He blamed some politicians, a section of the press and "some noisy people" for "pushing the country to the
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SECRETARY to the Government of the Federation Alhaji Mahmud Yayale Ahmed (left) with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, at the signing of Nigeria-US BI-National Commission agreement in Washington DC on Tuesday.



Atiku returns to PDP

By Abdulmutalib A. Abubakar

FORMER Vice President Atiku Abubakar has finally decided to return to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), which he left PDP after disagreement with the party and the then President Olusegun Obasanjo on the eve

of 2007 general.

Atiku, along with his supporters, joined the Action Congress (AC) and contested the 2007 presidential election under its platform.

Atiku's media aide, Garba Shehu, told the BBC Hausa Service yesterday that the

former vice president decided to rejoin the PDP following disagreements within Mega Summit Movement. Shehu said many stalwarts of the AC followed Atiku back to the PDP.

Shehu said those who said Atiku returned to the PDP because he would not get 2011

presidential ticket under the Mega Summit Movement are missing the point because "he (Atiku) did that in the interest of the nation and his people."

He said Atiku's return to his former party had nothing to do with the health of President Umaru Yar'adua and the PDP's

decision that 2011 presidential candidate of the party will come from the North.

Shehu however refused to say whether Atiku would contest the 2011 presidential election or not, insisting that Atiku left the PDP in 2007 when he and his loyalists were denied registration.

PIC: SANI MAIKATANGA

Three months old pregnant woman arrested for ingesting cocaine

From Seun Joseph, Lagos

A pregnant woman simply identified as Osatohanwen Esohe, 29, and four others have been nabbed by officials of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) for ingesting 6.265 kg of narcotic drugs at the Murtala Mohammed International Airport (MMIA) Lagos.

Ofoyeju Mitchell, the Public Relations Officer of the agency told *Daily Trust* that the pregnant suspect, Osatohanwen Esohe, was detected with the aid of a scanning machine during the screening of passengers on Alitalia flight to Rome. He added that after observation, the pregnant woman expelled 27 wraps of substances, that tested positive to cocaine weighing 350 grammes.

During interrogation, Osatohanwen Esohe, who hails from Benin City, Edo State, told anti-narcotic officers that the man that impregnated her rejected her and she needed to fend for herself.

"I am three months pregnant. The man that impregnated me refused to take responsibility and I am jobless. That is why I got involved in drug trafficking. They promised to pay me 2,000 Euros. This is my first time of smuggling drugs, I only needed money to take care of myself and the unborn baby," she said.

The NDLEA Airport Commander Alhaji Hamza Umar, who confirmed the arrest of Osatohanwen Esohe described her action as weird and unbecoming. He lamented that drug suspects had no respect for human lives.

"They do not have respect for their own lives neither do they respect the dignity of their children. This is the height of desperation by drug barons and their associates," he said.

They do not have respect for their own lives neither do they respect the dignity of their children



General Muhammadu Buhari (right) with Alhaji Sule Yahaya Hama during a condolence visit to the family of late Abubakar Rimi in Kano yesterday.

Buhari blames Rimi's death on insecurity

From Lawan Danjuma Adamu, Jaafar Jaafar & Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

FORMER Head of State General Muhammadu Buhari has blamed the death of Alhaji Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi on security lapses in the country.

Buhari said this yesterday

while addressing journalists after the third day prayer for the late Rimi, who passed on last Sunday.

He said Nigerians were shocked at the news of the politician's death, who he said was an achiever.

According to General Buhari, late Rimi achieved much as governor of Kano, despite the

meager resources available to the state then.

Buhari described the security situation in the country as challenging to Nigerian leaders, charging them to utilize resources available to protect lives and property.

"It is high time they utilized the country's resources to pro-

vide security for its people," he said.

The former Head of State, who also visited the widow of the deceased, Hajia Hadiza Rimi, prayed for Rimi's last child, seven month old Ahmadu.

He prayed Almighty Allah to bless the baby and give the widow the fortitude to bear the loss.

Jos: Police warn trouble makers

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

THE Assistant Inspector General (AIG) of Police in charge of zone 4, comprising Plateau, Benue and Nassarawa States, Mr Donald Iroham, has warned those causing trouble in Jos to desist, saying they would not be spared if caught.

A statement signed by the AIG, yesterday in Jos said, "The Plateau Police Command has noticed that some groups of people are out to foment trouble by sponsoring some of the unscrupulous commercial motorcyclists known as (Achaba) to cause breach of peace within Jos

metropolis. Let this serve as a warning to any person or group, bent on destroying the fragile peace in the state". He said security operatives were working hard to maintain law and order in the state.

He advised the people to remain calm and go about their lawful businesses and report any suspicious movement to the nearest police station or nearest security agency for necessary action.

Last week Tuesday, the Plateau State House of Assembly passed an executive bill, prohibiting commercial motorcyclists from operating in Jos and Bukuru metropolis into law.

Kidnap of CMD: Edo doctors begin strike

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

THE Chief Medical Director of the University of Benin Teaching Hospital in Edo State Professor Michael Ibadin has been kidnapped. Prof. Ibadin was abducted by unknown gunmen on Tuesday while on his way to work from his residence at Ekosodin, an outskirt of Benin City. The Chairman of the Nigerian Medical Association in the state, Dr Osahon Enabulele, who spoke with newsmen in Benin yesterday condemned the kidnap.

He said because of the kidnap, medical and dental practitioners in

public and private health institutions in the state had been directed to withdraw clinical services with effect from yesterday. He added that they were to down tools until the kidnapped CMD is released alive.

Enabulele said they decided to suspend medical services to members of the public because no medical or dental practitioner could render services, when his security could not be guaranteed. "The NMA feels pained to declare publicly that following the attacks and kidnap of Prof Ibadin, it has resolved to withdraw its services until the CMD is released and security is guaranteed at the hospital.

Jonathan warns on friction between ministers, state ministers

By Mohammed S. Shehu

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday warned the newly inaugurated ministers to abide by the rules and regulations guiding public expenditure in the discharge of government business.

Jonathan spoke during the inaugural meeting of the weekly Federal Executive Council (FEC) yesterday in Abuja also cautioned substantive ministers against any friction with their ministers of state.

Minister of Information and Communications, Prof. Dora

Akunyili, who briefed State House correspondents on the outcome of the meeting, said the meeting emphasised the manner the ministers were expected to conduct themselves while handling the affairs of government in line with code of conduct and Public Procurement Act 2007.

Akunyili said the relationship between the ministers and their ministers of state also came up for discussion at the session and the council was determined to eliminate the friction which had characterized such relationship in the past and ensure harmony in the

discharge of their duties.

"The relationship between ministers and ministers of state also came up for discussion because it is a very important fact in ensuring that we work amicably to ensure that we deliver the dividends of democracy to the people of this country.

This problem actually depends on individuals. They are created by individuals and as such, when individual decide to work with one another, as family, knowing that we are working for the same government, the same country, the friction should not arise. So,

we believe this time around, those differences that were noticed, be sorted out since we have started the discussion," she said.

Akunyili said the ministers were also briefed on the Public Procurement Act 2007 by the Director-General of the Bureau for Public Procurement (BPP) Engr. Emeka Eze in a bid to acquaint them with the procedure for procurement in government business.

In his remarks, Eze explained that compliance with the provisions of the public procurement act would enhance service deliv-

ery and at the same time, accelerate the implementation of the budget. The Head of Service of the Federation Mr. Steve Oronsaye, who was present at the briefing, told newsmen that the session was necessary to ensure that the ministers play the game by the rule in the award of contracts.

He said the orientation became necessary because it was new cabinet and members needed to be thought how to operate the system. He said appropriate sanctions prescribed by law would be applied on any of the ministers who violated the law.



From left: Acting President Godluck Jonathan, Attorney General and Minister of Justice Mohammed Bello Adoke and Minister of Agriculture Prof. Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah, during the Federal Executive Council meeting at the State House, Abuja, yesterday.

Why I was retained, by Dora Akunyili

By Mohammed S. Shehu

PROFESSOR Dora Akunyili yesterday said her return to the information and communications ministry was an indication that Acting President Goodluck Jonathan has confidence in her.

Akunyili, who stated this yesterday while briefing State House correspondents shortly after the maiden edition of the weekly Federal Executive Council meeting, said her return to the ministry allows her to conclude what she had started before the dissolution of the cabinet. "It is the will of God that I'm brought back to the ministry of information and communications. You see, information is a key and, therefore, it is a critical ministry that anybody should be proud to be appointed. I also know that it is a difficult terrain."

"My coming back to the ministry is an indication that my boss, the acting president, has confidence in me, has confidence in the way I discharged my duties in this very key sector. Again, my coming back is an opportunity for me to continue on the programmes and projects that we initiated in the last dispensation not only in the ministry but also in the parastatals. And I am grateful to God, grateful to the Acting President and I am very grateful to the people of Nigeria," she said.

Akunyili also used the occasion to introduce her minister of state, Mr. Labaran Maku, who pledged to work harmoniously with Akunyili and the media to ensure that government's policies and programmes were effectively publicised.

“My coming back to the ministry is an indication that my boss, the acting president, has confidence in me

Dangote donates to victims of Jos crisis

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in Plateau State has confirmed receipt of relief materials from the Dangote Group for onward distribution by the authorities.

The materials which included several trailer loads of instant noodles, Danvita, sugar, salt,

blankets and clothing materials were presented to NEMA's Zonal Coordinator in charge of the North Central, Alhaji Alhassan Danjuma Aliyu.

Mr. Yakubu, who represented Aliyu, received the materials in company of representatives of other relevant authorities.

The materials which were presented to the

officials immediately after the first outbreak of violence in Jos, were distributed to the various relief camps through the joint efforts of NEMA and other bodies involved in the management of the conflict.

NEMA estimates that thousands of people benefitted from the relief materials, which were donated in February 15, 2010.

EFCC: Halliburton investigation still on

By Boco Edet

CHAIRMAN of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) Farida Waziri said the federal government is still investigating the \$180million Halliburton bribery scandal and it has not been swept under the carpet.

Waziri said this when national officials of National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) visited her in Abuja yesterday.

President of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) Rotimi Akeredolu was reported to have said on Tuesday that it was a shame that one year after, the panel constituted to investigate the scam had not submitted a report or initiated prosecutions.

But the EFCC boss explained that the committee was working hard to unravel the facts of the case.

"The committee headed by the Inspector General of Police is

leaving no stone unturned to get to the bottom of the case and it is my belief that it will not be long before a definite pronouncement is made on it," she said.

She called on members of NANS to join the anti-corruption campaign to stop the decay in the society from doing further damage, stressing that the young generation cannot afford to disappoint itself.

NANS President Jude Imagwe

said the student body was willing to partner with EFCC to root out corruption not only in the education sector but the society in general.

"NANS requests urgent investigation and subsequent trial of government officials who have diverted funds meant for the public development into self control funds thereby increasing the level of poverty and crime in the country," Imagwe stated.

Ex-diplomat's son dies in police custody

By Misbahu Bashir

THE son of a former Nigerian Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Ajakaye, died last week in a police cell in Abuja, where he was detained allegedly over breach of public peace.

A family source said the deceased, Olusola Ajakaye, 44, of Kubwa Town Abuja, was allegedly tortured before his death because bruises were found on

his body. "He was injured in the head and legs," she said.

The source said before his arrest, he went to an eatery in Kubwa at night where he was angered and went berserk and broke a number of plate's cups and bottles. "He gets angry at slightest frustration," the source said.

The police were alerted of the incident and they arrested Ajakaye. He was detained at the

Kubwa Divisional Police Station. The family was later informed by the police that he died in allegedly in detention. His body was deposited at the Specialist Hospital in Gwagwalada. Autopsy is still being awaited.

But, an eye witness said the deceased calmed down when the police arrived and did not resist arrest. The deceased is survived by his wife, 3 children and parents.

A senior police officer in the Station said he was not tortured by the police and died in the hospital. The Police Public Relations Officer in Abuja SP Moshood Jimoh said Ajakaye went to the eatery and started breaking items there. He was caught by the people around: the people later tied his legs and hand with cables and rope before taking him to the Station. "The people beat him up on the way to the Station," he said. He

added that his parents were traced and they made statement saying that the deceased had mental illness.

According to him, Ajakaye fell ill in the morning and police fetch him to hospital. "He died on the way to hospital," he said.

The Commissioner of Police in Abuja John Haruna directed the case transfer to the Criminal Investigation Department for investigation.



FROM left: Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Martins Uhomobhi, the Minister, Mr. Henry Ajumogobia and the Minister of State, Dr. Aliyu Idi Hong after inspecting the ministry's headquarters under construction in Abuja yesterday.

Pregnant woman, 4 others nabbed with cocaine

By Shehu Abubakar

A 29 year-old woman has been arrested by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) for allegedly swallowing 350 grams of cocaine.

Osatohanwen Esohe was arrested at the Murtala Mohammed International Airport (MMIA), Lagos, when she tested positive to drugs ingestion.

She was detected to have ingested illicit drug with the aid of scanning machine during the screening of passengers on Alitalia flight to Rome.

Four other suspects were also arrested at different operation for drug trafficking at the airport.

Esohe who was placed on observation by narcotic operatives at the airport was

reported to have expelled 27 wraps of substances that tested positive to cocaine weighing 350 grams.

Others arrested at the airport for drugs trafficking include Chukwuma Kingsley Uchemadu who allegedly ingested 1.430 kilograms of heroin. Esohe and three others were smuggling 4.835 kg of cocaine when they were caught. Osatohanwen Esohe who hails from Benin City, Edo State told newsmen that the man that impregnated her rejected her and she needed to fend for herself.

Confirming the arrest, NDLEA Commander at the Lagos airport, Alhaji Hamza Umar expressed shock at the strange act stressing that drug suspects have no respect for human lives.

ICPC: NGOs engage in corrupt practices

By Boco Edet

NON-GOVERNMENTAL Organisations (NGOs) engage in corrupt practices when they ought to be championing the anti-graft war, Chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) Justice Emmanuel Ayoola said yesterday.

Ayoola said there was a need for change in view of the commission's readiness to refocus the agenda of the National Anti-Corruption Coalition (NACC) against corruption this year.

He was speaking at a two day strategic roundtable forum for members of NACC who belong to various NGOs at the headquar-

ters of the anti-corruption commission yesterday.

The ICPC boss said currently there was a case of alleged fraud and embezzlement against a NACC official before a High Court in Ibadan, Oyo State, and another NGO was under investigation in Akure, Ondo State.

He urged the NACC members to submit quarterly reports of their activities as contained in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by both parties.

"Since inception, NACC has endeavoured to mobilise and sensitise vulnerable members of society against corruption especially as it concerns areas of budget implementation," he said.

Reform commission wants AGF's power reviewed

By Atika Balal

THE Nigerian Law Reform Commission (NLRC) has called for the review of the influence and rights of the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) over law amendments.

Chairman of the commission said the body is unhappy that 30 years after its inception, most recommendations it has made on law reforms have been neglected by the successive AGFs.

Speaking yesterday at the First Regional Conference of Commonwealth

Association of Law Reform Agencies (CALRA) in Abuja, Justice Umaru Kalgo (rtd.) said that this has robbed the nation of eliminating some observed anomalies in her laws.

"The commission has existed for over 30 years and during this time, it fully exercised its powers under the Act; it also submitted its reports and recommendations to the Hon. Attorney-General of the Federation according to the Act for implementation in each case. Unfortunately, quite a lot of these recommendations have not been

implemented," he said.

"It is therefore our considered view that the question of implementation of Law Reform recommendations or reports submitted to the AGF and Minister of Justice must be looked into seriously if responsibilities of the Law Reform Commission's are to be taken seriously," he said.

He said the commission should be at liberty to contact the National Assembly directly on the matter if the AGF failed to react to its recommendations within a limited time.

Also speaking, Presi-

dent of the Court of Appeal Justice Isa Ayo Salami restated the importance of law reform in any nation, saying no country could move forward without reforming its obsolete laws.

While stressing the need to reform the nation's marriage Act which was inherited from the colonial masters to encourage marriages under the country's customary and Islamic laws, he said State Law reform commissions should also be empowered to deal with all the obsolete legislations since they are closer to the people.

Islamic council mourns Abubakar Rimi

By Abbas Jimoh

THE Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) yesterday said the death of former Kano State governor, Alhaji Abubakar Rimi is a great loss to the country.

Secretary-General of

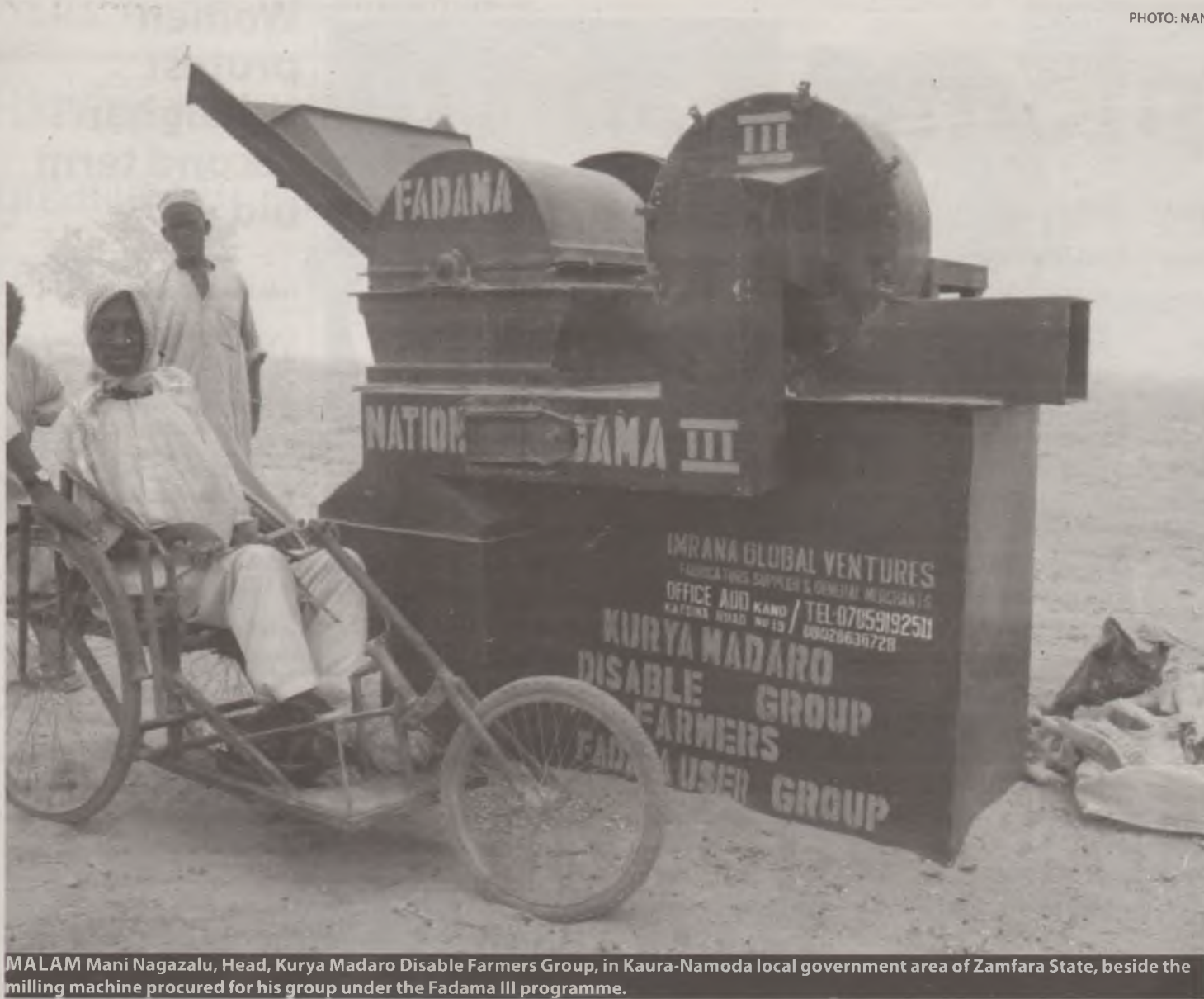
NSCIA, Dr. Lateef Adegbite, said yesterday in Abuja that late Rimi was one of the few principled and committed intellectuals in Nigeria politics.

"With the death of Dr. Abubakar Rimi, Nigeria has lost an accomplished politician. A loyal disciple

of his political mentor, the late Malam Aminu Kano, Rimi endeavoured to sustain the great leader's vision. He conscientiously espoused the cause of the poor and the lowly, putting their interest first as civilian governor of Kano State. It was tragic that he met his

death so cheaply, no doubt owing to the worsening insecurity in the land," Adegbite said.

While praying for the repose of the soul of late Rimi, he said urged the federal government to pay greater attention to security in the country.



MALAM Mani Nagazalu, Head, Kurya Madaro Disable Farmers Group, in Kaura-Namoda local government area of Zamfara State, beside the milling machine procured for his group under the Fadama III programme.

PHOTO: NAN

AC asks ministers to declare Yar'adua unfit

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE Action Congress (AC) yesterday urged the newly-constituted Executive Council of the Federation to declare President Umaru Yar'adua incapacitated by invoking Section 144 of the Constitution.

In a statement issued yesterday by its National Publicity Secretary Alhaji Lai Mohammed, the party said this is necessary to remove all distractions to governance and pave the way for the new Cabinet to face the daunting challenges facing it.

It said while Nigerians must continue to pray for the President's quick recovery, the issues involved transcend an individual, because the presidency is an institution.

"We had reason to warn before that the presence in Aso Rock of President Yar'adua, whose health status is not known to Nigerians at the moment beyond the snippets from spirit doctors, is like a Sword of Damocles hanging on the head of the acting president," he said.

The party reminded the new Ministers that the Constitution did not envisage an indefinite Acting Presidency, one that is constantly being distracted so much that it cannot meet the yearnings of Nigerians.

"We have had enough of an invisible presidency. We have had enough of the growing circus that reminds us of the days of Abacha, when some people were invited to Aso Rock to watch a phantom coup video. Nigerians don't need these distractions at all," AC said.



PRESIDENT Umaru Yar'adua

Removing Yar'adua will be wrong

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brink simply because they are not in government."

Asked whether the Senate would support any move by the cabinet to remove Yar'adua, Professor Aminu said: "I don't know what they will do, but I think we have decency; we have people with interest in decency. So far as I know the government of acting President Goodluck Jonathan is a continuation of the Yar'adua government. It is the same ticket."

However, he said, "people with certain interest, people with no conscience at all are trying to push the government into a position that it does not belong to. Either this is another government, not the Yar'adua government; or this is a hostile government. This is the impression that people give, but I don't believe it

is true. I believe this is Yar'adua/Jonathan government.

"And I believe this is a very important sobering thought for anybody, whether it is the Senate or any politician, or anybody who is trying to push and cajole and blackmail this government into doing that. They should just remember this. The most important function for any government is peace, progress and development."

Professor Aminu expressed displeasure over politicisation of President Yar'adua's sickness, stressing that "this is a man who is sick; he is not well, but no sympathy for him."

He said the question for removing President Yar'adua does not even arise, given the fact that the Acting President has not been hindered by anyone from carrying out his duties.

"With the doctrine of necessity, giving the vice president the role of acting president and commander-in-chief of the armed forces, I cannot see any power the president has that he doesn't get, including, as you can see, the dissolution of the federal cabinet that has been done. You saw the deployment of the army in the case of Jos, you saw the withdrawal of the police... all these decisions have been taken, receiving ambassadors, sending ambassadors. So, I don't know what else they want," he added.

Professor Aminu opposed the planned return of former Vice President Atiku Abubakar to PDP, saying "Atiku is a political refugee" who only wants to return to PDP to contest 2011 presidential election.

He said if the former vice president wants to be sincere he

should wait until after the elections before returning to the party.

Professor Aminu also criticised the United States government for opposing any possible retention of Professor Maurice Iwu as chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), saying it was not their business to decide who heads Nigeria's electoral body.

"They are expressing their opinion, which they are free to do; but I don't think it is their business," he said.

"People from the outside should stop (criticising the country). This country got independence from Britain in 1960. We are not going to take another colonial master no matter what they are called; we won't take one," he added.

'I killed my mum because of neglect'

Continued from page 1

mistress of Government Primary School, Idung Offiong in Eket and a mother of five.

Trouble started with an argument between Sunday and his mother on Tuesday morning during which he poured acid on her and forced her to drink some of the substance, a witness said.

When neighbours heard her cry, they forced the door open and rushed her to the hospital but she died before medical help

came her way. He attempted to set himself ablaze but was saved by sympathisers, who handed him over to the police.

On interrogation, Sunday, an itinerant photographer, accused the mother of refusing to send him to school.

Five cutlasses, electric cables and a gallon of acid were recovered from his room.

Police sources in Eket confirmed the incident and arrest of the suspect who later died in

their custody.

In another incident, a woman in her late 20's Hassana Philip of Marama village in Hawul Local Government Area of Borno State was charged to court over slaughtering her two children, one of them an infant, and attempting to commit suicide by stabbing herself with the same knife.

The two kids, one-and-a-half-year-old Joseph and Hus-saina, 6, were killed on July 20

last year, court documents at the Borno State High Court 11 have shown.

In her second appearance for hearing yesterday, the woman who was charged with murder and suicide attempt punishable under sections 221 and 231 of the penal code was not represented by a counsel and as a result, one Barrister Nkham Adamu, in court for a different case, volunteered to hold brief for her.

Adamu in his submission urged the court to order for the accused to be checked at the Federal Neuro-Psychiatric Hospital in Maiduguri, arguing that a normal human being cannot slaughter their own kids.

The request was granted by Justice Alkali Gana Wakili, who ordered that Hassana Philip be admitted and examined at the hospital to determine her mental state. The case was adjourned till June 30.



FROM left: President, Court of Appeal, Justice Isa Salami, Executive Secretary, Law Reform Commission, Ghana, Mrs. Anita Ababio and chairman of the occasion, Chief Gboyega Awomolo, at the regional conference of the Commonwealth Association of Law Reform Agencies in Abuja, yesterday.

Women protest Uduaghan's second term bid

From Monday Osayande, Asaba

OVER 100 female politicians in Delta State stormed Illah town, a few kilometers from Asaba, the state capital to protest against Governor Emmanuel Uduaghan's bid for a second term in office.

The women under the aegis, "Women Forum for Change in Nigeria", called on Delta indigenes, particularly women not to support the governor for a second term, saying his programmes were inimical to the progress of women in the state. Speaking at the gathering, the president of the group, Mrs. Euwosu Williams, said women were being marginalised.

Mrs. Williams said the government had failed to deliver the dividends of democracy to the people.

Earlier, the national Co-ordinator of the forum, Mrs. Lovelyn Asabor, said the society had infringed on the rights of women in the political arena.

"The source of this tension perhaps lies in the traditional assumption that marriage is the highest goal for women, but this is no longer tenable, she said.

ATM fraud: Lagos govt flays bank's attitude

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

THE Lagos State government yesterday criticised banks for their nonchalant attitude towards resolving the Automated Teller Machine (ATM) fraud-related complaints.

The state government through the Commissioner for Commerce and Industry, Prince Adeniyi Oyemade lamented that banks operating in the state had refused to accept liability for the ATM

frauds on the basis that the victims might have compromised their code numbers.

Oyemade, who spoke yesterday at a ministerial briefing to mark the 3rd anniversary of the administration of Governor Babatunde Fashola said several complaints had been received by the state Consumer Protection Committee on the ATM related cases. He said one of the challenges facing the committee is the uncooperative attitude of banks,

saying they had refused to accept liability for the frauds.

He said the state government was planning to call a meeting of all stakeholders, comprising all banks, regulatory bodies and other relevant organization, saying the ATM could turn into a curse if nothing is done about the situation.

"As a responsible government, this situation cannot be allowed to continue unchecked. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is

therefore preparing to organise a forum of all stakeholders made up of all banks, regulatory bodies and relevant organizations to find a lasting solution to the problem.

We therefore call on all the banks and relevant bodies to be alive to their responsibilities in protecting their customers.

The ATM is a technological advancement, which is gradually turning into a curse if the trend of ATM frauds goes unchecked," he said.

212 get NSCDC jobs in Niger

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

OUT of the over 7,000 candidates that applied for jobs with the Nigerian Security and Civil defence Corps (NSCDC) in Niger State, only 212 were successful.

The Niger State Commandant of the NSCDC Mr David Bille said yesterday in Minna at a news conference that of the successful candidates, only 149 had collected their letters.

Bille said already, 127 had commenced training after full documentation of their credentials. He added that the exercise was only for officers at the junior cadre level.

"The exercise was carried out by officers from the Federal Character Commission to ensure conformity with the standing order by the commission on equal distribution in employment," he said.

Debunking allegations that officers under his command collected bribes from applicants, the commandant urged members of the public to come out with prove, adding that any officer indicted would be dealt with.

"We in Niger State have no power to influence people to get employed and anyone who claims he can is lying and I make bold to tell the public to come forward with names so that we can discipline them," he said.

100 dead in Kyrgyzstan clashes

KYRGYZSTAN'S opposition said yesterday about 100 people had been killed in clashes in the capital Bishkek. The government is struggling to retain power as deadly clashes escalate between police and thousands of protesters.

Officials say at least 40 people died in the capital, Bishkek, as protesters stormed government and TV offices.

The protesters are angry at rising prices and accuse President Kurmanbek Bakiyev of failing to curb corruption.

A key opposition leader has said the government has now resigned but there is no official confirmation. The leader, Temir Sariyev, said Prime Minister Daniyar Usenov had agreed to tender the government's resignation and that Mr Bakiyev had left Bishkek.

The Agence France-Presse news agency quoted an airport employee as saying that Mr Bakiyev had flown out of Bishkek aboard a small plane. A senior opposition figure, Galina Skripkina, told Reuters news agency the president had

flown to the southern city of Osh.

However, the Russian RIA news agency quoted a government source as saying the president was still in the city.

The US state department, meanwhile, said it believed the Kyrgyz government "remains in power".

The opposition has taken control of at least one television channel. Another opposition leader, Omurbek Tekebayev, said in a broadcast that at least 100 demonstrators had been killed in the clashes.

A Kyrgyz human rights activist, Asel Kuttubayeva, said on the channel that several regional administrations had been seized and their governors had resigned.

None of the claims on the broadcasts can be independently confirmed.

The health ministry said 40 people had died and more than 400 were injured in the clashes. One doctor in Bishkek, Akylbek Yeukebayev, told Reuters there were "dozens of dead bodies, all with gunshot wounds".

NEMA strategises ahead of 2011 polls

From Hisham Habib Kano

THE National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is strategising ahead of the 2011 polls, Director General of the agency Audu Bida has said.

The Director-General, who was represented by the Director of Research in the agency, Mr Charles Agbo, said this yesterday at an interactive session of the agency and Disaster Reaction Units (DRU's) in Kano.

He said the meeting was to plan ahead in order to forestall any perceivable threat to life and property, adding that the DRU's are military formations that relate with NEMA towards addressing security problems and other challenges.

The Kano State Deputy Governor Engineer Abdullah Gwarzo, who was represented by the Adviser to the Governor on Food Security said gone were the days when people waited for disasters to happen before reacting. He thanked NEMA for its rapid response during the fire incident at the kantin kwari market recently.

The zonal Coordinator of the North-west Alhaji Mustapha Sulaiman said they chose Kano for the meeting because it had the largest number of military formations in the zone.

Rimi' death great loss to masses - Gaidam, Idris

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu & Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

GOVERNOR Ibrahim Gaidam of Yobe State yesterday described the death of former Kano State Governor, Alhaji Abubakar Rimi as a great loss to the masses.

A statement signed by Abdul-lahi Bego, the Director of Press affairs to Gaidam said Rimi's death came at a time, when his counsel and political experience were most needed. "As a democratic icon and champion of the Talakawas, Alhaji Rimi devoted his life to working for the common man and making Nigeria great. Although, every soul must taste death' as the Almighty has said in the Holy Qur'an, we take solace in the fact that his, was a life well spent," the governor said.

The governor in the statement also condoled the family of the deceased, the government and people of Kano State over the loss. He prayed the Almighty to grant the late Rimi eternal rest and Aljannat Firdaus. Governor Ibrahim Idris of Kogi State has also condoled the Kano State government over the loss.

The governor through his Director of Press Richard Elesho, told our correspondent yesterday that Rimi's death was a great loss to the nation.

Idris said the nation's political arena would miss the candour and glamour of the late Rimi.

"Alhaji Rimi was a great leader ranked among Nigerian leaders like Gani Fawehinmi and others, who have passed on to the great beyond. May His souls rest in perfect peace," he said.

Rimi was a great leader ranked among Nigerian leaders like Gani Fawehinmi and others, who have passed on to the great beyond.

Buhari, IBB, Atiku, others attend prayers for Rimi

From Jaafar Jaafar, Lawan Danjuma Adamu & Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

DIGNITARIES including former Heads of State Generals Muhammadu Buhari and Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, Emir of Daura Umar Faruk, former Vice President Alhaji Atiku Abubakar and former Governor of Kogi State Prince Abubakar Audu.

Other dignitaries who attended the prayer are Chief of Army Staff Abdurrahman Dambazau, human rights activist, Hajia Najatu Mohammed, leader of the Kadiriyyah

movement, Sheikh Karibullah Nasiru Kabara, leader of Tijjanyyah movement, Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi, Senator Kabiru Ibrahim Gaya and Senator Muhammadu Bello.

Also at the Durbin Katsina residence of the deceased to offer their condolence prayers was a delegation from Niger Republic, comprising the Governor of Damagaram Mohamadou Moustafa, Emir of Kanceh Abdulkadir Amadou Isyakou and Emir of Murya Mouktari Musa. Speaking to newsmen after the prayer, General Buhari blamed the Rimi' death on the nation's insecurity, saying the leaders should

use the nation's wealth to improve security.

General Babangida on his part said late Rimi would be missed for contribution to the political development of the Nigeria. He said the late politician did well as governor of Kano State.

He said the death was a monumental loss to the nation and that it would be difficult to fill the vacuum he left.

Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar said Rimi was a formidable politician, adding that he died championing the cause of a common man.

PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE



PRESIDENT, National Association of Nigeria Students (NANS), Comrade Imagwe Jude Gabriel (second left) presenting a Memorabilia to EFCC Chairman, Mrs. Farida Waziri (second right). With them are EFCC Head of Strategy and Re-orientation, Mr. Gabriel Aduda (right) and NANS Vice-President, Comrade Suleiman Mahmud, during the investiture of the EFCC boss as matron of the association in Abuja yesterday.

Sambo, Shinkafi, Yuguda, others pour encomiums

From Jaafar Jaafar & Lawan Danjuma Adamu, Kano

GOVERNORS Namadi Sambo, Mahmuda Aliyu Shinkafi, Isa Yuguda, Danjuma Goje of Kaduna, Zamfara, Bauchi and Gombe States respectively, yesterday poured encomiums on the late former Governor of Kano State Alhaji Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi. Mourners thronged the Durbin Katsina residence of the politician to offer prayers for the deceased

and pray for the bereaved to have the fortitude to bear the loss.

Governor Shinkafi said while offering prayers for the deceased that late Rimi contributed immensely to the political development of the country, saying he would be remembered for his contributions to the enthronement of democracy.

Also a delegation of the British Council's team in Kano led by Ambassador Auwalu Alhassan, paid a condolence visit to the res-

idence and prayed Almighty Allah to have mercy on the soul of late Rimi.

The Kano Council of Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) also delivered a condolence message, with a prayer for the deceased to have the courage to bear the fortitude of the loss.

At the time of filing this report, governors, senators, top government officials, politicians, civil right activists, among others were still trooping to the house to pay tribute.

...As mourners ask Shekarau to abort US, UK trip

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

MANY mourners have expressed their displeasure with Governor Ibrahim Shekarau's absence at the house of late Alhaji Abubakar Rimi, urging Governor Shekarau to abort his trip to the United States and

United Kingdom and return to receive condolences. Governor Shekarau left Nigeria for New Jersey, on the day of Rimi's death to deliver a keynote address at the annual convention of the Nigerians in Diaspora Organisation (NIDO).

Daily Trust gathered that the governor

will also woo ICT investors at Silicon Valley, San Francisco, and later proceed to the United Kingdom, where he is expected to present a paper at the University of Cardiff, and return home April 15.

Our correspondent also learnt that Governor Shekarau will visit UK to attend

the naming ceremony of his daughter, who was born two weeks ago at a UK hospital.

Lamenting over the governor's absence at the funeral and at the house to receive condolences, a mourner said Governor Shekarau should abort his trip to honour late Rimi.

Power ministry: Senators back Jonathan

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

SENATE yesterday said the decision by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to take over the power ministry is a good omen for Nigeria.

Senators told *Daily Trust* that Jonathan is on course "We are

satisfied with the cabinet posting, but they should know that they don't have time to embark on full scale programme. They should concentrate on critical infrastructures, power, Niger Delta and electoral reform."

Senator Anthony Manzo (PDP, Taraba) said "Jonathan is doing the right thing because he is the one running the executive

and he knows how best to get result. Obasanjo was the petroleum minister for some time; we hope this will translate into improved power generation and transmission to Nigerians."

Senator Muhammad Adamu Bello (ANPP, Kano) said, "They have a very short time so they must deliver and at least they should give us the 6000MW

they failed to give us last year. The acting president also did the right thing by de-merging the Agric and Water resources ministry.

We should be exporting food but now we are importing everything. Nigerians are hungry. But why did he post Mrs. Diezeni Allison-Madueke to the Petroleum Ministry when we know

that she worked for Shell?"

Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba (PDP, Cross Rivers) said the new cabinet should not waste time. "The Acting President as power ministry means that he has taken direct responsibility for anything that will happen in that sector from now and this underscores the importance of the sector to the government."

...It is a good omen, say manufacturers

By Fidelis Mac-Leva

THE Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) said the taking over of the Power Ministry by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan is a good omen for the reforms in the power sector.

Architect Nuhu Somo Wya however retained his former portfolio as minister of state (Power).

Vice President of MAN Senator Walid Jibrin told *Daily Trust* on phone that the association was hopeful that the problems that have bedevilled the power sector over the years would be addressed.

"He (the acting president) is seriously concerned about the problems connected with the power sector and has shown demonstrable seriousness towards addressing them", Jibrin said, adding that "last year when it became apparent that the Presidential mandate of 6000MW was not realisable due to manifest challenges it was the acting president that came out to apologise to Nigerians."

He said the power sector had gone through a lot of problems that impacted negatively on the Nigerian economy over the years, especially the manufacturing sector.

Commenting on the issue of gas shortage that has been the bane of electricity generation in the country the MAN vice president said: "If you equate gas price with black oil price, that of black oil will always go high."

Meanwhile, Minister of State (Power) Architect Nuhu Wya was yet to officially assume office by press time yesterday. Although he was said to have breezed into his office after the federal cabinet inauguration on Tuesday, *Daily Trust* learnt that a formal meeting with the ministry's staff was yet to take place.

Head of the Public Relations unit of the ministry Mrs. Badejo said the minister remained behind at the instance of the acting president after attending yesterday's federal executive council meeting.



PIC: FELEX ONIGBINDE

FROM left: Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Dr. Mohammed Abubakar, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Senator Jubril Martins Kuye and Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Mrs Josephine Tapgun, during the meeting with directors and heads of parastatals/ agencies under the ministry in Abuja, yesterday.

Akunyili to intensify efforts to check corruption

By Atika Balal

MINISTER of Information and Communications Professor Dora Akunyili said the ministry will intensify efforts to ensure that corruption is checked in the country.

Akunyili, who said this yes-

terday on her assumption of duty, added that similar efforts will be put towards repositioning the ministry to deliver on its mandate.

She said the ministry's target is to complete ongoing projects as well as incorporate new ideas while playing its role in the governance and growth of the coun-

try. "The ministry is the most important and key of all development processes going on in the country; and there is a sense of urgency in the present administration to complete ongoing projects. We will work harder to ensure that by the end of the year we will produce positive."

Also speaking, Minister of State for Information Mr. Labaran Maku said together with Akunyili they will work towards redeeming the image of the country both at the local and international level, adding that "No nation can have good public governance without a ministry of information that is ready to work"

Minister: Ignore bureaucracy, protocols

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

NEW Interior Minister Capt. Emmanuel Iheanacho, and his minister of state Mr. Humphrey Enemakwu, yesterday told staff to bridge bureaucracy and protocols for if necessary in order to tackle the nation's internal security.

The ministers give the directive while taking over the leadership on the ministry from the Permanent Secretary Dr Dere Awosika yesterday in Abuja.

The ministers promised to discharge their responsibility for history to judge their achievements positively and pleaded with staff

"not to allow bureaucracy, protocol and red-tapism impede on their jobs."

The minister also said their coming on board is not starting a new structure but to continue from where their predecessors stopped.

Earlier, Awosika reminded the ministers that this administration is at a critical threshold, as it is approaching its last but most challenging lap.

She enjoined them to brace up to the challenges of twin responsibility of citizenship, integrity, safe and secured internal borders at the ministry.

Ajumogobia upset by work at ministry's permanent site

By Aisha Umar Agaie

MINISTER of Foreign Affairs Mr. Henry Odein Ajumogobia has expressed disappointment on the level of work at the permanent site of the foreign affairs ministry after spending more than N4 billion on the construction work which started in 2001.

Ajumogobia made the statement when he toured construction site. He was accompanied by the minister of state foreign affairs Dr. Aliyu Idi Hong and the ministry's permanent secretary Martin Uhoimbi in Abuja yesterday. He said from the information he was given,

80 percent of the project is supposed to have been finished by now to allow the ministry's staff move in to the new building for Nigeria's 50th anniversary.

"I am hoping to meeting with the contractor and the team responsible for the work to find out what is the problem and see how we can accelerate progress" The consultant handling the project, Architect Alabi A. Sunday, said the initial target set for the completion of the project was July 31, but was not feasible for now.

He said there is need to amend work programme and set new target time to first or second week of September.

E/Guinea jails Nigerians for palace attack

SEVEN Nigerians have been sentenced by a court in Equatorial Guinea to 12 years in jail for their role in a seaborne attack last year on the presidential palace in the oil-producing nation.

Carried out on February 17, 2009, the attack against the palace on Equatorial Guinea's island capital Malabo was blamed on gunmen from Nigeria's Niger Delta, and underscored security threats across the Gulf of Guinea region.

The gunmen shot their way into the palace but were repelled by security forces backed by helicopter

gunships, Reuters reported of Tuesday.

The sentence was announced in a statement on the website of Equatorial Guinea's government. A group of locals who were suspected of guiding the Nigerian gunmen via mobile phones were acquitted due to lack of proof, said the statement, which was dated April 5.

Gunmen operating out of the nearby Niger Delta have become increasingly bold, launching seaborne raids on towns, banks and boats in the region. Delta militants

have denied any role in the Equatorial Guinea attack.

The statement said that the government would pay for damages resulting from the attack. Costs linked to damaged infrastructure were put at nearly 80 billion CFA francs and an additional \$143,100 would be paid to compensate those wounded in the attack.

Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo has ruled the former Spanish colony, which pumps around 250,000 barrels of oil per day, since he toppled his uncle in a palace coup in 1979.

NOA, commission unite to maximise lottery benefit

By Romoke W. Ahmad

DIRECTOR General of the National Lottery Regulatory Commission Mr. Peter Igho said lottery is used in many countries to raise funds for the good of the society.

He said lottery is not the game of gamblers, fraudsters, low class people, criminals, grass root people and people who cannot do good as perceived by Nigerians.

He said this during a courtesy call to the Director General of National Orientation Agency (NOA) Alhaji Idi Muhammed Faruk in his office yesterday in Abuja.

Mr. Igho said the visit was aimed at familiarizing the commission with NOA in other to have access to Nigerians and to educate them on why they should change their perception on lottery.

NOA boss Alhaji Idi

Muhammed Faruk promised to put the agency's efforts and materials at the commission's disposal. "We are going to work hand in hand with you since you have assured me of genuine business and that there won't be place for criminals. We also draft a memorandum of understanding that will guide our partnership".

Meanwhile, the NOA has promised to support and partner with the Road Safety Officers Wives Association (ROSOWA) for the attainment of their goal.

NOA DG made this promise yesterday in Abuja when the members of the association visited him.

Earlier, National President of ROSOWA Bar. Chidi Chidoka said the purpose of their visit is to work with the agency in other to contribute their own quota to the development of the nation.

'Intelligence essential to democracy, development'

By Misbahu Bashir

ACCURATE and relevant information is central to democracy and development, the Director Institute for Security Studies (ISS) Toyin Akanle has said.

The director made the remarks during the visit of participant of Course 3 of the institute to the Inspector General of Police Ogbonna Onovo yesterday in Abuja.

He said democracy and development are run by intelligence, which should

be given prominence in policy formulation. The participants were drawn from 18 security outfits including the Police, Department of Security Services, Immigration, Customs and Prison service among others.

The IGP represented by the Deputy Inspector Uba Ringim, said security agencies must share information among themselves to be able to work effectively. "Utilize intelligence very well and verify it even if is false," he said.

US, Nigeria inaugurate binational commission

By Aisha Umar Agaie

UNITED States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Nigerian Secretary to the Government of the Federation Mahmud Yayale Ahmed on Tuesday inaugurated the U.S.-Nigeria Binational Commission to expand mutual cooperation between the two countries.

Nigeria and the United States are forming four working groups to address good governance, transparency, and integrity; energy and investment; food security and agriculture; and, Niger Delta and regional security cooperation, said a statement by the US State Department.

The statement said the two countries plan to launch the good governance, transparency, and integrity working group first, in light of preparations and reforms necessary to ensure Nigeria's 2011 elections are free, fair, and transparent.

The commission is a collaborative forum to build partnerships for tangible and measurable progress on issues critical to our shared future.

The United States establishes such commissions with valued and strategic partners.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, formerly known as **MASTER DAVID BOLUWATIFE ODUKOYA**, now wish to be called **MASTER DAVID BOLUWATIFE JEFFREYS**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.



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The Nigerian Institute of Transport Technology (NITT) wishes to advertise its 2010 short-term training programmes for Continuous Professional Development (CPD) and Manpower Skills improvement in the Transport and logistics industry in Nigeria and the West African Sub-region. The details of the 2010 scheduled and customized short-term training programmes are as follows:-

2010 SCHEDULED SHORT-TERM TRAINING PROGRAMMES

S/N	Programme Title	Dates (2010)	Fees (N)	Venue
1	Transport Journalism and Information Management	April 12-16	45,000.00	Zaria
2	Management of Logistics and Transport Systems	April 12-16	45,000.00	Zaria
3	Labour and Industrial Relations Practice in Transport	April 19-23	45,000.00	Zaria
4	Transport Planning and Management	April 26-30	45,000.00	Zaria
5	Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Management in Transport and Logistics	May 3-7	45,000.00	Zaria
6	Management of Search and Rescue Operations in Transport	May 10-14	45,000.00	Zaria
7	Oil and Gas Logistics Management	May 10-14	45,000.00	Zaria
8	Quality Service Management in Transport and Logistics	May 17-21	45,000.00	Zaria
9	Entrepreneurship in Transport and Logistics	May 17-21	45,000.00	Zaria
10	Fleet management in Road Transport Operations	May 24-28	45,000.00	Zaria
11	International Freight Forwarding Management		45,000.00	Zaria
12	Aviation Safety and Security Management	June 7-11	45,000.00	Zaria
13	Shipping Operations and Management	June 14-18	45,000.00	Zaria
14	Asset Management in Transport Operation	June 14-18	45,000.00	Zaria
15	E-Travel and Documentation Management	June 21-25	45,000.00	Zaria
16	Transit Cargo Safety and Management	June 21-25	45,000.00	Zaria
17	Supervisory Management for Transport Officers, Supervisors and Senior Drivers	June 28-Jul 2	45,000.00	Zaria
18	Port Operations and Management	July 5-9	45,000.00	Zaria
19	Road Traffic Systems Management	July 5-9	45,000.00	Zaria
20	Airport Operation and Management	July 12-16	45,000.00	Zaria
21	Advanced Transport Planning and Strategic Management	July 19-23	45,000.00	Zaria
22	Transport Telecommunication Equipment and Management	July 19-23	45,000.00	Zaria
23	Management of Cabotage Operations	July 26-30	45,000.00	Zaria
24	Highway Accident and Emergency Management	Aug. 2-6	45,000.00	Zaria
25	Administration and Management of Transport Operations	Aug. 2-6	45,000.00	Zaria
26	Search and rescue Operations in Maritime Transport	Aug. 9-13	45,000.00	Zaria
27	Health Safety and Environmental Management in Transport and Logistics	Aug. 16-20	45,000.00	Zaria
28	Transport Law and Practice	Aug. 16-20	45,000.00	Zaria
29	Public-Private Partnership in Transport Infrastructure Development and Management	Aug. 23-27	45,000.00	Zaria
30	Transport and Tourism Management	Aug. 30- Sept 3	45,000.00	Zaria
31	Management of Maritime Safety and Security	Sept. 13-17	45,000.00	Zaria
32	Chief Executive Workshop for Mass Transit Organizations	Sept. 21-24	45,000.00	Abuja
33	Marketing Strategy and Customer Care Services in Transport and Logistics	Oct. 4-8	45,000.00	Zaria
34	Humanitarian Logistics Management	Oct. 11-15	45,000.00	Zaria
35	Transport Policy, Planning and Management	Oct. 11-15	45,000.00	Zaria
36	Cost Reduction Strategies in Logistics and Supply Chain Management	Oct. 18-22	45,000.00	Zaria
37	Transport Project Cycle Management	Oct. 25-29	45,000.00	Zaria
38	Inland Container Depot	Nov. 1-5	45,000.00	Zaria
39	Intermodal freight Transport Management	Nov. 8-12	45,000.00	Zaria
40	Public Procurement Management in Transport	Nov. 22-26	45,000.00	Zaria

2010 CUSTOMISED TRAINING PROGRAMMES:

S/N	Programme Title
1	Railway Transport Operations & Management
2	Inland Waterways Transport Operations and Management
3	Management of Urban Rail Transport Operations
4	Planning and Management of Pipeline Safety and Security
5	Supervisory Management for Locomotive Drivers and Rail Supervisors
6	Rail Transport Terminal Operations and Management
7	Airport Ground Handling Operations Management
8	Conflict Management in Maritime Transport Operations
9	Maritime Policy Control and Management
10	Management of Dock Labour Operations
11	Forklift Operations and Safety Management
12	Defensive Driving & Supervisory Management
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CERTIFICATION:

Participants will be given Certificate of attendance at the end of each training programme. The course fees cover course materials, group lunch, refreshment and certificates. The Institute offers Catering and Accommodation services to interested participants at moderate charges.

For further enquiries please contact the Director General/Chief Executive on 08033712955, 08028137383 or the Head of Training on 08037031959, 07029367088, or write to: The Director General/Chief Executive, Nigerian Institute of Transport Technology (NITT), P.M.B. 1148, Basawa Old Kano Road, Zaria, Kaduna State.

E-mail: officeofthedirector@nitta.gov.ng
Web-site: www.nitt.gov.ng

Signed
M.S. Jimada - Registrar

Why we want to relocate Mile 12 market – LASG

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

THE Lagos State government yesterday gave reasons for its plan to relocate the popular Mile 12 Market in Lagos. The government through the state Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development Abosedè Francisco in a telephone chat with our correspondent yesterday cited non-compliance to environmental laws by traders at the market, the need to make Lagos clean and congestion of the entire area as reasons.

He said the government had approved the relocation of the market, including Akanimodo and Ajelogo markets, all in the same vicinity to a place outside Ikorodu. Francisco said the new site is for the regional foodstuff market in the South-west, adding that it would be built under a Public Private Participation (PPP) arrangement.

He said the new location, about 50 hectares of land was provided for the foodstuffs traders, who are mostly from the Northern part of the country to create more space for them to transact their businesses.

"The traders will be moved when it is time, but the place is not yet conducive for the traders. We will involve traders from Mile 12, Ajelogo market and Akanimodo in the preparation for the relocation. It is not going to be something that would be hurriedly done. It is an on-going thing and it is in the interest of the traders and residents of the state," he said.

He maintained that the action was not exceptional, noting that traders at the Mosafejo Market in Oshodi had been relocated to a befitting place.



DIRECTOR General, National Orientation Agency, Alhaji Idi Farouk (left) with the National President of Road Safety Officers Wives Association, Barrister Chidima Chidoka, during the association's visit to NOA office in Abuja, yesterday.

EFCC vs Bafarawa: Court adjourns till April 22

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

A Sokoto State High Court has adjourned till April 22, 2010, the case brought before it by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) against former Sokoto Governor Attahiru Bafarawa and 17 others.

The High Court presided over by Justice Bello Abbas had on March 17, adjourned the case till yesterday, pending the determination of a motion on stay of action at the Court of Appeal in Sokoto.

When the case came up at the High Court yesterday, EFCC counsel, Jacob Ochidi, told the court that the case was only for mention.

He recalled that when the matter came up on the 17th of last month, the court was informed of the fact that there was a pending appeal filed by one of the accused persons, Chief Umeh, before the Court of Appeal, Sokoto Division to stay

proceedings, pending the determination of the High Court order for his arrest.

Ochidi added that the case was adjourned to yesterday to await the determination of the matter by the Court of Appeal, but that the application was still pending at the Court of Appeal.

He said the motion at the Court of Appeal would be heard on April 15, 2010 and called for adjournment of the matter till April 19 or 20.

Counsel to first respondent, Alhaji Attahiru Bafarawa and 14 others, Abubakar Malami, agreed with the EFCC counsel on the need for an adjournment, but urged the court to adjourn the case till next month, noting that the Court of Appeal had a statutory time frame of three months within which to deliver ruling.

Counsels could not agree on a date and the court imposed April 22, 2010 on them.

21 Fadama associations share N146m

From Abdulfatai Abdulsalami, Sokoto

TWENTY one Fadama associations from the 23 local government areas of Sokoto State on Tuesday received over N146.27 million under the Fadama III project. Governor Aliyu Wamakko gave each group a cheque of N56.38 million.

He also flagged-off the distribution of assorted seedlings and fertilisers worth over N50 million to farmers, saying the gesture was aimed at boosting dry season farming in the state.

"More than 80 per cent of the people of the state are farmers

as such we cannot afford the luxury of neglecting the agriculture sector," he added.

He said the communities of Taloka, Muza, Ballazu, Rarah and Angaba had been selected for a pilot dry season farming project. Wamakko urged the beneficiaries to use the funds and facilities for the purpose they were meant for. Speaking earlier, the state Deputy Governor Alhaji Mukhtari Shagari, who also doubles as the Commissioner for Agriculture said the state government had paid N15 million as takeoff grant for the Fadama III project.

Jigawa allocates land to NNPC for mega stations

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

JIGAWA State government has allocated land to the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) for the establishment of six additional mega stations in the state, the Chairman of the state Land Allocation Committee Alhaji Basiru Nuhu Sanusi has said.

Speaking at the Valedictory session of the DFID's Security, Justice and Growth programme yesterday in Dutse, Alhaji Basiru Nuhu Sanusi said Governor Sule Lamido had already signed the Certificates of Occupancy of the lands allocated to the NNPC and that the C of Os had been

handed over to the NNPC headquarters in Abuja. "I personally took the certificates to the NNPC headquarters in Abuja after they had been signed," he said.

Sanusi, who is also the Galdiman Dutse, added that the new mega stations would be located in Kazaure, Gumel, Hadejia, Ringim, Dutse and Birnin-Kudu respectively, noting that the one to be established in Dutse would be located in Shuwarin, a town close to the state capital.

He urged people, who want to acquire lands in the state to apply for them through the state Ministry of Land; saying government was ready to allocate land to interested persons.

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Kano: 38, Ibrahim Taiwo Road, P.O. Box 2419 Kano. Tel: (081) 6222837, 6222843, 08084040700, 08084141700.
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Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



THE late Hajiya Fatima Ibrahim

Ex-minister Fatima Ibrahim killed in car crash

SHE was extremely down to earth and upright. A good role model for women. May Allah forgive her shortcomings and grant her al-jannah.

Aliyu Yusuf
agyusuf@yahoo.com

We know that her passing will not only leave a void in our lives, but in the hearts of all those who knew her. May Allah grant her Aljaanatul Fiddusi

Bala Musa Toro
balamusatoro@yahoo.com

Rimi died before arriving clinic – Doctor

I believe Rimi's doctor has given too much information about his medical history. The simplest answer he could have given was that he had no heart problems but was a known hypertensive, period. The press doesn't need to know that he had diabetes or had neurologic complications from that or intestinal problems, since it had nothing to do with his cause of death. I am sure not even all his relatives know of such problems and his family won't be happy reading this.

Fatima
tulubabie@hotmail.com

I wonder if the ethics of medicine allows them to speak out to the media about the medical records of their patients. NMA should act fast. It's strange and the family will feel humiliated by that. Where is the oath of confidentiality respected here?

Abubakar
asslere@yahoo.com

Minister: Police force will get better

YOU are welcome on board. It is a security assignment which should be handled with all seriousness. Look at first at the policemen and their problems. Most especially the promotion of Course 2003 ASP at Jos. They were trained for one year, six months like the cadet but debarred from promotion for close to 7 years now. Policemen after them were not given such training because it was reduced to a one-year course and since these people has been allowed to pass through this training, they promotion should be back-dated

Seven-point agenda alive –Jonathan

"OUR efforts in governance must be manifested in the revamping of decaying infrastructure including steady power supply and good roads; provision of sound and quality education; the

good health of our people; provision of jobs for our unemployed youths, security of life and property, commitment to free and fair elections and the very strict adherence to the rule of law."

Please Nigerian the above statement is the promise of the Acting President in his swearing-in speech of the new ministers.

We should follow him to the

conclusion. It is so interesting that our leaders are fully aware of our problems. Let us wait and see if he can deliver.

Muhammad Yusuf
yusudume@yahoo.com

As new Cabinet emerges: Jonathan heads power ministry

ANYTHING is feasible in the wonderland Nigeria. We all recall with 'nostalgia' how Obasanjo held sway as Minister for Petroleum Resources with the claim that it's good for the citizenry except for the incessant fuel price hikes. We hoped the story will be good under Jonathan and we wish him luck as the Power Minister. Time shall tell and reveal all motives!

Dr Abdullahi Adamu
adamuophtha@yahoo.com

Congratulations! Now we have a new cabinet in place. It is our hope that the team would be able



ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan

to impact positively on the lives of Nigerians. Remember, this is a call

to serve and the time will come when you shall be held accountable for your stewardship. Note that the sustainer of the universe watches over everything.

Ndanusa Babakatcha
nbabakatcha@yahoo.com

Power is the most critical sector in the Nigerian economy. It is on this basis that the Acting President decided to take charge of the sector. But Mr Acting President should exercise discretion on what to tell Nigerians about the state of power because his role in pursuing this sector will reflect in his future politics. The Acting

President should also encourage private sector participation in the industry so as to enable the economy have abundant additional power generation through IPP's. While wishing him Good luck, we are desperately looking for improvement in the near future.

Zanna Baruwa Gashua
bukar.zanna@yahoo.com

Is Jonathan taking over the power ministry in order to meet the 6000MW target? Power is a critical sector of any economy. I just hope he gets it right this time.

D.D. Killi, Esq
ddklaws@yahoo.com

Akunyili back to information: No ministers for Health, Water Resources

WITH Hajiya Professor Ruqayyatu Ahmad Rufa'i, I believe the education sector will bounce back to glory and she will prove cynics wrong. We are living witnesses to her records in Jigawa where she was, until her appointment, a commissioner for Education Science and Technology. She is a wonder woman. A Good choice indeed.

Lamara Garba Azare
lamaragarba@yahoo.com

Now that the "cabal" has been eased out, it is time for the arrowhead of rebranding to project the good image of the country and not to engage in making inflammatory

comments. We hope Prof. Akunyili is now a rebranded minister who will lead the cause for rebranding the country.

Ibrahim Tsadu Ibrahi
elkutigi@gmail.com

Events happening in this country clearly show that Jonathan is running a separate government entirely different from Umaru's. I wonder if they were elected on a joint ticket. Any way we are all eyes.

Hafizu Murtala
mhafizu@yahoo.com

We congratulate Act. Presi-

dent Goodluck Jonathan for the progress achieved so far in moving the country forward. As he warned the new Ministers, let him keep his words by dealing with mediocrity and poor performance. Let him also watch those with corrupt tendencies and expose them like his boss, Yar'adua did to his first EXCO. As the new Minister for Power he should know that Nigerians will judge his government's performance through the ministry. Poor power supply means poor performance. Total blackout means total failure.

H. I. Rogo
papaharuna09@gmail.com

Ribadu may return to Nigeria 'within weeks'

I don't get this. We should learn to be dispassionate in getting things done in this country and stop playing to the gallery. Ribadu has a case to answer and government withdrew the charges. Why? This same man has no moral rights to say EFCC has made no gains in the last two years. At least Bode George whom he gave a clean bill of health is in the cooler right now. Waziri may not be the best anti-corruption czar, but Ribadu definitely is far from the ideal.

Akpo
akposebinum@yahoo.com

United States wants Iwu replaced

IN as much as Nigerian are unanimous that for the ongoing electoral reforms to succeed Prof. Iwu must go, we don't need the interference of the US in the internal affairs of Nigeria.

Ibrahim Tsadu Ibrahi
elkutigi@gmail.com

US calling for Iwu's head! Please how many ballot boxes were stuffed by Iwu, how many and where did Iwu intimidate voters? I think we are missing the point. If we want flawless elections then we need to change the mindset of politicians who view elections as 'do or die' affairs.

Muhammad Guiwa
dunguza3@hotmail.com

The passing of a conservative radical

A national shame- armed robbery led to the death of this national icon. Nigerians would really like to know the real details behind his death. The underlying consequences of this legend's death are just about to be felt.

Abubakar Umar
whatlegacy@yahoo.com

Ladan replaces Barkindo as NNPC boss

MASHA Allah! Now we might see a better NNPC with Alhaji Shehu Ladan who had being a part of the system for years at the helm.

Saleh Maitala
smaitala93@yahoo.com

It's my hope that the coming of

Ladan into this position will help in solving the nation's petroleum scarcity problem. I also wish him good luck and a successful tenure in his new office.

Abubakar Chika Maru
abubakarsuleiman2009@yahoo.com

Are all these changes necessary or Goodluck is just hell-bent on changing all things that Yar'adua put in place whether good or irrelevant? Nigerians need to know this.

Aliyu Mohammed
aleemo05@yahoo.com

Fulanis demand to know why Beroms always attack them

I enjoyed the coming togetherness of Berom and Fulani people for the sake of establishing lasting peace in Jos. Let such meetings not cease. They should continue to enlighten and point out the real problems endangering the people of Jos and others. Thank you Daily Trust.

Joseph Jeriel Jessu
jerieldeleh@yahoo.com

I don't think there is any reason behind the attack of Fulanis by

Berom people. Even though there are political and social reasons that are militating against the peaceful coexistence of these communities but the perpetrators that have other things up their sleeves and must be brought to justice so that peace will reign. Let us put away from us all these menace. Let us live in peace and harmony as good Nigerians.

Zanna Baruwa Gashua
bukar.zanna@yahoo.com

Idang Alibi

idangalibi@dailytrust.com; 08036938729

Time to do away with the celibacy law (II)

I know that if priests marry as all reasonable men have been advocating, some of them, like all humans, will still commit sexual sins. After all some mischievously hold that it is in the very nature of man to sin and it is the vocation of God to forgive sins. Yes, many priests will still commit sexual and other sins, but as I argued in the first part, sexual sins like adultery, fornication and even incest are, in my view, more 'tolerable' and more 'forgivable' than sodomy, homosexuality, lesbianism and pederasty or the sexual abuse of children.

I am not sure now whether what they used to teach us in catechism class about sins not having grades or degrees, is correct. That what we human may see as a small sin is as grievous as a big one. But after reading the Bible I am not too sure again because I see that some sins are described as 'abomination' to God. Some are said to be 'detestable' to him; some are 'utterly detestable'; some are an 'infraction'; some are a 'transgression'. Adultery and fornication may be detestable while sodomy, paedophilia, lesbianism are utter abomination to God, I would prefer that priests are accused of the more 'normal' adultery and fornication than that they are so often charged of sins that are an abomination to God.

I am not sure now whether what they used to teach us in catechism class about sins not having grades or degrees, is correct

It would be easier for God to forgive those other 'smaller' sins than the very 'big' ones that they have become notorious for. The embarrassing truth which should worry every true Christian today is that priests are becoming the greatest pederasts and practitioners of sodomy in the world than even ordinary men like us. This is unacceptable.

Yes, priests may be guilty of sexual or other sins even if they marry but I think that their disposition to especially sexual sins will reduce significantly. Why do I reason so? They will not be completely open to the Devil to tempt them to descend to the level they do now. Secondly, they will always be conscious of the fact that they are being watched by their parishioners and the public at large to see if they are a good example or not.

Another reason I advocate that the celibacy law be done away with so that priests can marry is that I want them to have an opportunity to have a healthy sexual life that is fulfilling, therapeutic and pleasing to God and which will also give them the mental balance to serve the flock. Then, they will not be plagued by guilt feelings as they surely do when they engage in those detestable sex practices that God frowns seriously against. For the umpteenth time, let me repeat that God is not against sex between approved partners.

Celibacy, or rather its consequences, is bringing too much embarrassment to

the church. For centuries now since the adoption of that practice the sexual proclivities of priests have brought shame and reproach upon the church. Many popes, bishops and priests have been known to have fathered children some of whom later became popes, bishops and priests. Some were manipulated into the offices of emperors, dukes and duchesses. And since the law of social reproduction must take place we can only guess that the cycle will continue unless the root of the problem is addressed.

On August 15, 2008, a former Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of San Pedro, Paraguay, Fernando Armindo Lugo, became president of the country. It soon came to light that he had fathered so many children across the country, some with poor widows. As each day passed, more and more revelations were coming out about the things former Father Lugo did that he ought not to have done. The matter was becoming so embarrassing by the day that some mischievous wag in the country said that in order to put a dignified end to the sordid details coming out about the past sexual life of former Father Lugo he should simply be called the "Father of all Paraguayans". What a way to 'summarize' an unpalatable matter!

The series of paternity suits filed against President Lugo did much to dent his well earned reputation as the "Bishop of the Poor".

When priests commit abominable sexual acts, they are not only polluting themselves, they are also polluting their congregation and also defiling the land. Priests are supposed to be a people holy and pure and called to serve God who never tires of reminding us that "I am holy". A priest must be known for true piety, purity of deeds and un-defilement. Priests defile themselves by committing homosexuality either with male adults or innocent boys.

Let us now also consider the issue from the purely social point of view. Priests who do not marry yet who go ahead to father children are contributing greatly to social ills. In the earlier case of the current president of Paraguay we cited, what pained some people was not just that he had failed but that he was reported to have neglected paying upkeep allowance to the numerous mothers of the children he fathered. This means of course that some of these priests-fathered children will constitute social nuisance.

It is unfair that priests who are supposed to help curtail social ills are the very people who add to them by a lifestyle that is not decreed by God but designed by man to achieve a spiritual purpose which for centuries has not been archived.

What of the spiritual fate of bastard children? Now, God made it clear that bastards should not be allowed to enter the Congregation of his people up to the fourth generation. This means of course that the spiritual lives or destiny of bastards fathered by priests or anyone else will be destroyed for no fault of the innocent children.

From the purely practical human level I see a big lie in a priest who is himself not married trying to teach the congregation about marriage.

By Okachikwu Dibia

Jos, Gaddafi and Nigeria's federalism

Those familiar with the cause of the crises in Jos, Plateau State, would not be surprised at the rent killings that took place there. The problem is a result of the refusal of Nigeria's rulers to allow the different and diverse ethnic nationalities that make up the country, to gather as equals, discuss and determine WHY and HOW they can live together. The nations of Nigeria must do this discussion in order to correct the mistake and imposition of the 1914 amalgamation, strengthen the ethnic nationalities in their quest to develop, recognized as equals, voluntarily agree to become Nigeria and prepare their own constitution. This will reduce the aggressive domination by the big three ethnic groups, reduce suspicion and embrace one another. If this is done, we will discover that there is nothing fundamentally wrong with ethnicity. The nations of Nigeria must gather and do this discussion otherwise the killings may continue.

Today it is Jos, yesteryears it was Aba women's riot of 1929, Tiv riots, the election crisis of Western Nigeria, nine military coups between 1966 and 1993, Kano riots of 1966, Isaac Adaka Boro's Niger Delta uprising, Nigeria-Biafra civil war of 1967-1970, Maitasine uprising, Zangon-Kataf killings, Umuleri-Aguleri clashes, Ife-Modakeke

To the ordinary natives in these minorities, these must be resisted, no matter how subtle and small

killings, Tiv-Jukun-Idoma crisis, Ogoni genocide and counter-genocide, OPC killings, Urhobo-Itsekiri-Ijaw killings, Choba killings and rapes, Odi genocide, Umuechem killings, Rumuekpe killings, Niger Delta crisis, Boko Haram, etc. These are the manifestations of the problem and they will continue in different shapes and shades, cloaks and appearances until the discussion of Nigeria by Nigerian nations (not the national or state assembly as constituted today) is given a sincere chance.

Because of the way these manifestations appear people, in error, blame ethnic intolerance. Some out of deep ignorance will claim that there is nothing like ethnic nationality; yet they forget that in the literature of the science of leadership (Political Science), Nigeria is a state, not a nation. It is those composite ethnic groups that are correctly called nations. How could these different nations trust themselves when they deeply suspect each other and do not respect or give due recognition to each other? These are things that must be discussed, agreed on and let to evolve; they cannot be by fiat or decree. But the big three (Yoruba, Hausa-Fulani and Igbo) will insist that Nigeria be run as it is today because they are forcefully dominating and are in-charge. They have labelled the rest of Nigeria as minority

ethnic groups who must be led, controlled, exploited, dominated and marginalized. To the ordinary natives in these minorities, these must be resisted, no matter how subtle and small. So, it is in the course of the minority native Berom relating with the mighty Hausa-Fulani in Jos that the conflict is automatically ignited and killings follow. This type of resistance by the commoners at the local level does not bring cash into the pockets of the locals; rather it brings destruction of properties and killing of human beings: characteristics of a true clash of two different ideas or interests.

On the other hand, elites from these marginalized minorities resist it by arguing for resource control, one Nigeria, human and women rights, reduction in HIV/AIDS prevalence, reproductive healthcare that favours abortion and sex education for infants, nude and indecent behaviours, fiscal federalism, building of infrastructure, even development, fanning the embers of indigene-settler hatred and other pseudo solution that will always put more unholy cash into their pockets.

They have insisted on resource control instead of resource development; creation of states and local governments instead of ethnic states; federal character and zoning systems instead of self determination for the ethnic states; building of infrastructure (their easiest and cheapest means to transient dubious wealth) instead of guaranteeing development rights to the nations of Nigeria; RBDA-OMPADEC-NDDC-Ministry of the Niger Delta instead of resources and talents development via free education; state extra-judicial killings instead of engaging them in extensive discussions, enlightenment and dialogue through the Sovereign National Conference (SNC). The SNC will not lead to the break-up of Nigeria; rather, it will consolidate it.

Another dubious solution from some Nigerian elites is that there should be nothing called indigenes in Nigeria because every group migrated here. But who migrated here first? They neglect this question and proceed to argue that single citizenship is the solution to ethnic hatred and suspicions. But Nigerian citizenship must evolve from ethnic Nigeria. This was why Carl Fredrick, one of the key scholars of federalism said that federalism is a process of disaggregating and aggregating the characters of the societies that make up the federal state. Therefore, it is immoral and unacceptable to dissolve the blood of my ethnicity in me and inject Nigeria into me without my consent. What should be done is to recognize my ethnicity, allow and guarantee it within one Nigeria. This way the nations of Nigeria will develop themselves based on what they are and have; and they will gather as equals at the centre to celebrate the real beauty of unity in diversity. This is the case in the European Union (EU) today. The EU is an evolution from ethnic Europe. EU cannot be united first before the unity of its component units; rather, the units will unite first and move that unity of the differences to form the unity of the EU.

Dibia wrote Abuja; he can be reached at nelsondibiaokachi@yahoo.com



Your Letters

Send your letters to letters@dailytrust.com

Prof Rukayya Rufa'i: Round peg in round hold

The recent reconstitution of the Federal Executive Council has rekindled hopes in the hearts of Nigerians, going by the calibre of its members, especially the newly appointed ministers among them.

For instance, the appointment of Professor Rukaiyyatu Rufa'i as the new Minister of Education can be seen as a deserved and welcome development.

Professor Rufa'i is a renowned academic who spent her career life in teaching and educational administration. For one who knows her character and antecedence, especially when she served as Commissioner of Education in Jigawa State (the post she held till her current appointment) her current appointment would not come as surprise. This is because for the three years she held that portfolio, the education sector in the state got revamped and transformed in a way that the sector started making rapid progress after it had been in comatose for long – thanks to her no-nonsense posture and strict observance of

the rules and procedures of government business. Her habit of making frequent, unannounced visits to schools across the state has helped in small measure, because it made both the teachers and administrators wake up to their responsibilities. Throughout her tenure as a commissioner in the state she was always busy – running from this end to the other just to ensure that nothing went amiss under her supervision. In fact, she gave her body and soul to her job.

Hamisu Gumel,, Limawa Quarters, Gumel, Jigawa State. (hamisugumel@yahoo.com)

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Gone too soon

WITH the approaching 2011 elections, Rimi's death has created political vacuum in Nigeria. He was a great and fearless politician; in fact he was a role model to the present generation. May his soul rest in peace, ameen, DAUDA Chul, 08068934435.

Fulani on why they're targeted in Jos

THE question came at the right place and time. The meeting was at the instance of Gbong Gwom Jos, who seeks peace in the domain, the venue is his palace in the presence of all stakeholders. Let no one apportion blame but allow the cause to be traced for possible solution. It seems both sides are tired of shedding blood considering the number in attendance. DANGALADIMA, Sokoto, 08035498125.

Akunyili is pragmatic!

I think if you want to get exalted and espoused, do not play by the rules and norms! Just flatter your boss very well! I was anticipating, she would be posted to the Minis-

try of Special Duties, considering her experience in the Yar'adua's kitchen/cabinet! MAARUF Ibrahim, Abuja, 08034537022.

A language policy please

IT'S clear now that language, among other factors, constitutes a barrier to our development. Let's take a cue from India, China etc and make knowledge easily understandable by localizing our medium of instruction in schools and translating textbooks; because you can never develop using someone else's language. We need to revive the project of the veteran educationist, Prof. Fafunwa. It's not late. IBRAHIM Suleiman, 08037013848.

Mixed blessings

NIGERIA is blessed with abundant natural and human resources which if channelled properly will enable Nigerians live a life of comfort comparable to Western standards. The problem of Nigeria is also cursed elites whose stock in trade stealing those resources and stashing away. Our problem is no north

or south, east or west, Muslim or Christian, but those thieves bent on siphoning of the resources of the people. It's a furlong hope, but we pray that the newly sworn ministers will not fail us ordinary Nigerians. HASSAN Rilwanu, 08035892292.

Those Abuja speed bumps!

NEW FCT Minister should note that any attempt to hastily remove speed bumps in FCT without a proper study will raise the accident rate astronomically again, as our attitudes have not changed. Some people may want to cover the speed they have lost in previous months. LIVINUS Kanwai, Abuja, 07068156281.

No bones!

MADONNA is truly a daughter of Africa. BOLA Bajju, FCT, 08085922759.

Validating Gaddafi

LET'S not make Gaddafi look as if he is not mad! Why is it that the first sets of people to visit Yar'adua are along religious lines? DR LEO, 08032016425.



By Mohammed Awwalu Ibro

Re: Jonathan's dangerous quest for absolute powers

Daily Trust published an article, *Jonathan's dangerous quest for absolute powers* on Thursday, April 1, 2010, credited to one Ibrahim Abdul Mohammed, in which he poured some very biased, mundane issues on the Acting president. This is a response.

First, the dissolution of the immediate past Federal Executive Council was as a result of the misgivings of some of the former ministers that had constituted themselves into a treacherous cabal, that was heating the very peaceful existence and fibre of this great country; the same cabal that had tried in vain to block Jonathan from taking over as acting president.

This same cabal that is known to have formed a devious power block within a power, a highly mendacious cabal that had also created a serious division in the FEC, a situation never experienced in the history of leadership in Nigeria.

The best action (dissolution of FEC) that Jonathan took was the wisest thing he could have done at this material moment, choosing to appoint more vibrant persons that share in his vision for reforming and moving the country forward.

It seems that if Ibrahim Abdul his and co-conspirators like it or not, Jonathan will consolidate his hold on power with the immense delivery of services and developmental projects to Nigerians, this I trust him to do.

Contrary to the pessimistic view that was spread by Ibrahim Abdul claiming that the Acting president is bereft of any pedigree for any kind of service delivery or developmental projects, it is variable and on record that under Jonathan as Governor of Bayelsa, plenty of achievements were recorded in the form of monumental projects and service delivery even surpassing those of his predecessor in office.

It is rather unfortunate for writers to twist facts just to justify their cynical views, otherwise how can one say that "Jonathan has willingly credited a precedence that will turn out to be the norm with regards to the hijack of power in a blatant and cynical manner". Jonathan's ascension to the position of acting president is as a result of the provision of the constitution, nothing more, and this was effected to that by the senate based on Yar'adua's illness.

So what is all this wolf and public outcry about? This mendacious writer even went ahead to say that if "Jonathan succeeds then a civilian will have orchestrated the first coup in a democratic setting", Ibrahim has just shown his cynical disposition, and the contempt he has for Goodluck Jonathan, and basically he must be amongst the group that never wanted Jonathan to be Acting president, if that situation had happened then it would have led this country down the path of anarchy, and presumably war.

Ibrahim Abdul should have been more forth coming with the identities of people he claims hatched a plan when he made the spurious allegation that a plan was hatched a long time ago by persons he claim had run the country down from eight years (1999-2007) of dismal governance; what a baseless and absurd assertion. The only issue that centres on Jonathan's mind now is how to get the country functioning optimally rather than having any vain desire to bulldoze Yar'adua out of office, another glaring plot to disparage the Acting president.

Nigerians have already reflected on the unfolding events and, based on Jonathan's sincerity, if purpose that is highly unquestionable; he has received a tremendous and overwhelming support from all the zones of this country. The Acting president from exceeding indigestion is only interested in reforming and developing this country in line with the policies of the current administrations.

It is rather unfortunate for anyone to speculate that the recently appointed ministers do not have anything to offer; from my point of view just like the vast majority of Nigerians, the ministers will optimally perform to the amazement of Nigerians, going by their individual intelligence past performances in their related fields and the collective will in ensuring that they record an insurmountable level of growth and development in shortest possible time.

Based on the future changes we will witness soon, it will be carried out via a wide consultation with major stakeholders at all levels and, and it will definitely be predicated on moving the country forward, just like all other decisions and changes the Acting president has done recently, this goes contrary to what Ibrahim Abdul believes to be service to a few.

Ibro is of Northern Youths for True Democracy, 17, Adisa Estate, Abuja (mohammedawwalu_ibro@mail.com)

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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A judge's bad example

Not just the judiciary, but the nation was recently embarrassed by the crude conduct of a judge of the Bauchi High Court. According to reports, the judge, Justice Idris Habib Shall, decided to take a matter before him and opted on a rather peculiar out-of-court settlement. Apparently, Justice Shall was the subject of a petition addressed to his superiors. Rather than availing himself of the process of which he is a key part, the judge resorted to self-help by engaging the petitioner, one Kassim Danlami, in physical combat. In a brawl that took place in public, Shall was further alleged to have attempted to kidnap Danlami and stuff him into the boot of his car.

It is disappointing that Justice Shall failed to appreciate his status in the society as someone who ought to be a role model among his peers in the legal profession both in and out of Bauchi state. Even more disappointing was his failure to grasp the gravity of his action before he took it. Therefore, to have engaged in a public brawl betrayed his emotional instability, which also cast doubts on his mental uprightness to continue to adjudicate over cases. This rather unorthodox conduct of the judge again highlights the several allegations of misdemeanour being perpetrated by judicial personnel in the country as most of such cases go unnoticed. However, we commend the prompt decision by the National Judicial Council (NJC) to suspend Justice Shall.

Furthermore his alleged attempt to kidnap a fellow citizen in broad daylight requires further inquiry and possible prosecution beyond whatever disciplinary measure the NJC may be contemplating to take against him. His position as a judge notwithstanding, we expect the police to investigate the matter thoroughly and bring him to book if found culpable. His action should not be allowed to stand, lest it is seen a reflection of the nation's public service. Until action is taken, many like him would continue to take the law into their hands as long as they know that they can get away with it. This is the only way Nigerians would rekindle and sustain their hope in the judiciary and the rule of law.

The NJC should further intensify action and beam its searchlight on the activities of judges in the country. Reports of judges committing infractions and other illegal acts in and out of court and getting away with it should be investigated by the body. These allegations abound, especially at the lower rungs of the judicial ladder, where judges are often accused of either having affairs with their female staff or granting divorce in controversial circumstances. There are instances where judges at the lower court allegedly granted divorce only to turn round later to marry the woman involved in the case.

On the other hand, the public should be encouraged to speak up or report cases of misdemeanours by judges, especially when such issues border on human rights. It is only by so doing that such flaws in our judicial system would be minimised. If the law is no respecter of persons, that maxim should apply equally on officers of the law.

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Politics, gender and political party regulation

Civil Society Watch

By Hajiya Bilkisu (mni)

The Gender and Affirmative Action (GAA) is a coalition of government and nongovernmental organisations and partners working for the implementation of affirmative action in Nigeria. They are concerned about the marginalisation of women in politics and decision making positions in all spheres although the National Gender Policy stipulates that 35% of elective and appointive positions should be reserved for women. The coalition is working for the actualization of this and focusing on increasing the number of women in politics and public life. Prominent members of the GAA are the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, the National Centre for Women Development, Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA), Women Aid Collective (WACOL), Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre (CIRD-DOC) and several others. As one of its strategies for achieving its objective of increasing the number of women in political party structures and membership, the GAA established a high powered Lobby Group of activists to engage with political parties. My humble self is privileged to be the Chair of the Group. On Monday March 22nd 2010, the GAA and Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (FMWASD) which is funding a Zonal Women's Political Empowerment Project jointly organised a meeting to inaugurate the Lobby Group, validate its terms of reference and develop the work plan for the group's activities.

The one day meeting was held at the Onyx Hotel in Abuja. The staff of the GAA, Secretariat, Wumi Asabioro, Rabi Abdullahi and the Executive Director of WRAPA, Hajiya Saudatu Mahdi welcomed participants as they arrived. They included officials of the FMWASD, members of political parties, women aspirants, members of the Lobby Group. The Deputy Director, Women Affairs, FMWASD Mrs. Ajulu presented the welcome address on behalf of the Director Women affairs Mrs. Esther Adeyemi. She traced the history of the Women Political Empowerment project and the various capacity building workshops it has been organising for women aspirants and candidates. She urged all the members to increase their advocacy activities as we approach an election year. There was a validation of MOU by lobbyists followed by plenary discussions on strategies for dialoguing with political parties. Three resource persons presented papers on various aspects on the topic *Enhancing Capacities of Female Politicians*.

Mrs. Felicia Onibon of Abuja based Change Managers, presented a paper on issue identification, while Mrs. Abiola Akiode Afolabi of Lagos based WARD -C presented a paper

her opening statements, good will messages were received from the array of development partners that have been supporting the GAA in its activities.

Among them were, the Head of Cooperation at CIDA, the Programme Coordinator at the Coalitions for Change C4C, the UNIFEM representative. Other partners listed were the National Democratic Institute NDI, the International Republican Institute IRI and the Open Society Initiative for West Africa OSIWA.

A Gender and Democracy and Governance consultant, Mr. Jide Ojo presented a paper on *Gender Gains in Political Party Regulation* while Abiola Akiode Afolabi presented a paper on *Women in Political Party Structures: The Way*

The coalition is working for the actualization of this and focusing on increasing the number of women in politics and public life

Lobby Group.

The following day, March 23 2010, the Participants moved to the Sheraton Hotel for another GAA event which was a Public Dialogue on 'Political Party Regulation: Gender Perspectives' which was supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The dialogue attracted male and female frontline affirmative action activists and high profile women politicians. Among them were the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Women Affairs, Distinguished Senator Eme Ufot Ekaette; the Chairperson of the House of Representatives Committee on Women in Parliament, Honourable Nkiru Onyiajocha, Honourable Idia Babalola of the Osun State House of Assembly; the Deputy Director Human Resources, representing the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development; the first female speaker in Nigeria, Honourable Margaret Icheen of Benue State; female political activists and women leaders; male and female representatives from political parties, members of the press; representatives from INEC and civil society representatives.

The meeting, which was convened as part of an ongoing GAA/CIDA collaboration on gender and political party regulation' sought to present for general stakeholder input, the feedback from the respective dialogues between GAA and the leadership of political parties while also creating space for further stakeholder dialogue on the issue of gender within the context of political participation. The opening ceremony was chaired by Senator Ekaette and after

Forward. Chief Josephine Anenih, the former Woman Leader of the People's Democratic Party PDP and now Women Affairs Minister, was the discussant of the two papers. This was followed by an interactive forum and a session on commitments towards achieving gender parity in political parties which was made by the representatives of the political parties. At the end of the dialogue, participants issued a communiqué demanding the following:

- In addition to the position of women leaders, more women should be included within the top hierarchy of the leadership of political parties and party policy committees. Additionally, it should be mandatory for associations seeking to be registered as political parties to include women as 20% membership of their proposed governing bodies.

- Political parties should comply with the respective provisions on gender parity reflected in their party manifestoes as well as other policy documents which Nigeria has committed itself to on female political representation

- The ongoing Ministerial appointment process should recognize and comply with the 35% minimum female representation recommended in the National Gender Policy

- The National Assembly should prioritize the representation of women in the leadership of political parties as part of the electoral reform agenda

- The unbundling of INEC by the creation of a Political Party Registration and Regulatory Commission (PPRRC) to register and monitor political parties while INEC will concentrate on the conduct of elections



The Nigerian Society of Engineers KANO BRANCH

Invites
The General Public

3rd ANNUAL ENGR. SALIH ILIASU MEMORIAL LECTURE

Topic: **AJAKUTA STEEL CO. LTD.**
The Bedrock of Nigeria's Industrialization

Special Guest of Honour:
His Excellency, **MALAM (DR.) IBRAHIM SHEKARAU**
Sardaunan Kano
Executive Governor, Kano State

Chairman of the Occasion:
AVM (Dr.) Nura Imam, CFR
Chairman, Julius Berger Nig. Plc

Guest Speaker:
Engr. Ibrahim Khaleel Inuwa, FNSE, OFR
Past President, NSE, Past President, COREN

DATE: Saturday, 10th April, 2010
TIME: 10:00am prompt
VENUE: Tahir Guest Palace, Kano

R.S.V.P
ENGR. A. A. RABIU, FNSE
Cigarin Lafia
VICE PRESIDENT, NSE

Inna Lillahi Wa 'Inna Ilaihir Raji 'un



*I*t is with deep sense of loss but with total submission to the Almighty Allah that we announce the sudden death of our amiable patron, Alhaji (Dr) Mohammed Abubakar Rimi CON which sad event occurred on the 4th of April, 2010 and was buried on the 5th of April, 2010.

Sir, even in death you remain the people's hero, bold, courageous, steadfast, honest, dedicated, principled and truthful to cause of Nigeria and Nigerians.

With us at WTS we will miss your condor, experience, moral uprightness and uncompromising stand on probity as well as accountability in our business.

We are consoled that you lived a fulfilled life.

*Adieu Rimi the TITAN
Adieu Rimi the man of the masses
Rest in peace the masses political gladiator*

Late Alhaji (Dr) Mohammed Abubakar Rimi CON

Signed:

Otunba Ayodeji Osibogun
For: **WTS BROADCAST LTD**



CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA

PRESS STATEMENT

RE: ANXIETY OVER INCREASED DEMAND FOR FOREX

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has noted with concern the above captioned story published in one of the national dailies over the weekend and, has, therefore, decided to correct the misrepresentation of the facts contained therein, which is capable of creating unnecessary panic in the foreign exchange market because of the sensitivity of financial markets to news/information. The analysis as contained in that story clearly demonstrates either a lack of an in-depth ability to properly analyse the data or a deliberate attempt to misinform or misrepresent the facts and, consequently create unnecessary panic/confusion in the market place.

First, the corollary drawn by the publication between falling interest rates and the reluctance of banks to grant credit to the real sector and the upsurge in the demand for foreign

exchange is at best conjectures that are not supported by empirical facts. Indeed, the author himself acknowledged this in his write-up, as the series of interviews conducted by him failed to produce any concrete evidence to support his claim.

Second, for the avoidance of doubt, the CBN has sufficient foreign exchange reserve to meet the demand at the foreign exchange market and, indeed, has been doing so, except in a few cases where such demands have been adjudged to be speculative, as the attached table on weekly auctions in the first quarter of 2010 shows (see Table 1). There is, therefore, no justification whatsoever to raise any alarm where none exists. CBN has US\$40.48 billion in foreign exchange reserves as at April 1, 2010, which is sufficient to finance 17 months of import, far in excess of the internationally-accepted three (3) months requirement.

TABLE 1: WDAS SALES FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 TO April 7, 2010

S/N	Date	Amount offered (US\$)	Amount Demanded (US\$)	Actual Sales at WDAS	Closing Rate
1	WDAS No. 01 of 04/01/2010	200,000,000.00	122,046,621.26	122,046,621.26	147.6000
2	WDAS No. 02 of 06/01/2010	100,000,000.00	153,813,880.00	100,000,000.00	147.9100
3	WDAS No. 03 of 11/01/2010	150,000,000.00	313,720,606.69	150,000,000.00	148.4100
4	WDAS No. 04 of 13/01/2010	250,000,000.00	333,506,899.64	250,000,000.00	148.8300
5	WDAS No. 05 of 18/01/2010	350,000,000.00	356,350,053.65	350,000,000.00	148.0300
6	WDAS No. 06 of 20/01/2010	150,000,000.00	182,405,154.96	150,000,000.00	148.1300
7	WDAS No. 07 of 25/01/2010	150,000,000.00	318,924,124.09	150,000,000.00	148.8300
8	WDAS No. 08 of 27/01/2010	250,000,000.00	418,383,840.65	250,000,000.00	148.8300
9	WDAS No. 09 of 01/02/2010	250,000,000.00	280,551,010.97	250,000,000.00	149.0000
10	WDAS No. 10 of 03/02/2010	300,000,000.00	316,273,773.54	300,000,000.00	148.9400
11	WDAS No. 11 of 08/02/2010	250,000,000.00	257,276,534.96	250,000,000.00	148.9400
12	WDAS No. 12 of 10/02/2010	250,000,000.00	218,048,165.79	218,048,165.79	148.6000
13	WDAS No. 13 of 15/02/2010	250,000,000.00	206,304,724.53	206,304,724.53	148.4800
14	WDAS No. 14 of 17/02/2010	150,000,000.00	271,862,956.05	150,000,000.00	148.7100
15	WDAS No. 15 of 22/02/2010	250,000,000.00	289,210,489.60	250,000,000.00	148.6000

16	WDAS No. 16 of 24/02/2010	250,000,000.00	271,240,257.08	250,000,000.00	148.6100
17	WDAS No. 17 of 01/03/2010	250,000,000.00	176,633,828.18	176,633,828.18	148.4100
18	WDAS No. 18 of 03/03/2010	200,000,000.00	243,406,406.97	200,000,000.00	148.3100
19	WDAS No. 19 of 08/03/2010	250,000,000.00	242,183,471.29	242,183,471.29	148.3100
20	WDAS No. 20 of 10/03/2010	250,000,000.00	174,307,534.58	174,307,534.58	148.2500
21	WDAS No. 21 of 15/03/2010	200,000,000.00	278,471,911.86	200,000,000.00	148.3500
22	WDAS No. 22 of 17/03/2010	200,000,000.00	267,810,550.81	200,000,000.00	148.4000
23	WDAS No. 23 of 22/03/2010	200,000,000.00	182,110,626.54	171,850,626.54	148.3100
24	WDAS No. 24 of 24/03/2010	200,000,000.00	106,090,106.25	70,040,106.25	148.3000
25	WDAS No. 25 of 29/03/2010	150,000,000.00	252,450,315.88	150,000,000.00	148.5100
26	WDAS No. 26 of 31/03/2010	250,000,000.00	157,770,035.74	157,770,035.74	148.3000
27	WDAS No. 27 of 7/04/2010	250,000,000.00	209,830,594.64	209,830,594.64	148.2500

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For anyone to draw the kind of conclusions reached by the author of the article, it is important to examine trends and indicators of the operations in the foreign exchange market. These key trends and indicators include:

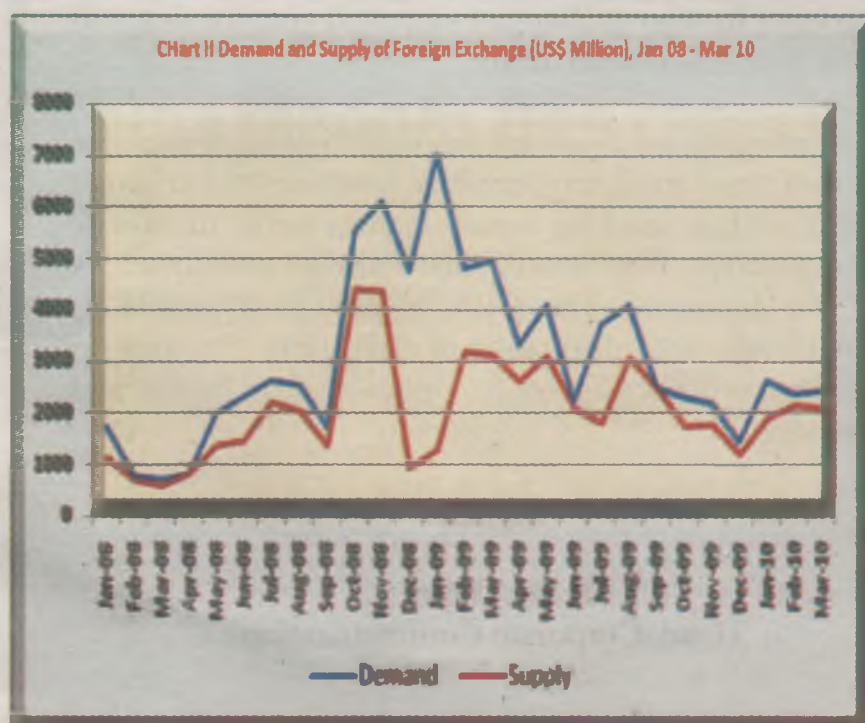
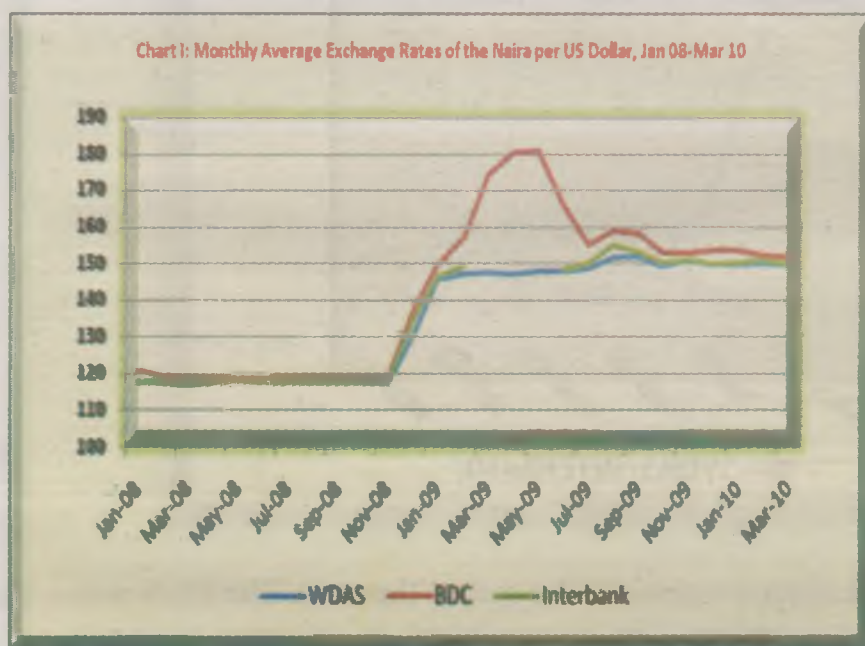
- The demand profile at the foreign exchange market over a period of time;
- Exchange rate movement during the same period; and
- Exchange rate premium between the WDAS rate and the rates in the other two segments of the foreign exchange market.

When the impact of the global financial crisis on the Nigerian economy became manifest during the last quarter of 2008, the foreign exchange market witnessed severe pressure as capital repatriation by institutional foreign investors rose sharply and consumers of foreign exchange began to speculate against the backdrop of declining crude oil prices, declining foreign exchange inflow and falling reserves, among other factors. For instance, in a single auction on December 3, 2008, the demand for foreign exchange shot up to US\$1.5 billion to reflect the demand pressure at that point in time. As a consequence, the exchange rate also depreciated sharply during the last quarter of 2008 from N117.72/\$ as at October 3, 2008 to N132.56/\$ as at December 10, 2008. The demand pressure continued into early 2009 and to moderate the pressure, the CBN had to reintroduce the Retail Dutch Auction System (RDAS) in February 2009; this along with other policy measures substantially moderated demand in the first quarter of 2009.

At the height of the demand pressure, the amount demanded in the first quarter of 2009 was US\$15,436.25 million (average demand of US\$441.04 million for the 35 auction sessions), while actual sales amounted to US\$6,642.11 million (average sales of US\$255.47 million for the 35 auction sessions). On the other hand, the demand in the first quarter of 2010 amounted to US\$6,391.15 million (average demand of US\$245.81 million for the 26 auction sessions), while actual sales were US\$5,139.19 million (average demand of US\$197.66 million for the 26 auction sessions). The corresponding average exchange rate for the first quarter of 2009 was N145.41/\$ while that of the first quarter of 2010 was N148.45/\$, largely reflecting the continued confidence and clarity in expectation engendered by the stability in the foreign exchange market and stability of the exchange rate itself. The marginal depreciation that was witnessed between the first quarter of 2009 and first quarter 2010 confirms the relative stability in the market contrary to the impression which the publication attempted to portray.

Indeed, a cursory examination of the exchange rate trend in the various auction sessions between the first quarter of 2009 and the first quarter 2010 further buttresses this point. Even if a comparison is made between the fourth quarter 2009 data and the first quarter 2010 data as the author of the article did, the figures actually shows an appreciation of the exchange rate from an average of N148.58/\$ to N148.45/\$, notwithstanding the comparatively lower demand, usually a seasonal pattern, in quarter 4, 2009 relative to the demand in quarter 1, 2010.

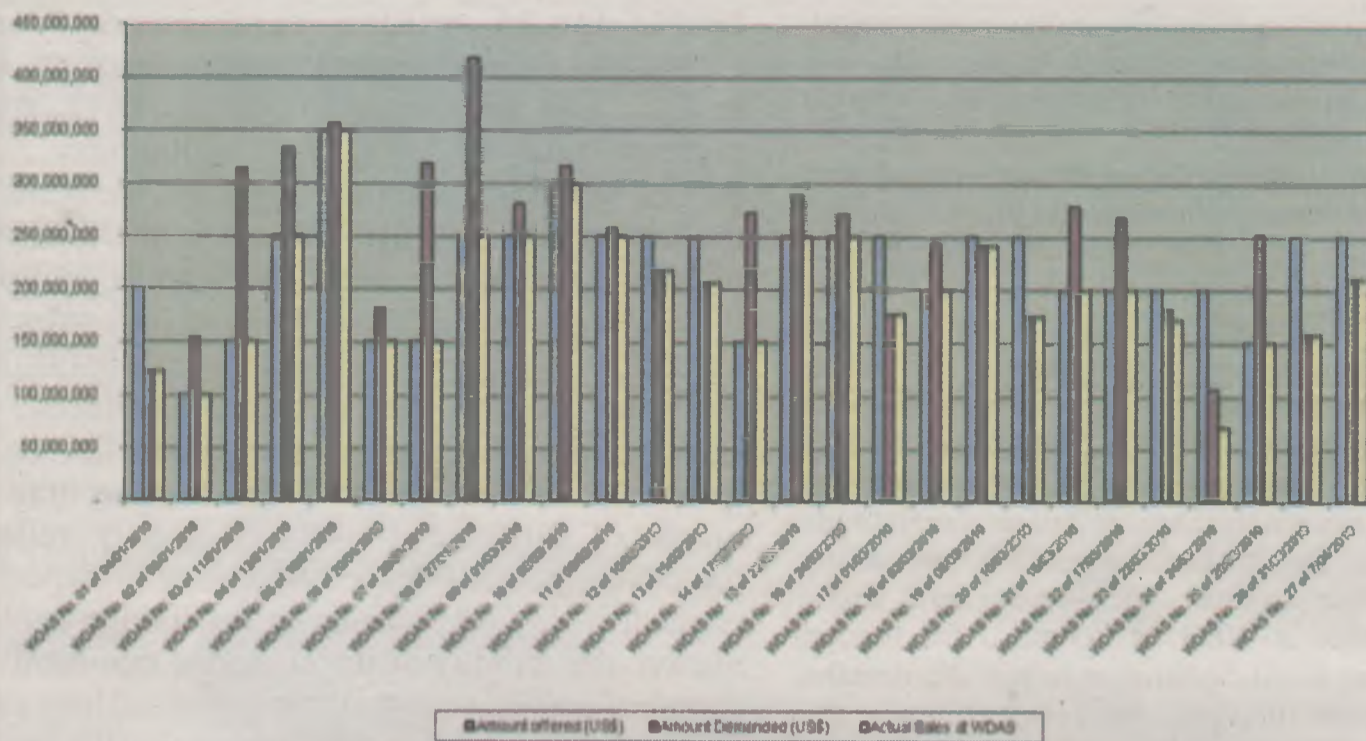
Furthermore, if indeed, there is anxiety in the foreign exchange markets, such anxiety would have been transmitted immediately to the Bureaux-de-Change (BDCs) and the inter-bank segments of the foreign exchange market. The exchange rates would have depreciated sharply in the two markets while the premium between the WDAS rate and the rates posted in the two markets would have widened significantly. Thus, far, the two markets have remained relatively stable while the premium in both segments of the market had either narrowed or remained low. For instance, the average exchange rate at the inter-bank depreciated marginally from N150.35/\$ in the fourth quarter of 2009 to N150.43/\$ in the first quarter of 2010 while that of the BDCs actually appreciated from N153.16/\$ in Q4 2009 to N152.47/\$ in Q1 2010. In the same vein, the premium between the WDAS average exchange rate and the inter-bank market rate remained low at N1.98 (1.31%) in Q1 2010 from N1.77 (1.17%) in Q4 2009 while that between the WDAS rate and the BDCs rate narrowed from N4.58 (3.0%) in Q4 2009 to N4.02 (2.63%) in Q1 2010.



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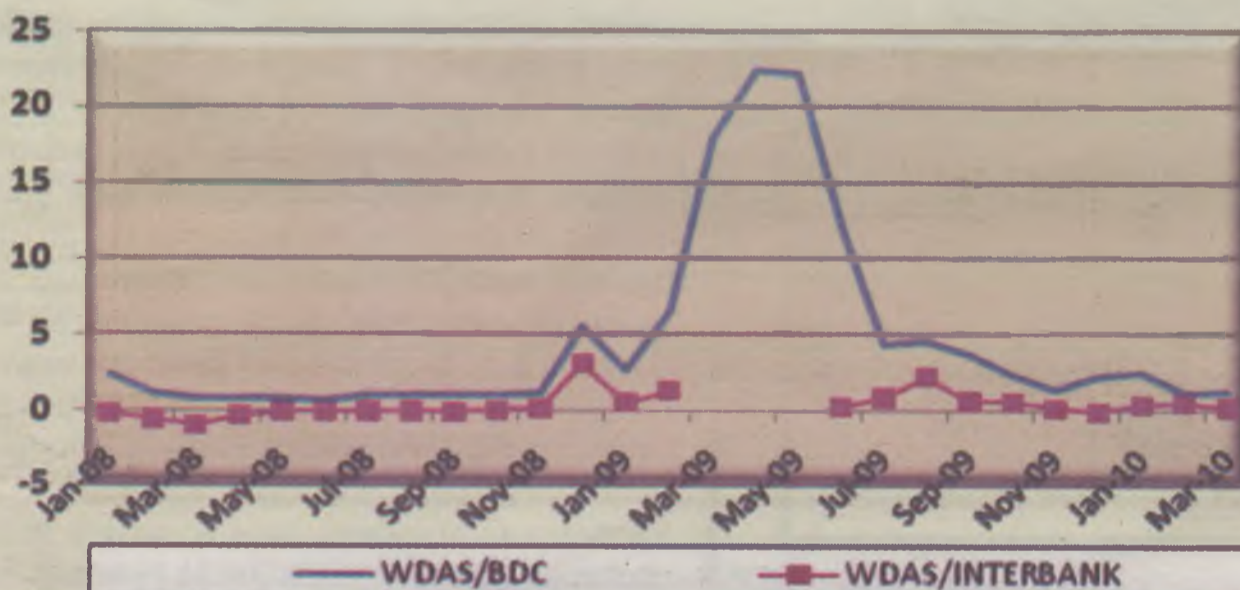
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CHART III: FOREIGN EXCHANGE WHOLESALE DUTCH AUCTION JANUARY - APRIL 7, 2010



Amount offered (USD) Amount Demanded (USD) Actual Sales @ WDAS

Chart IV Exchange Rate Premium, Jn 08 - Mar 10



WDAS/BDC WDAS/INTERBANK

It is imperative to underscore the fact that stability in the rate of exchange remains the most relevant and consistent gauge for measuring pressure or otherwise in any market. Thus far, since the beginning of 2010, the foreign exchange rate has remained relatively stable in all segments of the foreign exchange market and has not shown any significant fluctuation to warrant any commentary that is capable of disturbing the equilibrium in the market. This fact is very much corroborated by the same data employed by the report.

The subsisting trend in the market during the first quarter of 2010 indicates that the market will continue to remain calm with increased confidence engendered by the banking system reforms. With obvious signs of recovery in the global economy and increased oil output and increasing crude oil price which would further boost the nation's external reserves, there is no compelling reason to believe that the exchange rate of the Naira will

not remain stable for the rest of the year. The CBN will like to reiterate its commitment to ensuring adequate supply of foreign exchange to meet all genuine demand in the short-to-medium term.

In conclusion, analysts are advised to always exercise caution when analyzing sensitive issues as the exchange rate, less they send the wrong signals to the market or encourage speculative activities with dire consequences for the economy. The CBN is always available to provide relevant information or clarify any grey area on any issues bothering on its operations, mandate and functions.

Signed:

M. M. Abdullahi
Head, Corporate Communications
April 7, 2010

labour report

Imo ready to implement new salary scale for teachers

From Johnkennedy Uzoma, Owerri.

PRIMARY School teachers working for the Imo State Government will soon smile home following government's nod to the implementation of the new salary scale for primary school teachers.

Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs Barrister Kezie Ogaziechi who disclosed this to newsmen in Owerri during the post briefing of Joint Account and Allocation (JAAC) meeting said that the new scale is expected to gulp N80m monthly.

Ogaziechi said that the implementation of the new salary scale will commence this month and the money is being statutorily deducted from the local government allocation fund.

He assured that teachers will receive the salaries this month based on the new salary scale, adding that the implementation would go a long way in preventing subsequent strike actions by teachers in the state.

The commissioner said that to achieve this, the state government had to dip its hands into the excess crude fund.

He emphasized that the law guiding the allocation of funds in Imo State as it concerns local government councils will remain the guiding principle until they are abrogated, assuring that government would not deviate from it.



FROM Left; Musa Rabi, the Registrar Chartered Institute of Personnel Management of Nigeria, Oladimeji Alao President CIPMN and Collins Nweke, the C.E.O, Global Village Consult at the first Nigerian Human Capital Conference 2010 held in Lagos recently

NLC tasks G8/G20 on universal access to HIV/AIDS

By Francis Okeke

NIGERIA Labour Congress (NLC) has asked the G8 nations as it meets the G20 nations in June in Canada to put forward an action plan to achieve its promise of universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support as part of the goals of achieving the Decent Work Agenda.

NLC made the call during a meeting in Abuja with the Canadian Labour Congress and the International Trade Union Congress aimed at persuading the G8 to include Nigeria and other developing countries in its plans of combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Delivering a paper on HIV/AIDS and productivity in the workplace, NLC's Deputy President Comrade Promise Adewusi urged countries that make up the G20 which are mostly developing countries to ensure their

economic growth and recovery strategies recognize the debilitating financial consequences of the scourge particularly when combined with other circumstances such as poverty, education, gender, food security, water and climate change.

Adewusi urged the G8 to introduce a range of strategies to increase knowledge of HIV status and also for the conditions under which testing and counseling are provided to be improved in order to diminish "obstacles to uptake, such as fear of stigma and negative reactions to disclosure."

The union also urged the G8 to "scale-up services to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV" stressing that in "sub-Saharan Africa, where 85% of HIV-infected pregnant women live, coverage in countries ranges from less than 1% to 54%. Current efforts to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV

are far below what is required to meet the UN target of reducing the proportion of children infected with HIV by 50% in 2010."

The deputy president also made a call for the health sector to provide a wider range of services and interventions to help people with HIV/AIDS to maximize their health, prevent and treat opportunistic and sexually transmitted infections, reduce the harms associated with injecting drug use, and avoid passing HIV on to others.

"The Congress strongly believes that if these demands are taking into consideration and adopted with a strong political commitment by the G-8 and G-20, it will not only go a long way to reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS and provide sustained care and support for infected and affected workers, but promote healthy living that contributes to productivity and decent work," Comrade Adewusi added.

China pledges free capacity building training for CMD staff

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

THE Chinese government has promised to provide free training in Chinese training institutions for staff of the Centre for Management Development (CMD) starting from next month.

Speaking in Lagos during a courtesy visit to the Centre for Management Development (CMD) Shangisha, Lagos, the Economic and Commercial Counsellor, office of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Nigeria, Mr. Rong Yansong said that three CMD workers would be trained in China next month for free and another three before 2012. The Chinese envoy who visited CMD on the invitation of the director general (DG) Kabir Kabo Usman also expressed China's enterprises willingness to provide technical assistance and finances to CMD if given the opportunity.

He said CMD's collaboration with private enterprise that would be willing to provide technical and financial support will engender rapid development in the institution.

Currently the CMD, which is a premier training institution for both private and public organisations in Nigeria sustains itself by internally generated revenue and budgetary allocation from the government.

Reacting to a question by a journalist on why most Chinese products in Nigeria are of inferior quality, Yansong said, Nigerian businessmen and importers are responsible for the influx of sub-standard products in Nigeria.

He said Nigeria importers often place orders on products to China companies specifying what they want and how they want it adding that the companies manufacture according to their specifications even though most of their specifications fall short of the desired standard.

"First, ask yourself why there are more fake Chinese products in Nigeria than elsewhere? Some Nigerian businessmen take orders to China, telling the Chinese produce a lesser value of goods. They ask them to produce substandard goods" he explained.

Yansong also said that that most of the substandard products labelled made in China and sold in Nigeria are

produced in neighbouring African countries or imported from other countries.

"Some people produce goods in neighbouring African countries and even locally in Nigeria and label it made in China" he noted.

He however assured that China and the Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON) are partnering to control incidences of fake products being imported into Nigeria.

"Last year the Nigerian Ministry of Commerce and Industry and its Chinese counterpart signed an agreement to check products coming in from China. When the agreement is fully implemented, goods coming into Nigeria from china will be inspected in China for quality before shipment," he said.

Responding, the CMD Director General Dr. Kabir Kabo Usman thanked the Chinese government for the kind gesture.

He said CMD welcomes the support adding China and Nigeria share similar characteristics particularly in population and the struggle to economic development.

INTERNATIONAL

S/African ANC: No singing of 'polarizing' songs



PEOPLE sing and dance after the suspect in the murder of white supremacist leader Eugene Terreblanche is led out of court in Ventersdorp, South Africa.

SOUTH Africa's governing party said yesterday it has asked all its wings to stop singing controversial songs including one with lyrics that encourage people to shoot white farmers which some blame for the slaying of a white supremacist leader.

The African National Congress has rejected any link between the song and Saturday's killing of Eugene Terreblanche, but nevertheless made the decision at a meeting Tuesday as leaders seek to calm racial tensions and quell fears ahead of the first World Cup soccer tournament to be held in Africa.

Terreblanche's slaying has drawn attention to South Africa as one of the world's crime hotspots, with some 50 murders a day in a population of nearly 50 million and a rising number of car hijackings and rape.

Members of Terreblanche's extremist Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging movement, better known as the AWB, have blamed ANC youth league leader Julius Malema and his singing of the song with the lyrics "shoot the boer" for inciting the killers. Boer means farmer in Afrikaans, the language of descendants of early Dutch settlers, but also is used as a derogatory term for whites.

ANC Secretary-General Gwede Mantashe told a news conference his

party wanted "to clarify the hullabaloo about us gagging Julius Malema." Beeld newspaper Wednesday quoted Mantashe as saying that he and President Jacob Zuma had ordered Malema to stop singing the song.

"In view of the environment currently prevailing in our country, all of our structures, all our structures, not Julius, not so and so, all the structures of the ANC must restrain themselves," Mantashe said.

He said he also spoke with the heads of the Women's League and the Veteran's League, though neither is known for singing the song. "The structures were also asked by the officials to be circumspect in singing liberation songs that have words that can be seen and be interpreted to be contributing to racial polarization of society," said a statement issued at the conference.

It was not clear if the new directive would apply to President Zuma's signature anthem from the apartheid era — "Bring me my machine gun" — which also has offended some South Africans. For months the ruling party had resisted calls by opposition parties to reign in Malema.

Malema has fueled controversy by refusing to abide by a court's temporary interdiction on his singing of the song, which the court ruled was hate speech and unconstitutional.

Bashir to grant election observers unlimited access

SUDANESE President Omar al-Bashir said yesterday he would grant former US president Jimmy Carter and his election observers unlimited access in the country during landmark elections that kick off Sunday.

"In two days, president Carter will arrive and I will receive him and will give him and his centre permission to go to any area of Sudan and to monitor any area in Sudan," Bashir told a rally north of Sudan, as the election campaign begins to wind down.

"This man did good things for us and we never forget the man who did good things for us," Bashir said in an address broadcast live on state television. It appeared to be a shift in tone after repeated threats by Bashir to expel observers if they were believed "to interfere" in the electoral process.

Sudan is to hold its first multi-party general election since 1986 from April 9-11, which will include presidential, legislative and local polls. Bashir has previously said he would silence any observers who "insult us", and he also warned that if observers "intervene in our affairs, then we will cut off their fingers and crush them under our shoes."

The American Carter Centre, the European Union, the African Union, the Arab League and Japan are all sending missions to Sudan.

The EU mission, the largest with 130 observers, said on Wednesday that it was considering pulling observers out of the war-torn western Sudanese region of Darfur because of security concerns. Related article: EU observers may quit Darfur.

Togo opposition boycott parliament opening

OPPOSITION legislators boycotted the opening of Togo's parliamentary year to protest the re-election of President Faure Gnassingbe, a parliamentary source said yesterday.

Only 50 ruling RPT members were in the 81 seat parliament at Tuesday's opening ceremony, a parliament official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Twenty-seven deputies of the opposition Union of Forces for Change (UFC) and four from the Action Committee for Renewal (CAR) boycotted

the ceremony.

"We decided not to participate in this ceremony to show our disapproval at the way the electoral process was conducted and the manner the protests were repressed,"

Isabelle Ameganvi, a UFC vice president, said on private media. "It is to say we are fed up with the fact that in Togo, the laws are systematically trampled upon by governments," she said.

Gnassingbe took 60.88 percent of votes cast in the March 4 poll, according to official results.

Rwanda needs no lessons on rights, democracy - Kagame

PRESIDENT Paul Kagame said yesterday Rwanda does not need international organisations to give it lessons on human rights and democracy. "Who should be giving lessons to Rwanda's 11 million people about what is good for them, about what their rights are," he said at the national stadium in a

speech marking the 16th anniversary of the 1994 genocide.

Planned and carried out by Hutu extremists, the genocide left an estimated 800,000 people dead, essentially Tutsis. New York-based Human Rights Watch in February accused Kigali of harassing and intimidating the opposition.

International

Top judge to be tried for Spain atrocities' probe



SPANISH judge Baltasar Garzon.

SPANISH judge Baltasar Garzon was facing trial yesterday for abuse of power for violating an amnesty by launching a probe into atrocities carried out during Spain's civil war and subsequent dictatorship.

Supreme Court investigating magistrate Luciano Varela decided to press ahead with a case brought against the judge, known round the world for his campaigns against former Latin American dictators, by three far-right groups.

He wrote in his ruling published yesterday that Garzon knowingly acted without jurisdiction in 2008 when he opened a probe into the disappearance of tens of thousands of people during Spain's 1936-39 civil war and the subsequent dictatorship of General Francisco Franco.

"Conscious of his lack of jurisdiction... he constructed artificial arguments to justify his control of the penal proceedings," Varela said. Varela's decision will likely mean that Garzon, a polarizing figure, will be temporarily suspended from the bench of Spain's High Court, which is responsible for cases concerning crimes against humanity, organised crime and terrorism.

Brown says would overhaul UK political system

PRIME Minister Gordon Brown said yesterday he would overhaul Britain's scandal-hit parliament, giving people a vote on sweeping political reforms if his Labour Party wins the May 6 election.

Brown's proposals could help Labour find common ground with the smaller opposition Liberal Democrats, whose support Labour may need to form a government in the event it fails to secure an outright majority. The prime minister said voters would be given a say on constitutional reforms in a referendum before October 2011, including changing how members of parliament (MPs) were elected and the possibility of an elected upper chamber.

The proposals are in part a response to public disgust with politicians after many MPs abused their expenses by claiming public funds for items such as a duck house or dog food. "I would... take no joy in victory if it comes without a mandate to get rid of the old discredited system of politics," Brown said in a speech a day after setting the election date.


www.britishcouncil.org/africa

VACANCY

The British Council has the following post that is available in Abuja. If you wish to apply for any of this post, please complete the application form as requested. You will need to address the competencies in the job description.

POSITION:

Evaluation Manager

Application pack and full job description can be found on <http://www.britishcouncil.org/africa-vacancies>

JOB AIM:

To help Country Director Nigeria and the Senior Leadership Team to deliver effective senior management of British Council activities in Nigeria.

To manage the evaluation of the British Council's overall performance in Nigeria using the British Council's scorecard and other evaluation systems and to provide support for business planning and monitoring.

COMPETENCIES REQUIRED

- Planning and Monitoring support
- Scorecard Management
- Evaluation Management
- Professional development

Applications should be sent to: Gposts@na.britishcouncil.org

Applications received after the stated deadline will not be considered. Telephone applications and enquiries will also not be accepted. Please apply using the materials on the website. We are unable to process applications that do not conform to the required format, and we will not accept curricula vitae or handwritten applications.

Deadline for application: 10am, 19 April 2010.

Only applicants short-listed for interview will be contacted.

The British Council is committed to a policy of equal opportunity and is keen to reflect the diversity of UK society at every level within the organisation. We welcome applications from all sections of the community. Candidates with special needs should please ask us for this information in alternative formats. We guarantee an interview to disabled candidates who meet the essential criteria. We are the UK's international organisation for cultural relations. We are registered in England as a charity.

SALE OF VEHICLES



The United Nations Development Programme is inviting bids from the public for the sale of the under listed vehicles:

1. 201 UN 192 - Toyota Land Cruiser
2. 201 UN 193 - Toyota Land Cruiser
3. 201 UN 194 - Toyota Land Cruiser
4. 201 UN 32 - Toyota Land Cruiser

The vehicles are available for inspection in the UN House located at Plot 617/618 Diplomatic Zone, Abuja on 13 and 14 April 2010 at 2:00p.m.

Interested members of the public should request for the UNDP Procurement Team at the UN House Security gate. Please note that no person or persons will be allowed into the UN House for the purpose of inspection of vehicles outside the date and time indicated above.

All vehicles will be sold "as is", "where is" basis with no guarantee or warranty expressed or implied as to the condition of the items. There will be no refund after payment for the items.

**ALL BIDS MUST BE SEALED AND ADDRESSED TO:
THE SERVICE CENTRE MANAGER,
UNDP, UN HOUSE, ABUJA.**

Bids must be sent not later than 1600hours on Tuesday 20 April 2010 and clearly marked "**UNDP SALE OF VEHICLES**".

Successful bidders must pay all customs and import duties on these vehicles to the Nigerian Customs authorities as they were purchased duty free. Furthermore successful bidders shall be required to issue a Bank Draft in favor of "UNDP Resident Representative" within one week of receipt of offer and, thereafter, must remove the vehicles from the UN premises within 48 hours after effecting payment.

UNDP is not bound to accept the highest or any bid.

MEDICAL AND DENTAL COUNCIL OF NIGERIA

BLOCK 11, F-CLOSE, OFF 1ST AVENUE, FEDERAL HOUSING AUTHORITY ESTATE GWARIMPA, ABUJA

Tel: 09-2902900, 2901435, 07098200749, 7802977, 7803357, 7803059. Website: www.mdcnigeria.org

E-mail: medicalcouncil@yahoo.com



NOTICE ON INDEXING OF STUDENTS ADMITTED INTO MEDICAL SCHOOLS



The Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN) hereby draws the attention of Authorities of all Medical and Dental Training Institutions in Nigeria, Provosts and Deans of Medical Colleges and all Stakeholders in the health sector to the following announcements:

- The Council at its inaugural meeting held from Wednesday 3rd - Thursday 4th February 2010 directed that from the 2007/2008 academic session, the number of students admitted to medical and dental schools must be within the limits of approved quota.
- In view of the above directive, Medical and Dental Training Institutions are given up to 31st May 2010 to submit the lists (hard & electronic copies) of all students admitted to medical and dental programmes for the 2007/2008, 2008/2009 and 2009/2010.

The indexing is expected to be in line with the following approved quota:

FULLY ACCREDITED		Medical	Dental
1.	College of Medicine & Health Sciences Abia State University, UTURU.	100	
2.	College of Health Sciences, Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki.	100	
3.	College of Medicine, University of Lagos IDI-ARABA. Lagos.	150	30
4.	College of Health Sciences, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, NNEWI.	100	
5.	College of Health Sciences, Obafemi Awolowo University, ILE-IFE.	100	25
6.	College of Health Sciences, University of Port Harcourt, PORT-HARCOURT.	100	15
7.	College of Health Sciences, Usmanu Danfodiyo University SOKOTO.	100	
8.	College of Health Sciences, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, OGBOMOSHO.	75	
9.	College of Health Sciences, Igbinedion Igbinedion University, OKADA.	50	
10.	College of Medical Sciences, University of Benin, BENIN-CITY.	100	25
11.	College of Medicine, University of Ibadan. IBADAN.	180	30
12.	College of Medicine, University of ILORIN.	150	
13.	College of Medical Sciences, University of Calabar, CALABAR.	100	
14.	College of Medicine, University of Nigeria Enugu Campus, ENUGU.	150	15
15.	College of Medicine, Lagos State University, IKEJA.	75	
16.	College of Medicine, Ambrose Alli University, EKPOMA.	50	
17.	Faculty of Medicine, Ahmadu Bello University, ZARIA.	120	
18.	Faculty of Medicine, Bayero University, KANO	100	
19.	Faculty of Medical Sciences University of JOS	150	
20.	College of Medical Sciences, University of MAIDUGURI.	150	15
21.	Obafemi Awolowo College of Health Sciences Olabisi Onabanjo University, AGO-IWOYE.	75	
22.	College of Medicine, Imo State University, OWERRI	50	
23.	College of Health Sciences, Madonna University Okija.	50	

PARTIALLY ACCREDITED MEDICAL SCHOOLS FOR MEDICAL ONLY:

1.	College of Health Sciences, Delta State University, ABRAKA	50
2.	College of Medicine, Enugu State University of Science and Technology, ENUGU	50
3.	College of Health Sciences, University of Uyo, UYO	50
4.	College of Health Sciences, Niger Delta University, WILBERFORCE ISLAND	50
5.	College Health Sciences, Benue State University, MAKURDI	50

Dr. Abdulmumini A. Ibrahim
Registrar

For enquiries pls. visit our website at
www.mdcnigeria.org or contact the MDCN
through any of the tel nos above



MEDICAL AND DENTAL COUNCIL OF NIGERIA

BLOCK 11, F-CLOSE, OFF 1ST AVENUE, FEDERAL HOUSING AUTHORITY ESTATE GWARIMPA, ABUJA
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 E-mail: medicalcouncil@yahoo.com



NOTICE TO ALL MEDICAL AND DENTAL PRACTITIONERS ON CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

The Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria hereby reminds all medical and dental practitioners of the need to participate in suitable **Continuing Professional Development (CPD)** programme to update their knowledge and skills and enhance their ability to render appropriate services to patients. Council has directed that participation in the Continuing Professional Development programme is a mandatory prerequisite for licence renewal by all practitioners.

Practitioners are to note the following information and guidelines:

CPD PROVIDERS:

The following institutions and organizations can organize Continuing Professional Development programmes with approval from Council:

1. The Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria
2. Accredited Medical and Dental Training Institutions
3. Accredited Teaching and Specialist Hospitals
4. Accredited State General Hospitals
5. Accredited Voluntary Agency and Private Hospitals
6. The National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria
7. The West African Postgraduate Medical College
8. The Nigerian Medical Association
9. The Nigeria Dental Association
10. The Guild of Medical Doctors
11. The Association of General and Private Medical Practitioners of Nigeria
12. The Federal and State Ministries of Health
13. The Foundations
14. Professional Societies and Bodies
15. Accredited Overseas Professional Societies and Institutions
16. Any other institutions or Organizations that may be approved by Council from time to time.

CREDIT UNIT:

The total credit unit to be obtained annually is 20 and a total of 40 units for biannual licence renewal. A credit unit is equivalent to one (1) contact hour on any particular subject under qualified approved tutelage.

TYPES OF CPD ACTIVITY

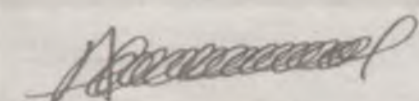
CPD ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN GROUPED INTO (Seven) 7 BROAD CATEGORIES.

For annual/biannual re-licensing, a doctor must participate and obtain credit units from any three (3) or more of the following groups of activities:

1. Conferences, seminars and workshops
2. Grand-round or Clinical meetings
3. Self-learning activities e.g. via online etc.
4. Journal clubs, Research and Publications
5. Courses: Revision and Update courses
6. Miscellaneous e.g. Accreditors, Examiners, resource persons, etc.
7. Management/ICT, Medical Informatics and Medical Education.

These activities are further subdivided into core (medically or clinically oriented and non-core courses (e.g. Management/ICT etc.). A participant has the choice of obtaining the appropriate credit unit requirements from any 3 (three) or more of the 7 (seven) broad groups.

For any CPD course or activity to be accredited, the nature and content of the said activity as well as the Providers' and the Resource persons' profile must be sent to the Accreditors for scrutiny and approval.


 Dr. Abdulmumini A. Ibrahim
 Registrar

For enquiries pls. visit our website at
www.mdcnigeria.org or contact MDCN
 through any of the tel nos above



UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA UNIVERSITY

P. M. B. 2218, DUTSIN-MA ROAD, KATSINA

(Office of the Registrar and Secretary to Council)

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE POST OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR OF UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA UNIVERSITY, KATSINA

The Governing Council of Umaru Musa Yar'adua University, Katsina has declared the Office of the Vice Chancellor of the University vacant and in accordance with Sections 4 and 5 of the First Schedule of the University Law, the Council has directed that applications be invited from suitably qualified distinguished academics with cognate experience in university teaching and administration.

1. THE JOB

The Vice Chancellor is the Chief Executive and Academic Officer of the University, ex-officio Chairman of the Senate and Member of the Governing Council of the University. Among other functions, the Vice Chancellor shall:

- i. be competent at all time to advise the Council on any matter affecting the policy, finance and administration of the University;
- ii. be generally responsible to the Council for maintaining the efficiency and good order of the University and for ensuring the proper enforcement of Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations;
- iii. be responsible for discipline in the University;
- iv. regulate the admission of the students in accordance with the guidelines and procedures approved by the Senate.

2. QUALITIES AND QUALIFICATION OF THE CANDIDATE

Interested candidates for the position of Vice Chancellor, Umaru Musa Yar'adua University, Katsina are expected to be:

- i. Distinguished scholars who are Professors with demonstrated ability to provide exemplary academic leadership and proven management capacity;
- ii. Scholars of the highest moral standards and unassailable character and proven integrity with irrevocable commitment to best practices in corporate governance, with particular emphasis on accountability, transparency and probity, and must be scholars who can ensure optimum utilization of scarce resources for maximum public good;
- iii. Scholars who are Information and Communication Technology (ICT) proficient, committed to the mainstreaming of ICT into University wide programmes and activities;
- iv. Scholars who will be able to attract research grants and complementary funds from local and international agencies, and further uplift the academic stature of the University;
- v. Scholars who will be able to relate effectively and productively with the government, non-governmental agencies, the Alumni and other national and international facilitation;
- vi. Persons who are not likely to foster personal, racial, ethnic, political, religious or other sectional interest and who are also capable of inspiring the members of University Community towards the attainment of its goals;
- vii. Scholars with good understanding of the Vision and Mission of the University;
- viii. Individuals who, judging from their tract records, are

- likely to command the respect as well as loyalty of members of Staff, Students and University Community;
- ix. Persons who enjoy excellent, physical and mental health.

3. CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

The salaries and conditions of service are as applicable to the post of Vice Chancellor in Nigerian Federal Universities as determined by Government and the Governing Council of the University from time to time.

4. TENURE

The Vice Chancellor shall hold office for a one-term period of five (5) years.

5. METHOD OF APPLICATION

Interested applicants are invited to note and comply with the following conditions

- a) Each application letter (30 copies) should be accompanied by 30 copies of the candidate's detailed "Curriculum Vitae" (CV), signed and dated by the candidate. The CV must contain, among others, the candidate's name in full, age, marital status, nationality, educational attainments with dates, number of PhD candidates supervised and graduated, research output, academic and non-academic recognition, professional achievements, scholarly publications in renowned domestic and international journals with dates and books;
- b) Each application should be accompanied by a certificate of birth or statutory declaration of age, and certificate of medical fitness based on documented comprehensive medical examination from a Government hospital;
- c) A statement of the candidate's vision for the Umaru Musa Yar'adua University, Katsina in the 21st Century of not more than 1500 words (30 copies);
- d) In the case of a nominated or "searched candidates", the CV must be accompanied by a letter of consent duly signed and dated by the candidate;
- e) Each candidate must have three (3) referees who should be requested by the candidate to forward their referee's reports directly to the REGISTRAR under confidential cover. Such referees should be in a position to attest to the candidate's claim to high academic standard, managerial capacity and moral uprightness. A referee's report that highlights the candidate weakness will command higher credibility;
- f) All shortlisted candidates will be required to make themselves available for interaction with the Joint Council/Senate Selection Board.

All applications are to be forwarded under confidential cover in an envelope marked at the upper left hand corner "Vice Chancellor" Umaru Musa Yar'adua University, Katsina to reach the Registrar and Secretary to Council NOT later than two weeks from the date of this publication.

Signed:

Abdu Halliru Abdullahi
Registrar and Secretary to Council

BUSINESS

0805 1000 536

Guidelines on margin loans out in 2 weeks

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

THE governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Sanusi Lamido Sanusi has said that a guideline on margin loan would soon be released by the apex bank.

Sanusi, in an interactive session on television programme monitored in Lagos said the new guideline which would be released in few days time would regulate margin lending by banks in the country.

"In the next two or three weeks, we are going to come out along with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the guideline on margin lending that will regulate margin lending by the banks and by the stock brokers. There is no system in the world where you allow people to do margin lending without regulation. Take the United States for instance, you are not allowed to use banking shares as collateral for margin loans, therefore it is simply impossible for any bank to start manipulating its own share price for margin gain. Since there is no regulation that guides such trading in Nigeria, it is difficult to hold somebody responsible for it", he said

He said the policy direction of the CBN with the bankers committee is to ensure that small and medium enterprises (SMEs) have access to loans

"What we are doing along with the bankers' committee now is trying to push through lending to SMEs with prudential guideline which would soon approved by the board of Central Bank of Nigeria. Once it's approved we will issue that guideline and that will allow a longer period over which provision loans to SMEs is to be taken. We will ensure that collateral that back loans to SMEs are taken into consideration in any provision that the banks required to make. We are trying to put in guarantee for SMEs lending. We



CBN headquarters Abuja.

have put N500 billion on the table, part of which will be used to finance loans to SMEs. This is the first time you will have a CBN that is focused on making sure banks lend to the real sector of the economy but this does not be achieved overnight, you have to work with others to achieve it", he said

Sanusi said people should stop creating unnecessary panic over banks failure to grant loans to SMEs, adding that there is enough liquidity in the economy.

"The entire banking system credit to small and medium enterprises in 2008 was 3 per cent, all the credit in the banking system was going into the capital market and the oil marketers. So

SMEs, agriculture were never getting credit. People should stop building wrong scenarios, SMEs never get credit. One stockbroker owed the banking system N200 billion that is where the money was going. So what we are doing now is to give SMEs access to loans"

The apex bank governor said confidence has started returning to both the nation's financial sector.

"Confidence is being restored into the sector. Look at the shares of the banks, they have stabilized. Take the stock market between February, 2008 and August 2009, every single stock was falling, the market was crash-

ing. In August 2009, when we intervened, only the intervened banks stock kept losing value while other banks stabilized. This is because people now have the basis for differentiating from the good stocks and the bad ones. Before then, there was no trust. But today, look at the deposit base of the banks. For instance, Oceanic bank has a third party deposit of over N600 billion and the bank is making profit now. It made profit last months, likewise Afribank, Union Bank and Spring Bank. All made profit last month. These are banks that were making losses of between N4 and N5 billion a month.

Glo re-launches Website

By Yunus AbdulHamid

NATIONAL telecoms operator, Globacom, has re-launched its website, www.gloworld.com, a statement said. Apart from having more trendy features and visual appeal, the redesigned site is much easier to browse and offers more interactive platforms to customers and visitors, it said. Group Executive Director of Globacom, Mr. Paddy Adenuga, said the upgrading of the website is being done in phases and will be concluded by the third quarter of the year. Mr. Adenuga explained that the company decided to upgrade the site in line with its commitment to continuously explore ways to offer more value to subscribers.

The objective of the upgrade, he stated, is to grow an interactive and viral content hub which will cater to the needs of all potential customers and visitors. "We hope to increase the awareness of the Glo brand, grow and sustain our client base through the website," he affirmed. He said Globacom has put in place a state-of-the-art hosting platform for its site to ensure availability and up-time, resulting in a highly responsive and fast website experience for all traffic.

Stock Market Index

Date:	Wednesday, April 7, 2010
Index:	26,716.70
Deals:	11,168
Volume:	612,927,635
Value:	N 5,073,551,546.25
Cap.:	N 6,462,114,648,761.37

Trust Index

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

CBN	CBN EXCHANGE RATES			BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES		
	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)	BUYING		
				DOLLAR.....	N150	
				EURO.....	N203	
				POUNDS.....	N233	
				SELLING		
				DOLLAR.....	N151	
				EURO.....	N205	
				POUNDS.....	N236	

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

Business/Finance

Currency in circulation rises, hits N1.08trn - CBN

TOTAL currency in circulation increased from N1.05 trillion in February to N1.08 trillion in March, indicating a rise of about N36 billion, according to a report by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

The CBN monthly report on Currency in Circulation stated that there was a drop in currency in circulation between January and February.

The currency in circulation in January was N1.07 trillion but dropped to N1.05 trillion in February, a difference of N19 billion, the report stated.

It further stated that the currency in circulation rose in December 2009, reaching N1.18 trillion but that there had been an unsteady fall.

A source in CBN said the increase was "marginal" and that the apex bank had rolled out its instruments to mop up the excess currency in circulation, to check a possible inflation.

According to the source, the fluctuation in circulation was usually triggered by the Federal Accounts Allocation Committee meetings, which share revenue among the three tiers of government monthly. Inflation rate stood at 12.3 per cent in February, the CBN said. The CBN has been targeting a single digit inflation rate since 2009. (NAN).



Segun Aganga Finance Minister

'Islamic banking will bail out Nigeria's economy'

FROM Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

AN Islamic group-Muslim Rights Concern (MURIC)-has called on the Federal government to expedite action on the grant of licences for the operation of Islamic banks in the country.

The Director of the group Dr. Is-haq Akintola said when granted the permit, the banks should be national rather than regional as proposed by the Governor of the Central Bank Sanusi Lamido Sanusi.

According to him, Islamic banking system is the only way to bail out the nation's economy from the wood.

He reasoned that it is unwise for the country to continue to rely on Western banking system alone given the havoc wreaked on Nigeria's economy by the international financial agencies through its inhuman imposition of compound interest.

"MURIC wishes to remind Nigerian authorities that Western banking system with its obnoxious high interest rate based

on laissez faire was responsible for the worldwide economic downturn which began in 2008. Licentiousness among the managerial cadre which is the hallmark of the conventional banking system added fuel to the financial conflagration which engulfed the whole West, including many Third world countries.

"We borrowed \$5 billion up till 1985. By year 2000 we had paid \$16 billion which is three times above what we owed. Yet the International Monetary Fund (IMF) told us we still owed \$32 billion! It was for this reason that former President Olusegun Obasanjo called Western compound interest, "the worst evil in the world".

Stating that Starting an Islamic bank which is based on zero rate of interest will give Nigeria the chance to try an alternative to the 'worst evil', the MURIC boss said several Nigerian Muslims who have been eager to put their money in halal (acceptable by Islamic standard) accounts will have the opportunity to do so.

Diamond Bank crashes loan rates by 5%

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

DIAMOND Bank said that it has crashed all its retail lending rates as well as launching Nigerian's first ever fixed mortgage rate.

Speaking in to journalists in Lagos, the Head, Corporate Communications, Diamond Bank, Charles Udoh revealed that the Bank has dropped interest rates on all retail lending products by up to 5 per cent per annum, adding that the rates apply to all new lending from 1st April, 2010. They will also apply to all existing borrowing that is not delinquent. All delinquent debt or customers in default will stay on their existing rate until the accounts are regularized.

This he said is part of the bank's initiatives to ease the effects of the global credit crunch and boost consumer lending.

"As part of our contributions towards boosting the growth and development of the Nigerian economy, especially at this critical period of recession, we are expanding our lending window. We have even moved a notch up in this initiative by crashing all our retail lending rates. Doing this, we strongly believe will create access to facilities required to drive the economy" said Udoh.

Among the affected consumer products, according to Udoh, are Mortgages loans now pegged at 20 per cent variable with 2 per cent one off fee (no annual fees) and the usual security and insurance requirements; auto Loans which is now 22 per cent variable with 2.5 per cent one off fees (includes free death cover); Personal Loans and Leases which he said is now 23 per cent variable with 2.5 per cent

one off fees (includes free death cover); while the Macro, Small, Medium Enterprises (MSME) that are (secured)-revolving credit and asset purchase loans is 24 per cent with 2.5 per cent one off fee (includes free death cover on nominated key person); MSME (unsecured) - revolving credit and asset purchase loans is 25 per cent plus 2.5 per cent one-off fee (includes free death cover on nominated key person).

"We are fully aware of the challenges many Nigerians are passing through in acquiring their dream homes that is why we are setting the pace in the mortgage industry with the introduction of our new Fixed Rate Mortgage pegged at 18.75 per cent fixed until 30th September 2011. It comes with a fee of N125,000 plus the normal 2 per cent fee in addition to security and insurance arrangements. This is the first of its kind in Nigeria," he stated.

Udoh stated that Diamond Bank is proud to offer a wide range of consumer loan products for a variety of purposes. "We are leading the industry in driving down rates. We are open for business and keen to lend. We are innovative (Nigeria's first ever FIXED RATE MORTGAGE). We are being fair to all new customers and all existing borrower. We care about our customers.

Whether you are ready for a new car, the pleasure a new house can bring, to take that dream vacation you have always wanted or to consolidate your existing debt into a more manageable monthly payment, we can help make your dreams and plans a reality. Most importantly, applying for loan is now easy and convenient," he said.

Experts form tax board

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

TO standardize taxation practice and administration of taxation in the Country, the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria has inaugurated Nigerian Taxation Standard Board.

The inauguration which took place in the corporate office of the Institute was the first of its kind in Africa.

Speaking during the inauguration ceremony, the President of the Institute, Prince Razaq Kunle Quadri, stated: "The objective of ensuring that the Nigerian tax system is professionalized is a challenge that has to be met. One facet of the system that has not been effectively addressed is the setting of standards for tax professionals. Council is convinced that unless this issue is addressed, narrowing down the areas of differences in the treatment of tax matters amongst tax practitioners, tax administrators and taxpayers may be difficult or impossible."

The terms and reference of the panel include; to develop high quality, clear, understanding and enforceable taxation standards for general purposes; to promote the use and application of those standards by way of communication with and education of users, clients and the general public; to promote and support research in the area of taxation services for the emerging economy, to ensure member's integrity and level of advice of high standards in the eyes of their clients and the general public; and to monitor developments within the tax profession and ensure that the standards are reviewed and updated on a regular basis."

Membership of the Board, which has as Chairman, Mr. J.B. Okele, FCTI a past president of the Insti-

tute, cuts across the stakeholders in Nigerian Tax system. Mr. Okele, while responding on behalf of other members of the Board, opined that the inauguration of the Board was long overdue. He thanked the Institute for putting together people with good track records of positive contribution to the growth of their various organizations and the institute as members of the Board and assured the Institute that, though the demands of the task before them might be enormous, they shall surely deliver as expected.

"The need to have a separate organ for the production of standards dated back to 2005 when an ad-hoc Committee was inaugurated by the then President, Mr. Folorunso Fasoto, and was mandated to look for ways by which the Institute could standardize the practice and administration of taxation in Nigeria through the issuance of Statements of Taxation Standards," Quadri said.

He added that the Board was established to widen the scope of professionalism, increase the technical output and enhance the acceptability and creditability of the standards.

One facet of the system that has not been effectively addressed is the setting of standards for tax professionals.

Standard Bank awarded top deal maker

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

STANDARD Bank has been recognised for its excellence in emerging markets winning three awards in the Banker 'Deal of Year' Awards for 2010.

The Banker announced 'Deal of the Year' awards to Standard Bank for the fol-

lowing three deals; USD\$15 million, Cocoa-Receiveables Revolving Trade Finance Facility - Agro Traders Limited, (Nigeria), USD\$200 million, Republic of Senegal Eurobond issue - Republic of Senegal and USD\$500 million, Lower Tier 2 subordinated Eurobond a statement from the bank said.

Business

Small businesses get N2bn boost

By Jibrin Abubakar

THE small scale business sector is being gingered as the Nigeria's intervention scheme- National Economic Reconstruction Fund (NERFUND)- is pumping N2billion into it.

At the signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) yesterday in Abuja, the Managing Director of the NERFUND Alhaji Baba Maina Gimba said the new pact means the 'dreams of hardworking Nigerians shall be realised.'

The MoU was signed between NERFUND and four agencies which are: Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), National Centre for Women Development (NCWD) and Entrepreneurship Development Centre (EDC).

The MD said the fund when disbursed, will help the beneficiaries to engage in profitable

and productive activities.

He said in the past the agency had identified and disbursed N25 million to five small businesses in each state of Nigeria.

Speaking at the occasion also, Director General of SMEDAN Alhaji Mohammad Nadada Umar said the scheme is aimed at providing affordable funding for small businesses to enable them operate optimally.

"The SMEDAN DG said: "It is my expectation that this fund will be revolving so that it can be available to as many Nigerians as possible," he said.

He said the fund should not be seen as a national cake or a grant. *Daily Trust* learnt that the loan will attract 8 per cent interest rate while the repayment period will be varied.

The NERFUND was established in 1989 by the NERFUND Act to catalyze the rapid growth of the micro sector of the economy.



FROM left: Project Director of Entrepreneurship Development Centre (EDC) Mr. Ayodelade Aderinwale, Director General of National Directorate of Employment(NDE) Malam Mohammad Abubakar, the Managing Director of National Economic Reconstruction Fund(NERFUND) Malam Baba Maina Gimba, the Director General of Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency (SMEDAN) Alhaji Mohammad Nadada Umar and the Director General of National Centre for Women Development(NCWD) at the signing of a N2bn MoU between NERFUND and the other agencies yesterday in Abuja.



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Star Interview

PTDF, no longer slush fund – Darma

Engineer Muttaqha Rabe Darma is the Executive Secretary of the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF). He has degrees in Engineering and Business Administration. Before he joined PTDF, he served variously as the commissioner of works, housing and transport; rural, social development, youth and sports in Katsina State, between August 2003 and May 2007. He also taught Mechanical Engineering in the polytechnic as well as at the university. In this interview with **Hamisu Muhammad**, he speaks on several issues within and outside the circle of the PTDF management.

WHAT have you been doing since you took over the office?

Let me start by saying I assumed office in November 2008, that is exactly 1 year three months now. Since my assumption in office, like every other manager I assessed the situation to find out what exactly is available. What are the weaknesses and the strengths of this place, and how can we convert the weaknesses into opportunities, and to build upon the strength of the fund to become stronger. I did that fundamentally in about three months. Having realised the weaknesses and the strengths of the fund, we went ahead and started what we believe will make the fund stronger.

We did that by simply applying the law establishing the fund, and the law simply states exactly what you are expected to do as a fund. The law says we have to provide capacity in terms of man power, institutions and materials in the oil and gas industry. In a nutshell that is what the Law is telling us to do.

Let me take the issues one after the other. We said ok the law requires us to build our human capacity in-house, in order to have Nigerians fully in place in all the sectors of the oil and gas industry. These are the upstream, the midstream and the downstream.

We asked ourselves what are the requirements of building human capacity in these three sectors, and where are we now. Is the sector dominated by expatriates? Is it a high tech sector? Or a soft engineering sector? Or is it pure managerial capac-

ity that is required? I realised that all of the above are required, and that over 70 percent of the requirement of the sector is high tech engineering, 25 percent required soft core engineering, 15 percent may be the management requirement. Having realised this gap I then I asked myself how to bridge the gap.

First of all we started with the Nigerian Content initiative that came into place in 2004, which directed that by 2006, 45 percent of the oil and gas requirement should be domiciled in Nigeria, such as human, manufacturing and material, including services delivery must be 45 percent domiciled in Nigeria.

The Initiative further said by 2007, 70 percent of these activities must be domiciled in Nigeria. Now we are in 2010. As at now from the literature available to me only a little bit above 30 percent have been domiciled so far, and the target is that by the end of this year 70 percent should be domiciled. The end of 2010 is about 7 months from now, and we are talking about 33 percent or even less. So you can see the challenge is enormous.

We decided that if you can have competent manpower in the sector most of the challenges will be gone. That is why on average in the last 7 years PTDF has been sponsoring about 200 scholars annually for the Overseas Scholarship Scheme (OSS). The scheme is sponsoring Nigerians who are competent and capable to go to top universities in Europe, to study oil and gas courses. So I said to myself if we are really serious in bridging the gap, let us populate the industry with competent and skil-

ful Nigerians. If we have them no operator will give you any excuse that there are no Nigerians that are qualified for the job. This session alone we sent about 600 people which is three times of what we have been sending in the previous years. We also realised that there are institutions in this country, that are also meant to build capacity in the oil and gas industry. Over the years these institutions have either been neglected or rotted away. That is why they are not being patronised. In some cases these institutions are far away from their core competences, teaching different things.

In the past, many people saw PTDF as a slush fund, especially with the scandals that rocked the Fund in the past. In recent time there is change in the perception by people about the Fund. Could you please tell us what approach you adopted to change such perception?

Our first approach is strict adherence to the law establishing the Fund, and the law states clearly what the money should be used for, that is what we strictly abide by. The second thing is the Transparency and Accountability, just like you witnesses in the recent OSS exam we conducted. We have to make sure that we convince people that this thing is transparent because people are agitating that even when you passed, you will not get it. So we said let it be computerised, go and sit before the computer. You are the person to do the exam, answer the question and the computer will mark your result and submit the result to a data bank where all

the results will be collected and select the best results. So that is the kind of transparency we are even doing in house, everything is transparent. I'm not in the position to comment on why people consider the fund to be as a slush fund in the past, because I was not in PTDF then. But what I am doing now is that for every single Kobo that is to be spent in PTDF, management will sit together and know why this money is spent. Even if it is not your department spending the money, you should be part of knowing why that money is going to be spent. Now every single person in the management of PTDF knew what is happening in PTDF. We are as transparent as that, and again in everything we do, we try to follow due process and due diligence. Be it PTDF law, Public procurement, fiscal policy, we follow it. Every blessed law that is enshrined in this country we try to follow it as much as we can, and abide by it. I am sure that these are some of the reasons why people began to change the way they see PTDF.

For example, in November when I came, I was invited to the National Assembly. Somebody among the legislature was trying to say PTDF is useless, it should be scrapped. Just recently only after one year, I read in a newspaper another person was say-

ing PTDF is such an important Agency of government. So you can see the psyche of Nigerians has started changing. They have started seeing that PTDF is useful, and its serving its purpose. Another example is a prominent Vice Chancellor and prominent geologist in one of the second generation Universities came to my office. I was telling him that it was very tough for us, because this year alone we receive more than 11,000 applications for our Overseas Scholarship Programme. Even to sort out these applications is something else, and his comment was that "You people should thank your God because Nigerians are now realising that they can only get these opportunities to study through PTDF. Other establishments don't do it this way. It is only their sibling and their relations who get the opportunity."

For the Overseas Scholarship Scheme (OSS), usually when the scholars return home they hardly get absorbed by the operators in the industry, is it that their qualifications don't suit the jobs available?

Let me say that our scholars go to the best universities in UK and some of the best universities in the world, and they come tops in these universities, and our scholars are qualified and competent to work in any international oil company. Yes, it is true some of them came back, but are not employed in the industry, or they got jobs outside the oil and gas industry. It is something that I cannot do anything about, because I am not the regulator of the industry. What my law says is to give training, and I am giving training. If you are talking about technology in the petroleum industry, oil and gas, science and engineering, and you talk about Imperial College, London, it is ranked among the top 5 in the world, or Herriot Watt, in UK which is about the second, or University College London's science and engineering programme. It is ranked top in UK, also like Canfield

“But what I am doing now is that for every single Kobo that is to be spent in PTDF, management will sit together and know why this money is spent.”



ENGINEER Muttaqah Babu Darma making a point during the interview.

University, Nottingham University, Leeds University and Aberdeen or Robert Godden University. All of these universities we are sending our scholars to, are top Universities not only in the UK, but the whole world. Some of the scholars come top in these universities. As they finish their first semester exams companies will go looking for them to employ them outside Nigeria. I have several requests asking for permission for them to accept the offers either in Shell, BP or some of these European companies in oil and gas, that are not operational in Nigeria and we obliged. We told them if you get an offer outside the country accept it. Our law didn't say I should tie you down.

Even though for this year I decided to do something, we said for PhD we only take university lecturers, and they must be bonded by their own universities. I can't bond them but the universities they came from can bond them, so that if they return to Nigeria, they must teach and transfer the knowledge to other Nigerians.

Is there any effort by the Fund to assist the scholars get absorbed in the industry when they return home, looking at the amount of money you spend in training them, especially now that we will soon have a new law in the industry?

Since the time I realised that this is a major problem, I began to extend my hand of fellowship to the regulators of the industry, and even the regulators of the economy, I met with the National Petroleum Investment Management Services (NAPIMS), Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON) and Nigeria Energy Commission and many of them. All of these are very powerful in the system. We told them this same story. That we trained people, we believe they are among the best in the world, and they come from the

best universities. But the industry is over populated by expatriates. We seek your assistance, please come and help PTDF and help Nigerians, so that when we train they get absorbed into the industry. We even made some suggestions that we ask them to take the census of the industry and PTDF can sponsor that, to see their qualifications, skills and competences. If they found the expatriates with qualifications below standard, we have Nigerians who are better qualified, please replace them with Nigerians. If their (expatriates) qualifications are up to the standard of Nigerians, that means they can be equated in terms of qualifications and skills with Nigerians, replace them with Nigerians but if they are better than Nigerians please, ask Nigerians to join them to learn from them.

Thank God, the last meeting we had with NNPC, we agreed to do more in absorbing our scholars after they returned home.

Beside the scholarship programmes, what is the PTDF doing that will improve capacity in the sector?

As an Engineer, I believe in starting things from the first principle, which is starting from the very basis, because if the basis is not strong enough, no matter how beautiful the structure is, it will collapse sometime. So that is why we look at the institutions that bring out these young Nigerians into the system and strengthen them.

We have over 130 universities in this country, a number of them are either technology or science based, or they are general institutions but doing a lot of technology and engineering courses. So we said let us look into these institutions not only sponsoring Nigerians to go abroad. For example, this year we have 11,000 applicants for OSS, if you strengthen our institutions make them up to date, they can absorb most of these people. We look at the various departments in the universities and try to upgrade them. We started with the first generation universities, departments that deal with petroleum technology like geosciences and engineering, and bring them into a modern day learning environment. We build befitting departmental buildings, that you can get anywhere in the world, and equip them. By equipping I mean we equip the libraries and the laboratories. We also establish virtual libraries, so that they can connect with other libraries in advanced countries to make research easier. Again, we established a local scholarship within the system. As I am talking to you, the students took exams all over Nigeria. We also institute PTDF Chairs in such departments aimed at enhancing research and scholarships. There is a University Lectures Enhancement Skill Programme also aimed at making them up to date in the modern delivery ways, and means of universities teaching techniques. We are into partnership with three universities in the UK, where these lecturers will be sent for 3 months on the programme. We are considering about 20-30 lecturers for this year alone.

We are in discussions with University of Leeds, University Collage London for a split PhD programme for the Nige-

rian lecturers. The split PhD means doing PhD two universities. We are also looking at the possibilities of bringing some of these lecturers in advanced universities into Nigeria, to train some of our lecturers and students, on research a modern delivery of lectures.

Why is PTDF building a new headquarters now? And what caused the delay in the work after awarding the contract?

No, No, work is going on if you go there you will see Julius Berger has cleared the site. But the issue is that in contract administration, it is not only awarding a contract that will make a company deploy to site especially in Nigeria. Contract always want mobilisation fees before they move to site and the transparency process in PTDF has made it tedious get money out. There are some small issues that came in place, but we have surmounted them. Now JB are on the site.

For the other question why the head office now? Remember PTDF is a Fund, like I always explain, if you see the building we proposed headquarters, it can't be a building that the Fund alone can occupy. 80 percent of that building will be revenue based for PTDF.

What is the truth about your ambition to abandon this position, and vie for the governorship post in your home state?

Yes, I am a politician and I personally agree that different people have different brand of politics. My own brand of politics is that I follow somebody. In other words I have a political master and I cannot make my way to start doing something that my political master doesn't approve of. So I am under political tutelage. By the time I graduate as a full fledged politician, then I can decide my future. But as at now I'm telling you I can't decide my future alone in politics.

Let me explain this. Maybe you are coming from the angle that people are saying I am a grassroots politician, just because I believe in empowerment, making people stand on their feet, take their lives into their own hands. If I have the means would drive poverty out of Nigeria, and the only way I can start doing that is to start from my own community and my people. That is why everything I do is geared towards that.

For instance, Now, I take a fat salary, I have spent 60 percent of it on empowering people. Every month I share 60 percent of my salary to 100 people in Katsina. I do so because I realize that what I take as a monthly salary can feed about 100 people monthly. I asked myself what do I do with all the money? I devised a means of sharing that salary to a minimum of 100 people every month.

Who are the people, are they the needy or the politicians?

Not the Politicians, I mean the needy. It is part of the poverty alleviation strategy I deployed. For politicians there are other ways we settle them. For example I share my money based on criteria: some people get N3000 while others get N20,000 per month. There is my former teacher at secondary school who I give N15,000 per month. He is a blind person with a number of children. Every time he receives that money he sends me an appreciation message. I nearly cry because of the words in his messages. He taught me in secondary school, and unfortunately none of his children are graduates, and none of them is strong enough to take care of him, though they are doing their best. These are the kind of people I share my money with.

Business

Senate probes NIPP over 132 KV project in Akwa Ibom

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

THE Senate will soon commence investigation into circumstances surrounding non implementation of a 132 KV Transmission Line project by the National Integrated Power Project (NIPP) that would benefit seven local government 2areas in Akwa Ibom State.

Communities from the affected local governments have through Senator Bob Effiong petitioned the Senate over non implementation of the project by the NIPP and the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) resulting from non payment of compensation to people affected by the project.

The affected communities alleged that officials of the NIPP have refused to pay compensation to those it is due 132 KV transmission line project even when the fund has been budgeted by the agency.

The petition laid before the Senate by Effiong signed by counsel to the communities, Barrister S.B Inyang said the PHCN and NIPP have expressed unwillingness to pay the compensation saying it is higher than the cost of the project.

"The argument of PHCN/NIPP is that the

estimated compensation is greater than the project cost hence the project should be jettisoned by re-conducting the existing 132Kv Single Circuit (S/C) line in the State without due regard to the issues of safety, sustainability and acceptability," the peti-

tion said.

The communities therefore prayed that the Senate should intervene to ensure that "Payment of compensation for crops already destroyed during surveying, enumeration and valuation exercise, sacred places

and graves defiled, buildings marked for demolition, or

Immediate clarification of the status and intention of government and its agencies concerning the proposed project especially PHCN, Federal Ministry of Power and Steel and Federal Minis-

try of Environment with the same enthusiasm that heralded its introduction."

They also want the Senate to ensure that the project is implemented as proposed.

The petition has been referred to the Committee on Public Petitions, Ethics

and Privileges to work with the Committee on Power in order to get to the root of the matter.

The affected communities are; Eket, Nsit Ubium, Nsit Ibom, Etinan, Ibesipo Asutan, Uyo and Itu Local Government Areas.



MY CONSTITUENCY LEGACY



Constituency legacies are those humanitarian projects initiated, implemented and bequeathed to the deserving communities as related to our elected political office holders. As the nation draw closer to another elective year, it becomes imperative that lawmakers will be taking inventory and account for the stewardship of services they rendered to uplift the well being of their people. As it affects the federal lawmakers, quite a good number have demonstrated kindness and generosity vis-a vis their electioneering promises. They are trailing the blazing of good representation through provision of constituency projects and contribute to debates, bills and other sundry issues of national importance.

To celebrate our National Assembly representatives, **Media Trust Limited**, the publishers of *Daily Trust*, *Weekly Trust*, *Sunday Trust* and *Aminiya* newspapers, is packaging a special project on the above subject [MY CONSTITUENCY LEGACY]. The aim is to applaud and highlight the contributions of individual lawmaker who has demonstrated kindness to his/her people. Given the foregoing, federal lawmakers are invited to participate in the project as a way of showcasing their contributions [Constituency projects] executed to the admiration of their various constituencies.

For participation/enquiries, please contact :

Leke Adelere on 08059100282

Lilian Tanimola 08052377534.

The date of publication is from Monday, May 17 to Saturday, May 31, 2010.

Thank you as we anticipate your participation.

Management

DAILY TRUST
TRUST IS A BURDEN

CPC alerts consumers on seal defects in Caprisonne

By Sunday Williams

THE consumer Protection Council (CPC) has alerted the public that a particular batch of Caprisonne apple flavour in the market has seal defects.

CPC Director General, Mrs Ify Umenyi said the defective batch of that juice is being withdrawn while investigations are on-going to uncover the cause of the defect.

She said caprisonne drinks have not been found to be sub-standard except this defective batch which is being withdrawn.

She said that CPC dissociates itself from a text message which is said to be in circulation warning consumers against the consumption of caprisonne. The council informs all Nigerian consumers of fruit juices to make sure that all fruit juice packs are properly sealed before purchase and consumption while any leakage should be reported to the council.

Business



Why Barkindo was sacked

By Hamisu Muhammad

THE removal of the Mohammed Sanusi Barkindo as the head of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) is considered to be an untimely exit as he just entered his second year in office.

Barkindo was appointed the Group Managing Director of NNPC in January, 2009 after a management reshuffle that threw out the former GMD Engineer Abubakar Lawal Yar'adua.

Barkindo spent most of his career in the oil and gas business. He served in various capacities within and outside the country, including OPEC. He is a very close associate to the former Minister of Petroleum Resources Rilwanu Lukman. His passion and zeal in transforming the oil and gas industry has earned him both respect and hatred from the stakeholders.

Analysts said it is not yet clear on the motive behind the change by the acting president but experts feared it may not be unconnected to the ongoing controversial reforms in the oil sector.

Since Jonathan became acting president, observers say Mr. Barkindo was unable to earn the love and support of his new principal.

While the NNPC has always been seen as the milk cow that sponsors political activities, Mr. Barkindo's reformist posture is consid-

ered a threat.

Another school of thought said those that are against the reforms in the oil sector considered him as the only treat that remains after the forceful exit of the 'oil sheikh' - Rilwanu Lukman and his team by the Jonathan administration. They said there is no reason why Barkindo should remain in the oil tower when his master is out.

Within the Corporation, some staff were not happy with the way he manned the issues of promotion and welfare of the staff in his first year in office. Among the key issues they raised recently borders on employment of new staff and posted to strategic positions, while there are more qualified hands in the Corporation. The secret recruitment includes a young lady as a senior supervisor and another Oando Plc worker who was employed as general manager in the corporation. The workers union threatened to down tool recently to protest such actions.

The NNPC is also highly indebted.

Some observers make allusion to the fact that his forceful exit may not be unconnected to his seemingly 'arrogant posture.' It was also learnt that the new ministers of oil are not also comfortable with him.

Pressures from the parliament calling for his removal were also considered top among the reasons for his

untimely exit from office. Reports said the former GMD shunned several invitations from both chambers of the parliaments. The legislatures invited him to explain how the Corporation handled the oil revenue within the last two years.

Meanwhile, the new head of the NNPC Shehu Ladan is not a new face in the oil business. His vast experience just like the former boss has silent many critic who asked 'why northerners only? Unlike Barkindo, Ladan is regarded as a politician in disguised. He is linked to so many top politicians in the north and he has been among the traditional rulers that decide the direction of the region. He is the Cigari Zazzau.

His critics say he might not be erudite enough to handle the proposed reforms in the oil industry.

Going by the intricacies in the reforms in the oil and gas sector, there is likely hood that those that are against the passage of the Petroleum Industry Bill will have a little relief now that the proponents of the Bill are out.

Barkindo, though an oil authority in his own right is considered as yet another victim of Yar'adua's illness and Jonathan's unwavering political broom sweeping across all facets of the country's power lines. But the real issue now is the fate of the Petroleum Industry Bill and whether the bill will be elbowed out like its proponents. Perhaps the last is yet to be heard.



WORLD BANK - NIGERIA

Extended Term Temporary (ETT) Learning Hub Assistant

Local Appointment (One Year, renewable)
Location: Abuja, Nigeria

In line with its regional learning strategy, the Africa Region of the World Bank recently created a Regional learning hub in its Abuja Office to achieve the following objectives:

- Providing learning opportunities which support Regional staff to maintain and build required skills.
- Providing relevant learning opportunities which support staff to perform and achieve development results as the Bank's business evolves, as decentralization continues and as change accelerates
- Providing learning opportunities to maintain the breath and relevance of Bank's knowledge base.
- Developing a more innovative and strategic learning program better aligned with the region's key business needs.
- Providing adequate learning opportunities for locally-recruited staff.

Roles and responsibilities

Under the supervision of the Sub-Regional Human Resource Officer, the responsibilities would include but not limited to the following:

1. Coordinate the Language and Culture Program (LCP)

- Participate in periodic vendor meetings and support programs as required
- Set up webinars and/or video-conferences; coordinate connectivity testing with participants in country office, relying on assistance from Bank's IT help desk as needed
- Establish and manage a community of learners practice by using WBG's Scoop social network
- Coordinate communications between LCP and Abuja country office staff and management
- Manage weekly schedule of tutoring sessions for various groups:
- Coordinate peer learning activities (i.e. lunches, BBL, etc)
- Help LCP organize tutoring observations via video-conferences
- Ensure that participants complete periodic assessment activities following LCP standards (i.e. Oral Proficiency Interviews); Ensure that all participants have access to a microphone/headset and other learning aids as may be needed from time to time.
- Run, read, and file regular reports on courses and individual participants' level of usage following LCP standards, and ensure that everyone who needs to see a given report will receive it
- Coordinate records for Level 1 and Level 3 evaluations. This will involve primarily working with Monitoring and evaluation colleagues, but it could also include some program-specific evaluations to track trends and help program manager plan appropriate responses
- Create and manage periodic reports on usage of Rosetta Stone and follow-up communication, in consultation with Lead Trainers in the LCP

2. Workshop administration:

- Find appropriate venue for the Training in accordance with the training requirements
- Secure the venue and Vendors by getting LPOs
- Liaise with Task Team Leaders on the list of invitees and substantive programme of the event to guide event preparation.
- Book appropriate conference venue
- Organize special activities i.e. identification of appropriate activities and their organization - e.g. special dinners, entertainment (proposals for this shall be described in the refined event concept)
- Assist in outsourcing / hiring equipments needed for the training for example printers, translation equipments
- Ensure appropriate branding of the venue
- Assist in ordering of Stationary to be purchased locally.
- Prepare appropriate event packages including name tag, binders with event logo, quality pens, notebooks
- Lay out the conference meeting room

3. Training Logistics

- Organize logistics related to travel, entry visas, accommodation and rooming lists, airport transfer, in house tea-break, catering facilities, etc as may be required from time to time.
- Create participant list associated data
- Make appropriate provision for protocol and diplomatic arrangements as may be needed
- Ensure security arrangements.
- Ensure participant registration processing of registration forms (i.e. LMS registration)
- Communicate with participants regarding their participation and requirements
- Prepare and distribute all printed and digital documents
- Ensure that all the equipments are working well i.e. LCD projector, sound recording of the event
- Coordinate all the special events for example reception and closing dinners
- Ensure to schedule the Photographer for the event, press conference, opening reception
- Ensure availability of technical support during the event
- Ensure IT assistance, project fair/exhibition assistance
- Print workshop certificates
- Manage overall coordination and financial monitoring of the event
- Collect feedback and experiences, analyzing the lessons learned
- Liaise with the venue and vendors to update final billing documentation and facilitating payment with Accounts
- Facilitate pouch logistics of conference materials as necessary

Selection criteria

- A Minimum of Bachelors degree preferably in Secretarial Studies or Office Management or Business Administration, or other relevant discipline.
- At least 3 years of direct relevant experience in a large International, service or Private Sector Organization. (Relevant hands-on experience in a reputable training outfit, professional body or consulting firm will be an added advantage)
- Proficiency in English (verbal and written) and effective time management and organizational skills.
- A working knowledge of French Language is an added advantage.
- Experience in working effectively with numbers.
- Pass relevant Bank Group tests in place at time of recruitment i.e. language and computer applications such as Ms Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Typing.
- Proficiency in using advance functions of standard computer applications and adaptability to use state-of-art software.
- Knowledge of and ability to execute business processes involving diverse and work procedures related to the processing and production of assigned outputs in a timely manner.
- Ability to retrieve reference materials from various sources and pulling the information together in a useable format.
- Ability to follow through on team priorities in the absence of the team leader and respond to requests for information.
- Committed team player with demonstrated inter-personal skills and ability to work effectively in a multi-cultural/disciplinary environment and able to produce high quality work under pressure.

Method of Applications:

Interested candidates are requested to submit their applications online at www.worldbank.org/career before close of business on 1st May 2010. Once on the site look for job number #100693. And follow the steps to apply. **PAPER APPLICATION WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

Business/Agric

Cocoa growers task new minister on nationwide policy

Stories by Tina A. Hassan, with agency reports

COCOA growers in Nigeria, the world's fourth-largest producer of the beans, called on the country's newly appointed agriculture minister to develop a national policy to solve problems facing the industry.

"There is no serious cocoa-producing country in the world that doesn't have a policy on the cocoa industry," said Akindolani Olusuyi, head of the Cocoa Processors Association of Nigeria, in an e-mailed statement yesterday. Olusuyi's group is part of the Cocoa Association of Nigeria, which represents farmers, processors, buyers and regulators, and which issued the statement.

Nigeria's acting President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday named Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah as Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources.

The appointment provides an opportunity for Nigeria to tackle problems facing its cocoa industry, including poor infrastructure and a lack of processing capacity, the Cocoa Association said.

Nigerian cocoa production fell 36 percent to 212,000 metric tons in the 2008-2009 season, partly because of a failure by government to provide new seedlings and training to farmers.

ThisDay reported on March 8, citing Alli Olanusi, an official at



AGRIC Minister Professor Sheikh Ahmad Abdullahi

the National Cocoa Development Committee.

The Ivory Coast, Ghana and

Indonesia are the world's three largest cocoa growers. (Bloomberg).

Ghana releases protein maize variety

GHANA has released four maize varieties that are rich in protein, resistant to drought and resistance to parasitic attack.

The varieties are to help farmers in regions of the country that experience drought and suffer the persistent attacks of Striga, a parasitic weed that reduces maize yields.

Ghanaian Crop Research Institute (CRI) and the Savannah Agricultural Institute (SARI) are the bodies that released the varieties that were developed by the Inter-

national Institute for tropical Agriculture (IITA). According to IITA, the varieties are developed with the support of the Nippon Foundation project which provided the fund for the breeding of the variety in the National Maize program of Ghana.

Maize Breeder of IITA Dr. Bafour Badu-Apraku, said: "The release of these varieties, farmers in Ghana now have options not only in terms of maturity, grain colour and type but also varieties which can tolerate the two major stresses which

prevent increased maize production and productivity in the sub-region."

In a statement released by IITA signed by the Corporate Communications Officer (West Africa) Godwin Atser Striga is endemic to the savannah agro-ecological zone of West Africa and has become a constraint to maize production, accounting for yield losses of between 20 and 80% in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), and affecting the welfare and livelihood of over 100 million people.

'Only few farmers can access high yielding crop seedling'

By Tina A. Hassan

VERY few farmers in Africa have access to high yielding seed varieties and this is a major constraint for improving crop yields.

Hosting a meeting with seed experts the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) said recent statistics shows that less than one third of the farmers in Africa use improved seed due to fear of losing farm yields.

The body is therefore advocating that farm inputs like fertilizers, improved seedling among others should be sold to farmers in small sachets like detergent so that poor farmers can afford such inputs.

Director of AGRA's program for Africa's Seed Systems Joe DeVries observed that adopting new seed variety by small scale farmers is risky because they depend on their farm harvest to feed their family.

He said making such seeds available to farmers in small packets would allow them to test in small portions of land without suffering any loss and would also boost their confidence in the acceptance of high yielding seedlings.

Packaging farm inputs in small sachets would afford poor farmers the chance to buy items like fertilizer, pesticide and seedlings instead of selling in large bags or huge quantities that they cannot afford.

Average agricultural commodity prices as collected by ABUJA Securities and Commodity Exchange on April 06, 2010

Commodity	Variety	Location	Price/Ton (Naira)
Palm Produce	Palm Oil		190,000.00
	P.K.O	Benin	185,000.00
	Palm Kernel	(Edo State)	45,000.00
Cocoa	Graded	Akure	430,000.00
	Ungraded	(Ondo State)	425,000.00
Maize	White	Bodija	56,120.00
	Yellow	(Oyo State)	66,330.00
Maize	White	Mangu	43,000.00
	Yellow	(Plateau State)	N.A
	White	Dawanau	50,000.00
Sorghum		(Kano State)	50,000.00
	White		41,000.00
	Yellow	Dawanau	41,000.00
Soyabans	Red	(Kano State)	N.A
		Gboko	
Soyabans		(Benue State)	50,000.00
		Dawanau	
Sesame	Cleaned	(Kano State)	56,000.00
	Uncleaned	Dawanau	157,000.00
Sesame	Cleaned	(Kano State)	146,000.00
	Uncleaned	Gboko	N.A
Sesame	Cleaned	(Benue State)	147,000.00
	Uncleaned	Mangu	150,000.00
Sesame	Cleaned	(Plateau State)	N.A
	Uncleaned	Muna	150,000.00
Groundnut	Shelled	(Adamawa State)	N.A
	Unshelled	Mai Bargo	114,000.00
Groundnut	Shelled	Dawanau Bahaushiya	109,000.00
	Unshelled	(Kano State)	N.A
Groundnut	Shelled	Dakar Muna	128,000.00
	Unshelled	(Adamawa State)	136,893.00
Groundnut	Shelled		93,644.00
	Native	Agric	120,000.00
Gum Arabic	Gboko	(Benue State)	108,000.00
	Unshelled		40,000.00
Gum Arabic	Grade 1	Muna	N.A
	Grade 2	(Adamawa State)	N.A

IFAD wants agric, industrial sectors devt

THE development of Nigeria's agricultural and industrial sectors should go hand-in-hand for sustainable development to be achieved, Dr. Kanayo Nwanze, the President, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), has said.

Nwanze told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja that it was impossible for an undeveloped agricultural sector to be able to support the industrial sector.

He said that African leaders' belief 50 years ago, that

investment in the industrial sector was the most important was a mistake.

"The mistake we made was that we forgot that the agricultural sector and the industrial sector should go hand-in-hand.

"When you invest in the industrial sector, you should invest in agriculture and rural sector," Nwanze said, adding "do in the agricultural sector as you do in the industrial and social sectors as they are interwoven".

The IFAD president also noted that the attainment of a thriving agro-industry was impossible without a successful agricultural sector.

"Agro-business depends to a large extent on a successful agricultural sector as surplus agricultural produce should feed industries.

"So, you cannot have an agro-industry if your primary produce is not available; a successful farming sector feeds a successful agro-industrial sector.

"It does not make sense to invest in agro-business and industry, and still import food from outside," he said.

(NAN).

Business/Finance

Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Wednesday, April 7, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
2ND-TIER SECURITIES				
ADSWITCH PLC	1	2.09	150,000	313,500.00
CAPITAL OIL PLC	15	0.55	50,767,000	27,923,550.00
SECTOR Totals			9,917,000	20,237,050.00
AGRICULTURE				
FTN COCOA PROCESSORS PLC	79	1.16	7,575,639	8,482,524.93
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	21	0.76	998,876	759,145.76
OKOMU OIL PALM COY PLC	2	21.62	1,500	30,810.00
PRESKO PLC	13	6.80	458,431	3,111,222.98
SECTOR Totals	115		9,034,446	12,383,703.67
AIR SERVICES				
NIG. AV. HANDLING COY PLC	104	12.13	1,147,888	13,923,881.44
SECTOR Totals	104			13,923,881.44
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	374	10.82	9,641,526	104,445,964.65
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	106	2.73	6,308,474	16,688,247.52
DIAMOND BANK PLC	135	9.50	30,627,446	291,441,577.54
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	101	7.25	1,309,972	9,482,405.15
FIRST CITY MON. BANK PLC	118	9.59	5,322,917	50,862,662.94
FIDELITY BANK PLC	313	3.40	17,936,499	59,971,276.65
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	1,153	18.10	34,688,356	624,337,158.08
FINBANK PLC	99	0.69	6,849,266	4,706,634.80
GTBANK PLC	713	22.01	19,367,462	440,206,111.43
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	98	11.50	3,055,959	35,060,995.50
INTERCONT. BANK PLC.	146	2.29	7,178,325	15,906,019.28
OCEANIC BANK INT. PLC	205	2.06	16,421,404	33,316,170.85
BANK PHB PLC	134	1.76	9,998,131	17,562,673.58
SKYE BANK PLC.	251	7.90	12,626,696	101,440,586.14
SPRING BANK PLC	34	1.10	742,938	811,086.35
STERLING BANK PLC	146	2.99	8,348,599	24,580,074.34
UNT. BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	461	15.90	29,449,562	460,697,091.98
UNION BANK OF NIG. PLC	226	5.95	6,486,892	38,625,076.11
UNITYBANK PLC	41	1.00	5,856,139	5,877,248.55
WEMA BANK PLC	46	1.10	3,107,211	3,417,932.10
ZENITH BANK PLC	563	19.00	29,424,359	559,035,511.46
SECTOR Totals	5,463		264,748,133	2,899,472,585.06
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	79	23.69	1,187,041	28,093,357.04
BENUE CEMENT COY PLC	31	63.99	200,047	12,592,258.85
CEM. CO. OF N/NIGERIA PLC	125	24.67	2,875,264	70,324,844.13
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	65	38.00	2,304,990	85,858,105.25
SECTOR Totals	300		6,567,342	197,868,565.27
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
BERGER PAINTS NIGERIA PLC	16	6.24	211,585	1,319,627.75
CHEM. AND ALLIED PROD. PLC	2	29.67	1,450	40,875.50
DN MEYER PLC	2	3.07	1,512	4,415.04
NIGERIAN-GERM. CHEM. PLC	2	14.29	5,000	67,900.00
SECTOR Totals	22		219,547	1,432,818.29
COMP. & OFFICE EQUIP.				
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	33	0.59	1,223,652	704,937.18
TRIPPLE GEE AND COY PLC	3	4.37	57,646	239,807.36
SECTOR Totals	36		1,281,298	944,744.54
CONGLOMERATES				
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIG.) PLC	8	4.41	71,619	315,839.79
CHELLARAMS PLC	1	13.43	26,570	339,033.20
PZ CUSSONS NIGERIA PLC	97	30.00	7,106,572	209,268,673.96
TRANSN. CORP. OF NIG. PLC	51	0.54	7,653,546	4,132,695.62
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	80	54.12	577,095	31,095,454.34
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	85	30.22	522,404	15,177,514.36
SECTOR Totals	324		15,957,806	260,329,211.27
CONSTRUCTION				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	107	7.14	2,581,815	18,381,993.10
JULIUS BERGER NIG. PLC	19	39.90	323,350	12,901,665.00
MULTIV. RESOURCES PLC	1	0.50	20,000	10,000.00
SECTOR Totals	127		2,925,165	31,293,658.10
FOOD/BEV. & TOBACCO				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	12	33.73	8,655	306,473.55
BIG TREAT PLC	30	1.12	1,885,681	2,111,962.72
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	111	19.18	2,947,994	56,070,126.92
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	361	20.47	5,979,106	119,961,453.78
DANGOTE SUGAR REF. PLC	179	20.06	9,695,328	190,373,121.34
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	165	70.50	3,194,221	218,072,510.26
HONEYW. FLOUR MILL PLC	79	9.00	2,137,713	19,076,507.17
NAT. SALT COY NIGERIA PLC	125	9.70	3,393,337	32,861,996.65
NIG. BOTTLING COY PLC	32	35.68	292,852	10,448,959.36
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	32	283.50	19,503	5,708,750.79
N/NIGERIA FLOUR MILLS PLC	6	33.93	79,057	2,656,579.04
TANTALIZERS PLC	72	1.30	4,746,694	6,293,977.17
UTC NIGERIA PLC	10	0.81	175,257	141,958.17
SECTOR Totals	1,214		34,555,898	664,084,375.00
HEALTHCARE				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	6	1.51	83,700	126,387.00
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	70	3.36	2,330,325	7,972,481.47
GLAXOS. CONSUM. NIG. PLC	17	27.56	105,906	3,034,412.00
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.	36	6.42	822,182	5,277,827.84
NEIMETH INT. PHARM. PLC	13	1.94	134,538	273,112.14
UN/DIAG. & CLIN. SERV. PLC	54	0.82	2,164,697	1,755,073.98
SECTOR Totals	196		3,641,348	18,480,294.40

HOTEL & TOURISM				
CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	3	3.55	54,800	194,524.00
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	10	2.49	331,983	826,637.67
SECTOR Totals	13		386,783	1,021,161.67
IND./DOMESTIC PROD.				
ALUMACO PLC	1	9.98	50,001	499,009.98
B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	12	9.80	408,575	3,906,518.15
FIRST ALUM. NIGERIA PLC	13	0.53	188,990	99,864.70
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC	40	5.85	1,383,213	8,069,157.70
VONO PRODUCTS PLC	7	0.58	37,300	21,634.00
SECTOR Totals	73		2,068,079	12,596,184.53
INF. & COMM. TECH.				
CHAMS PLC	50	0.85	4,287,737	3,644,576.45
MASS TEL. INNOV. NIG. PLC	1	0.50	140,000	70,000.00
STARCOMMS PLC	56	2.91	2,820,918	8,173,324.47
SECTOR Totals	107		7,248,655	11,887,900.92
INSURANCE				
AIICO INSURANCE PLC.	74	1.42	3,771,215	5,348,514.36
CONTINENTAL REINS. PLC	39	0.89	8,998,842	8,157,107.81
CORNERSTONE INS. CO. PLC.	50	0.58	4,691,000	2,854,822.68
CUST. AND ALLIED INS. PLC	43	3.90	3,686,000	13,726,874.40
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	5	0.50	97,000	48,500.00
GREAT NIGERIA INS. COY PLC	1	0.50	65,000	32,500.00
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	58	0.90	9,337,434	8,345,607.47
GUAR. TRUST ASSUR. PLC	104	3.15	22,362,908	72,138,576.37
CONS. HALLMARK INS. PLC	3	0.50	13,200	6,600.00
INT. ENERGY INS. COY PLC	50	0.61	4,544,918	2,772,324.98
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	70	0.53	10,121,149	5,254,173.57
L/UNION & ROCK INS. PLC.	76	0.53	16,797,904	9,118,814.53
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	4	0.50	330,805	165,402.50
MUTUAL BEN. ASSUR. PLC	82	0.59	28,769,810	16,323,056.70
N.E.M. INSUR. CO. (NIG.) PLC.	32	0.65	1,934,055	1,257,135.75
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	11	0.81	745,312	602,738.02
OASIS ASSURANCE PLC	1	0.97	5,000	4,650.00
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC.	13	3.76	526,733	1,979,391.08
REG. ALLIANCE INS. COY PLC	2	0.50	170,625	85,312.50
STACO ASSURANCE PLC	30	0.50	2,056,070	1,028,035.00
STAND. ALLIANCE INS. PLC	86	0.52	8,399,184	4,299,028.91
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	33	0.85	5,724,800	4,844,572.88
UNITY KAPITAL ASS. PLC	4	0.56	2,058,100	1,151,466.00
UNIV. INS. COMPANY PLC	1	0.50	36,590	18,295.00
INTERC. WAPIC INS. PLC	18	0.90	412,000	370,218.00
SECTOR Totals	890		135,655,654	159,933,718.51
MARITIME				
JAP/OIL & MAR. SERV. PLC	195	1.73	11,788,074	20,352,210.98
SECTOR Totals	195		11,788,074	20,352,210.98
MEDIA				
DAAR COMMUNIC. PLC	24	1.32	282,979	373,532.28
SECTOR Totals	24		282,979	373,532.28
MORTGAGE COMPANIES				
ASO SAV. AND LOANS PLC	47	0.59	12,487,188	7,463,744.94
RES. SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	3	0.50	6,404,100	3,202,050.00
UN/HOMES SAV. & LOANS PLC	64	0.92	4,387,818	4,000,164.76
SECTOR Totals	114		23,279,106	14,665,959.70
OTHER FINANCIAL INST.				
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC.	25	0.85	3,492,489	3,129,613.25
NIG. ENERGY SECTOR FUND	2	552.20	120	62,950.80
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	5	0.58	105,956	63,555.36
SECTOR Totals	32		3,598,565	3,256,119.41
PACKAGING				
NIG. BAG MANUF. COY PLC	872	4.06	15,653,737	62,206,278.89
BETA GLASS CO. PLC	11	15.65	147,000	2,310,250.00
NAMPAK NIGERIA PLC	2	6.65	112,000	744,800.00
STUDIO PRESS (NIG.) PLC.	1	2.92	100	278.00
SECTOR Totals	886		15,912,837	65,261,606.89
PETROLEUM(MARKETING)				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	73	37.00	887,601	32,841,237.00
BECO PETR. PROD. PLC	24	1.80	970,117	1,746,210.60
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	12	69.79	33,809	2,474,728.50
CONOIL PLC	36	44.00	71,947	3,215,932.00
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	55	8.25	666,667	5,520,025.56
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	37	113.02	23,638	2,805,121.46
OANDO PLC	179	93.71	2,182,965	201,297,122.24
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	7	149.62	11,910	1,871,061.00
SECTOR Totals	423		4,848,654	251,771,438.36
PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC	8	7.90	183,680	1,450,888.00
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	18	7.70	284,236	2,172,100.96
SECTOR Totals	26		467,916	3,622,988.96
REAL ESTATE				
UACN PROP. DEV. CO. PLC	31	24.01	1,268,230	30,568,353.50
SECTOR Totals	31		1,268,230	30,568,353.50
ROAD TRANSPORTATION				
ASSOCIATED BUS COY PLC	25	1.08	1,492,650	1,541,432.70
SECTOR Totals	25		1,492,650	1,541,432.70
THE FOREIGN LISTINGS				
ECOBANK TRANS. INCORP.	30	20.00	873,660	17,159,884.81
SECTOR Totals	30		873,660	17,159,884.81
OVERALL Totals	11,188		612,927,635	5,073,551,546.25

What is income stock?
A security with a solid record of dividend payments and which offers a dividend yield higher than the average common stock.

Google.com

GAINERS

OANDO	4.46
NB	3.30
FLOURMILL	3.30
BCC	2.88

LOSERS

AP	1.94
UAC-PROP	0.98
GUARANTY	0.67
ALUMACO	

DIGEST

Average woman spends eight years of her life shopping

IT'S a tough job keeping up with all the latest fashion trends, but news that the average woman spends more than eight years of her life shopping is still a staggering statistic.

A study released today showed that women will make 301 individual shopping trips each year - a third of which are dedicated to maintaining their appearance.

Combined with chores such as buying household essentials and keeping the family fed and clothed means that the typical British woman shops for a staggering 25,184 hours and 53 mins over an adult lifetime of 63 years. The study of 2,000 women by market research company OnePoll.com also revealed that they window-shop at least 51 times a year.

A spokesman for the company commented: 'Many men seem to think women only shop when they are buying clothes for themselves.

'But they quite often shop for the entire family and that can be incredibly hard work.' Women will dedicate 100 hours and 48 minutes a year to fashion and beauty, shopping for clothes 30 times, shoes 15 times, accessories 18 times and toiletries 27 times.

A further 40 hours and 30 minutes is spent shopping for shoes, and 29 hours and 31 minutes on other accessories such as handbags, jewellery and scarves.

Buying more mundane items, such as deodorant and shower gel takes rather less time - approximately 17 hours and 33 minutes over the course of a year. The survey included other essential shopping, such as supermarket trips, of which there are an average of 84 each year, each lasting over an hour.

A further 19 shopping trips (36 hours and 17 minutes) are spent purchasing luxurious gifts for friends and family.

HOW WOMEN SHOP OVER THE COURSE OF A YEAR

Clothes	30 times	100 hours	and 48 minutes
Shoes	15 times	40 hours	and 30 minutes
Accessories	18 times	29 hours	and 31 minutes
Food	84 times	94 hours	and 55 minutes
Books	57 times	31 hours	and 21 minutes
Toiletries	27 times	17 hours	and 33 minutes
Gifts	19 times	36 hours	and 17 minutes
Window Shopping	51 times	48 hours	and 51 minutes



Deaf girl, 3, now a chatterbox

...Thanks to cochlear implant she received at just nine months old



AVA Pearson (pictured with her mother Lauren) was only nine months old when she had a cochlear implant. Within weeks she was saying 'mama'

A girl who was born deaf is now speaking and has advanced language skills for her age after a life-changing operation.

Ava Pearson was nine months old when she became one of the youngest people in Britain to have cochlear implants.

Now aged three, she has language skills months ahead of other children her age and is doing well at nursery school.

Her mother, Lauren, 31, from London, said: 'It was amazing to see her reacting to noise. I was so excited and felt such a sense of relief. Her hearing is improving every day and she has become such a chatterbox.'

Mrs Pearson, a book publisher, and her husband Chris, a 31-year-old finance manager, first realised Ava was deaf when she didn't react to routine hearing tests when she was three weeks old.

After researching treatments on the internet, the Pearsons decided cochlear implants might give their daughter the chance of a normal life. One week after the operation, she started dancing to music and four weeks later she said her first word, "mama".

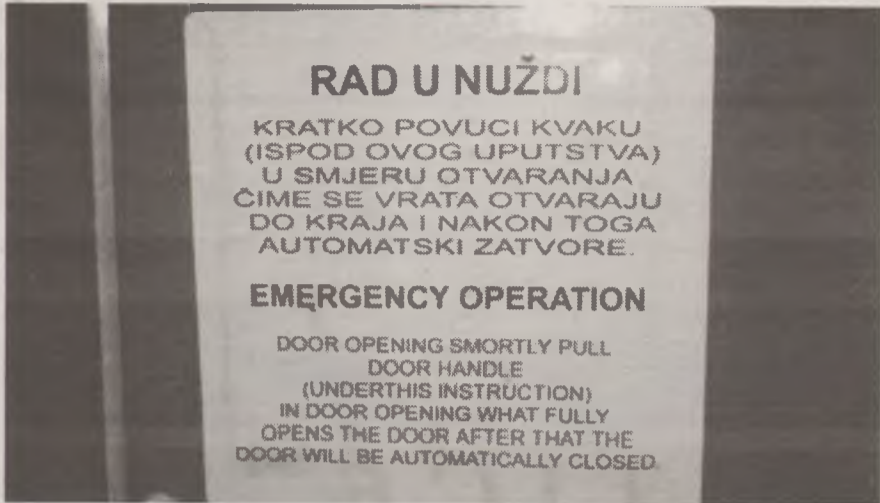
Mrs Pearson said: 'When she started babbling it was amazing - before that she only made guttural noises.'

A cochlear implant is placed through surgery in the inner ear and activated by a device worn outside the ear. The implant functions like an artificial inner ear and takes over the job of the cochlear.

Doctors at the Portland Hospital in the West End carried out the treatment and also put Ava through a course of speech therapy.

Speech therapist Natalie Opitz, who works at the private hospital, said: 'Ava is the youngest baby I have seen have the operation in this country. This is a remarkable case.'

Sign Language



How does one open the door with this complicated instructions? Photo location: Onferry, Croatian Islands, by Ineke de Raad Culled from www.signspotting.com

EASY CROSSWORDS

27

Here are two real challenges for you. We have omitted such help as "I wish," "upheld," and "ding!" but in the spirit of fair play, all abbreviations and foreign words are indicated.

ACROSS

- 1. Area 7
- 2. Crow happy
- 3. Opera guy
- 4. Sports
- 5. Bird sound?
- 6. Wilton's tool
- 7. Missing vein
- 8. Seasonal
- 9. Confusion, part 1
- 10. Region on the Nile River
- 11. British material
- 12. Sticky creature
- 13. Trade market
- 14. Revenue source
- 15. Animal track
- 16. Apple's fruit
- 17. Woods rival
- 18. Without Bab
- 19. Belgium city
- 20. Good vintage points
- 21. History span
- 22. Confusion, part 2
- 23. Submerge
- 24. Of gold
- 25. Brown sugar
- 26. Collar of meat
- 27. -- hly
- 28. Region on the Nile River
- 29. British material
- 30. Sticky creature
- 31. Trade market
- 32. Revenue source
- 33. Animal track
- 34. Apple's fruit
- 35. Woods rival
- 36. Without Bab
- 37. Obituary locale
- 38. Thin scholar's
- 39. Very popular
- 40. Another Latin
- 41. Brazilian title
- 42. Lab item
- 43. Chest white
- 44. Vicious
- 45. Michael Bloomberg, e.g.
- 46. Long
- 47. Shakespeare's
- 48. Confusion, part 1
- 49. Fix
- 50. Derivative
- 51. Shakespeare creation
- 52. See 57 Across
- 53. Conscience, part 3
- 54. Lex
- 55. Hunch
- 56. Trench
- 57. Bridge position
- 58. Mixed couple of detective fiction
- 59. Zoo creature
- 60. Sticks in wood
- 61. Adorable
- 62. Aquatic creature

DOWN

- 1. Penetration
- 2. Net giant
- 3. Underfoot
- 4. Siphon of straggler
- 5. Haze
- 6. Common element
- 7. Lower digit
- 8. Common protein
- 9. Like a certain snake
- 10. Less naive
- 11. See 58 Down
- 12. Wine party collection
- 13. Back then
- 14. Decision point
- 15. Significant act
- 16. Superior to
- 17. 1863 figure
- 18. Switzrics
- 19. Holydays
- 20. Japanese metropolis
- 21. Centenous bolts
- 22. Small, legaly
- 23. Draft line
- 24. Seals parking
- 25. Hardly berovine
- 26. Pennsylvania port
- 27. Signaled, in a way
- 28. -- mammal, large muscles
- 29. Sink trap
- 30. Fashionable
- 31. Confusion, part 5
- 32. Harass
- 33. Emulated
- 34. 91-Across
- 35. Indigenous Canadian
- 36. Fern
- 37. Gargantuan gateway
- 38. Housewife's offerings
- 39. Synthesis of verbal
- 40. Whi
- 41. Underfoot
- 42. Outside for investment
- 43. French nation
- 44. Elderly shawl
- 45. Class
- 46. Canal
- 47. Likely to rise?
- 48. Stock market?
- 49. Adapt
- 50. Genre of TV
- 51. I.A. unit

Solution to Easy Crosswords

26

HERA TOAD STEWS EDGES
 ODES AURA AWAIT MEANT
 KITCARSON LORNE PADDY
 UNARM TANG BORDERSON
 MAXIMA ROADRUNNER DRE
 BOWL ZELDA LOGE
 DACE KEEPERS STRANGE
 READ WASABI ASEA SPAR
 ERR PANCHOVILLA SCUBA
 ALL URSAL EMAIL PAR
 RESEND RIO PIP FENCED
 BUT AGORA KROCHER
 TSARS FOURCORNERS ARE
 AIDA BATS ANIONS PSIS
 EXCITOR ICEDTEA REES
 A LOT ALFIO ELIE
 REV WHITESANDS ENTERS
 ELEPHANTS EELS REVEL
 BERLE AISLE NEWMEXICO
 ANNIE PLEAD SEAR TTOP
 RISES TANGO EPPS SANE

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.

123

				1		8	4	
8				7	3	6		
	4				5	2		7
								3
			9	3	4	6	1	
	3							
3		4	1				9	
			6	8	3			1
	9	8		5				

Solution to Sudoku 122

7	2	6	9	1	5	8	4	3
5	4	8	3	7	6	9	1	2
3	1	9	2	4	8	5	7	6
1	7	5	8	6	2	3	9	4
2	9	4	1	3	7	6	8	5
6	8	3	5	9	4	7	2	1
8	6	2	7	5	1	4	3	9
4	3	7	6	2	9	1	5	8
9	5	1	4	8	3	2	6	7



APCON

Advertising Practitioners Council of Nigeria
Established by Act 55 of 1988
to control and regulate advertising in
all its aspects and ramifications

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the powers vested in it by Act Number 55 of 1988 as amended by Act Number 93 of 1992 and, in particular, part IV Section 16(i) of Act Number 55 of 1988, the Advertising Practitioners Council of Nigeria, APCON, hereby sets out 30th June, 2010, as the deadline for the full implementation of the laws regarding the practice of advertising in Nigeria.

It is a criminal offence, punishable by law, to practice advertising for gain in Nigeria without due registration by APCON, or non-payment of annual practice fees.

APCON has set the deadline of three months from now ie effective July 01, 2010, for all to comply with the requirements to practice advertising in Nigeria, to wit:-

- those without requisite qualifications as provided for and who have not been inducted formally
- advertising practitioners who as at June 30, 2010 failed to pay their practice fees as required

At the expiration of the deadline, APCON will, without further notice, publish list of recognized advertising practitioners and commence the prosecution of all offenders.

REQUISITE QUALIFICATION

- The APCON Diploma in Advertising
- A degree or Higher National Diploma in Advertising from a recognized institution
- The CAM Diploma
- A degree in Mass Communication, Marketing, or Graphic Arts from a recognized institution (proof may be require of having studied advertising adequately), or
- Those through the Scheme B special dispensation, were in 1994/95 admitted into the profession and formally inducted

For the avoidance of doubt, the practice of advertising is described as the performance of any group of the following functions:-

- Conceptualising of advertising copy
- Conceptualising of advertising visuals/illustrations
- Conceptualising of advertising audio-visuals
- Production of advertising copy
- Design and production of advertising visual/artworks
- Design and production of advertising print works
- Production of advertising audio-visuals
- Planning, organisation and execution of advertising programmes and campaigns
- Research/evaluation of advertising programmes and campaigns
- Monitoring of advertising programmes and campaign
- Booking/placement of advertisements in the media
- Planning of layout, allocation of sites, and marketing and scheduling of advertisements/commercials in the media
- Seeking and obtaining agency and other commissions for media bookings
- Planning, organisation and execution of advertising education programmes
- Teaching of advertising courses at tertiary level
- General research into advertising philosophy and operation
- General management of advertising function
- Planning, organisation and execution of sales promotion programmes and campaign
- Formulation of corporate advertising policy and programmes
- Superintending over corporate advertising policy and programmes
- Vetting of advertisement
- Registration of advertising practitioners (APCON)
- Regulation of advertising practice (APCON)
- Making presentations and obtaining contracts for advertising accounts
- Any other functions as may be decided by APCON from time to time

POSITIONS THAT MAY NOT BE HELD WITHOUT REGISTRATION

For the avoidance of doubt, the following job positions may not be held by any person not being registered by APCON as an advertising practitioner

Advertising Agencies

Chief Executive
Deputy Chief Executive
Executive Director
Associate Director/General Manager (advertising cadre)
Group Head
Manager
Assistant Manager
Executive
Trainee Executive

Outdoor Agencies

Chief Executive
Deputy Chief Executive/ Executive Director
General Manager/ Associate Director (advertising cadre)
Manager/Group Head
Executive
Trainee Executive

Federal and State Governments-Ministries, Parastatals, Agencies, Uniformed Forces, etc.

- Advertising
 - Information Officer cadre (with specific advertising function)
- Graphic Arts
 - Graphic Arts Officer cadre (with advertising functions)

Local Government

Persons of the Officer cadre with specified advertising functions

Educational Institutions (academic)

Assistant Lecturer/Graduate Assistant grade and above (specifically assigned to teach advertising courses).

Public and Private Enterprises

- Advertising/Marketing
 - Marketing/Brand Executive grade and above (with specific advertising functions).
 - Marketing Service Officer (with specific advertising functions)
- Corporate Affairs personnel of the level of Officer grade and above (with specific advertising functions)

Media

- Print (Newspapers, Magazines, Publishing Houses and Printing Shops)
 - Advertising personnel of the rank of advertisement Officer and above
 - Graphic Arts Officer grade and above involved in the design and production of advertisements.
- Electronic (Radio, Television, Cable/Satellite)
 - Commercial personnel of the rank of Commercial Officer and above
 - Graphic Arts Officer grade and above (involved in the production of commercials).

PRACTICE FEE DEFAULTERS

The 2010 Register of Advertising practitioners will be published after July 01, 2010.

Only names of advertising practitioners who are current with their dues payment as at June 30, 2010 will appear in the register.

This notice serves as the final warning to people purporting to practice or those intending to practice advertising for gain but who have not been dully registered by the Advertising Practitioners Council of Nigeria, APCON or those who have defaulted in paying their practice fees.

Alhaji Garba Bello Kankarofi. fpa
Registrar/Chief Executive
For APCON governing council

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News Extra

Obama okays targeted killing of radical American Muslim cleric

The Obama administration has authorised the killing of a radical Muslim cleric who is also a U.S. citizen.

It is extremely rare, if not unprecedented, for an American to be approved for targeted killing.

Anwar al-Awlaki, believed to be hiding in Yemen, has been tied by U.S. intelligence to the 9/11 hijackers, to the failed Christmas Day bombing in 2009, and to the Fort Hood massacre last year.

The decision to add him to the U.S. target list followed a National Security Council review because of his status as an American citizen.

Officials said Awlaki, 38, directly threatened the United States. 'Al-Awlaki is a proven threat,' said a U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity.



BARACK Obama, right, has authorised the killing or capture of Anwar al-Awlaki, left, in what may be an unprecedented move



“But Harman said President Barack Obama and his administration ‘made very clear that people, including Americans who are trying to attack our country, are people we will definitely pursue... are targets of the United States’

‘He’s being targeted.’

A former senior legal official in the administration of George W Bush said he did not know of any American who was approved for targeted killing under the former president.

U.S. intelligence agencies had viewed Awlaki as chiefly an Al Qaeda sympathiser and recruiter for Islamist causes with possible ties to some of the Sept. 11, 2001, hijackers.

But that assessment started to change late last year with revelations about Awlaki’s contacts with both the Nigerian suspect in the attempted Christmas Day bombing and to the U.S. Army psychia-



AL-AWLAKI has been linked to both Fort Hood shooter Major Nidal Malik Hasan, left, and Umar Farouk Abdul Mutallab, the would-be Christmas Day bomber, right.



trist accused of shooting dead 13 people at a military base in Texas the previous month.

Rep. Jane Harman, chairwoman of the House of Representatives Homeland Security Subcommittee on Intelligence, described Awlaki as ‘probably the person, the terrorist, who would be terrorist No. 1 in terms of

threat against us.’

‘He is very much in the sights of the Yemenis, with us helping them,’ said Harman, who recently visited Yemen to meet with U.S. and Yemeni officials.

She told Reuters that Awlaki’s U.S. citizenship made going after him ‘certainly complicated.’

But Harman said President Barack Obama and his administration ‘made very clear that people, including Americans who are trying to attack our country, are people we will definitely pursue... are targets of the United States.’

The U.S. target list is secret and it was not immediately clear whether al-Awlaki was the first

American added.

He is to be captured or killed, the *Los Angeles Times* reported.

The cleric, born in New Mexico to Yemeni parents, used his personal website to encourage Muslims around the world to kill U.S. troops in Iraq.

Yemeni security officials said they believe he is hiding in a region of the mountainous nation that has become a refuge for Islamic militants.

The assessment of Al-Awlaki by U.S. intelligence agencies changed late last year with revelations about his contacts with Abdul Mutallab, after the attempted bombing of a passenger jet as it approached Detroit on Christmas Day.

The two had met in Yemen. In a recent interview with a Yemeni freelance journalist, posted on Al Jazeera television’s website, al-Awlaki described Abdul Mutallab as ‘one of my students’ but said he did not encourage the attack.

Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) claimed responsibility for the attempted Christmas Day bombing of the flight from Amsterdam to Detroit.

Abdul Mutallab, has been cooperating with U.S. authorities, providing intelligence about the group, which allegedly supplied him with explosives that were sewn into his underwear, officials said.

Links between Awlaki and Hasan, the U.S. Army psychiatrist accused of shooting dead 13 people at a military base in Texas on November 5, also emerged. The pair had frequently been in contact over e-mail.

U.S. counterterrorism officials described Awlaki as the main force behind AQAP’s decision to transform itself from a regional threat into what U.S. spy agencies see as Al Qaeda’s most active affiliate outside Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Awlaki was an imam at mosques in Denver, San Diego and Falls Church, Virginia, just outside Washington.

He returned to Yemen in 2004 where he taught at a university before he was arrested and imprisoned in 2006 for suspected links to Al Qaeda and involvement in attacks.

Awlaki, part of a prominent Yemeni family, was released in December 2007 because he said he had repented, according to a Yemeni security official.

But he was later charged again on similar counts and went into hiding.

News Extra

Four-month-old conjoined twins having separation surgery

Procedure under way at Great Ormond Street hospital in London is expected to take 24 hours



HASSAN and Hussein Benhaffaf, the conjoined twin boys.

Surgeons are attempting to separate conjoined twin brothers aged four months in a complex operation under way in London.

The procedure at Great Ormond Street hospital, a world

leader in such separations, is expected to take up to 24 hours.

Hassan and Hussein Benhaffaf, who were born at another London hospital but come from Cork, Ireland, are joined at the chest and are believed to share a liver.

The boys, with their parents Azzedine and Angie, travelled to London last month on a special RAF flight.

Great Ormond Street said in a statement: "We can confirm that the surgery planned for the conjoined twins case is set to go ahead

on Wednesday 7 April. Angie and Azzedine Benhaffaf would like to thank all the hospitals involved in their boys' care for everything they have done for the family so far, and the public for their good wishes and support."

No further details would be

“Great Ormond Street said in a statement: “We can confirm that the surgery planned for the conjoined twins case is set to go ahead on Wednesday 7 April

released before today, the statement said.

Mrs Benhaffaf told the Irish Independent that the family had been “overwhelmed” by support since the boys' birth.

“Now as they face this critical operation we renew our appeal for everyone's thoughts and prayers... which will help sustain our boys and our whole family at this most important time,” she said.

...Gaza conjoined twins in Saudi Arabia for separation

Palestinian conjoined twins Retal and Retaj Yaser Abu Asi who will receive free medical care as a gift from Saudi King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz.

The twins were born in the southern Gaza town of Khan Younis on March 27, joined in the chest and sharing small intestines.

On Tuesday, Egyptian authorities authorized a rare opening of the country's Rafah crossing so that the girls, their parents and a medical team could cross.

From northern Sinai, a special Saudi medical plane whisked them off to Saudi Arabia for the operation.

Each girl has her own heart, lungs and other organs, increasing chances they'll be able to survive separately.



THE twins in intensive care

CONGRATULATIONS

On Your Appointment As
Honorable Minister Of State For Defence
The Federal Republic Of Nigeria.



**Alh. Murtala Shehu Yar'adua (MBA East Anglia)
(Tafidan Katsina)**

**Your Resilience, Patience, Humility And Rare Capacity
For Human Goodness Has Been Rewarded By The Almighty.**

Selfless Service To Nigeria, is Your Pedigree.

Abba M.T. Usman

Abdulkadeer B. Njiddah

Abubakar T/Balewa II

Ado Dangote

Aliyu Maigari Mamman

Bappa Dalhatu Isa

Barr. Yomi Dada

Engr. Alex T. Onuegbu

Engr. Gazali Tukur

Engr. Mohammed Bawa

Hassan Musa Usman

Hon. Modibbo A. Ahmed

Ishak Abdu

Jafar Aliyu Malumfashi

Khadir Abba Dasuki

Lawal Bindawa (Zanna Katsina)

Mahmood Modibbo

Mathew Ombugaku

Salisu Baguda

Sheriff Tunde Balogun

Yusuf Nura Alkali

ENVIRONMENT environment@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079

Odey resumes at env ministry

By Mustapha Suleiman

RETURNED Minister of Environment, Mr. John Ogar Odey has said that being away has given him a wider horizon on the way and manner to approach some environmental issues, adding that no nation can attain meaningful development without proper attention to the needs of the environment, saying "we must strive to achieve environmental sustainability and this cuts across all spheres of life like agriculture."

He expressed confidence in the calibre of staffers of the

ministry of environment where he has been reassigned to serve the country.

Odey, who immediately on his reassignment addressed members of staff, called for continued cooperation and pledged his loyalty to Nigeria and the Acting President. He said no meaningful development can be attained without proper development of the environment and its sustainability.

"Let me pledge like I did before all Nigerians and the acting President this afternoon that I would do my best and also sincerely do my job." He said.

According to him, "from the charge the acting president gave us this afternoon, it is now for us to hit the ground and keep moving I must say that my own job is easier because I have come back to meet a better workforce," he added.

Speaking further, Odey said he left the ship at the Environment Ministry steaming saying, "I have no doubt of the capabilities of the crop of officers and I must say that with the report and what I have seen the Environment ship is sailing. It is therefore very important that this ship would require a greater steam than we earlier provided to keep sailing."

Lafia has no refuse bins

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

LAFIA, the Nasarawa State capital has continued to suffer neglect in terms of environmental friendliness, worsened by lack of commitment by the authorities to clear refuse heaps from the metropolis.

This development is compounded by the absence of refuse bins on the streets in more than one year, Daily Trust can report.

Although the government had in 2007, procured and placed plastic refuse bins at strategic locations to collect refuse for onward disposal, the bins had long disappeared from the streets in 2008, leaving the metropolis without them for more than a year now. The few that have remained are the ones placed in the exclusive areas including Government House.

In place of the refuse bins, the Nasarawa State Urban Development Board (NUDB) has erected signposts with the inscription "No Dumping Refuse Here", but the signposts are always covered with refuse as residents have continued to ignore the warning with impunity. One of the signposts is erected at the Shendam Road/Jos Road junction, the gateway to Government House. The refuse heap at that point has defied the NUDB warning, but the board has continued to relax.

Daily Trust observed that although men of the NUDB go round at occasional times to clear the refuse heaps, refuse swell up again, dotting the already grubby landscape as soon as the men leave. At most times, the NUDB burnt the refuse heaps, sending thick smokes into the atmosphere, and leaving the charred remains to compound the dirt.

General Manager of the board, Jafaru Ango refused to talk when Daily Trust called his phone line, yesterday, but he had said earlier that the board has achieved a lot. He however refused to state what exactly has been achieved.

The government budgeted N3.4billion for Housing, Environment and Urban Development sub sector, in the 2010 "Budget of Reality". The state governor, Aliyu Akwe Doma promised a committed implementation of the budget.



MINISTER of Environment Mr. John Odey, being received by ministry officials upon his resumption of duty in Abuja on Tuesday.

Obama releases new fuel efficiency rules

THE Obama administration has set tougher gas mileage standards for new cars and trucks, spurring the next generation of fuel-sipping gas-electric hybrids, efficient engines and electric cars.

The heads of the Transportation Department and the Environmental Protection Agency signed final rules setting fuel efficiency standards for model years 2012-2016, with a goal of achieving by 2016 the equivalent of 35.5 miles per gallon combined for cars and trucks, an increase of nearly 10 mpg over current standards set by the National Highway

Traffic Safety Administration.

The EPA set a tailpipe emissions standard of 250 grams (8.75 ounces) of carbon dioxide per mile for vehicles sold in 2016, equal to what would be emitted by vehicles meeting the mileage standard. The EPA issued its first rules ever on vehicle greenhouse gas emissions following a 2007 Supreme Court decision.

"These historic new standards set ambitious, but achievable, fuel economy requirements for the automotive industry that will also encourage new and emerging technologies," Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood

said in a statement. "We will be helping American motorists save money at the pump, while putting less pollution in the air."

Each auto company will have a different fuel-efficiency target, based on its mix of vehicles. Automakers that build more small cars will have a higher target than car companies that manufacture a broad range of cars and trucks. The standard could be as low as 34.1 mpg by 2016 because automakers are expected to receive credits for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in other ways, including preventing the leaking of coolant from air conditioners.

Project office targets communities for open defecation programme

THE Kaduna State Water and Sanitation Project has targeted 10 communities for its Open Defecation Free (ODF) programme in 2010.

Mr James Yaro, the Manager of the project, said on Sunday in Abuja that the communities cut across six local government areas in the state.

"We have conducted a knowledge, attitude and practice survey in the local government areas and they stand the chance of enjoying the programme.

"This is because they have rudimentary structure like water, sanitation and hygiene communities and if you have

those structures it will be easier for you to go and use them as pilot places," Yaro said.

The manager said that two communities in Giwa and Kachia local government areas had attained the ODF status.

He attributed the low coverage of sanitation in the state to the delay in the passage of the necessary bill.

"The situation has caused a setback in the implementation of the action plan on water and sanitation in the state.

"As it is now, we can't even employ staff directly, so we really need to make things work in order to fulfill the organisation's mandate," he said.

According to him, the draft bill that established the office has been presented to the state governor and he has sent it back to the ministry of water resources for onward transmission to the ministry of justice.

"I believe the bill will be passed soon because the state's ministry of justice is working on it to be presented to the executive council for submission to the state's house of assembly.

"I hope all processes will be concluded in due time so that the agency will be established by law just like other states in our zone. (NAN)

Environment



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HOTLINE: 07041632079

UK to cut down forests

FORESTS will be chopped down across England to make way for traditional heathland under Government plans to boost rare wildlife.

The new policy to convert forests to 'open habitat' will increase the area of heathland across England by 1,000 hectares (2,470 acres) every year for at least the next five years.

This will mean chopping down thousands of hectares of mostly commercial conifers to allow rare ani-

mals like sand lizards, adder, woodlark and curlew to return.

It is estimated that 80 per cent of lowland heathland has been lost in the past 200 years to plantation forestry, agriculture and housing development.

The Department for the Environment and Forestry Commission policy for 'Restoration of Open Habitats from Woods and Forests' is designed to return much of the land taken by commercial forestry to wildlife.

Huw Irranca-Davies, Minister for the Natural and Marine Environment, said 'woodland removal' will be balanced by planting trees elsewhere and communities will be consulted.

"Woodlands and forests provide a natural tool to help stop damaging climate change and this solution balances the need to provide more habitats for our wildlife, while still increasing our woodland and forest cover to reduce greenhouse gas emissions," he said.



ONGOING drilling of rock to pave way for the dualization of the Kubwa expressway, Abuja

NGO blames desertification on lack of law enforcement

A Gombe-based NGO, the Society for the Restoration of Nature, has attributed continuous deforestation activities in Gombe and some Northern states on lack of enforcement of relevant laws.

Chairman of the NGO, Alhaji Inuwa Abdullahi, said in Gombe on Tuesday that some laws enacted years ago had also not been reviewed to meet current challenges.

He cited the case of Gombe State, which he said, was inherited from Bauchi State and had not been reviewed.

"There is the need for the laws to be reviewed by the State Houses of Assembly because as they are now, the desired effect will not be realised," he said.

He said some of the laws dated back to 1930, adding that as far as the current society was concerned, they were archaic.

"There is no enforcement at all. If you go to the courts today, you will not see any prosecution in respect of deforestation.

"As a lawyer, I cannot remember coming across a single case where somebody who fell a tree or trees illegally, was prosecuted."

He said most people, particularly in the Northern part of the country, relied on firewood as a source of energy for cooking.

"If the practice of cutting trees continues without replacing the ones removed, some of the trees we have today will go extinct and by implication, our land will turn to desert completely," he said.

He urged the federal government to revive the tree planting campaign.

FCTA, Kaduna to collaborate over street begging

By Nasir Imam

IN an effort to tackle some social vices and maintain Abuja status as a world class city, the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) and the Kaduna State Government are to work out joint plan to fight the menace of street begging that is ravaging the two major cities.

Secretary of Social Development Secretariat of FCTA, Barrister Habiba Sani Kalgo, stated this during an advocacy visit to Kaduna State by the Management team of Social Development Secretariat.

Barrister Kalgo lamented that the menace of street begging in Abuja has reached an alarming rate as some of the beggars now engage in some social vices such as pick pocketing, littering of the environment as well as obstructing free flow of traffic in the city. She regretted that despite several measures by the FCTA to discourage the unwholesome activity by establishing lepers' settlement at Yangoji, floating a micro credit scheme for them, among others, the problem still persists as they find begging more lucrative.

The Secretary further stated that the constitution of a joint ministerial task force to evacuate the beggars had only achieved minimal suc-

cess as most of them find their ways back almost immediately after their repatriation to their different states of origin. According to her, most of the beggars questioned by Social Welfare Officers in FCT claim to be from contiguous states to FCT like Niger, Nasarawa Kogi and Kaduna being the most mentioned.

In her response to the advocacy visit, Kaduna State Commissioner for Women and Social Welfare, Dr. Mrs. Maryamu Laka Madami also expressed her concern that begging has continued to thrive in the North despite the fact that the two major religions Christianity and Islam abhor it.

Ex- minister wants partnership on renewable energy

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

FORMER Minister of Industry, Chief Kola Jamodu, has called on the Federal government to partner with the private sector to support the development in the use of renewable energy in the country.

Jamodu, who made the call at a waste seminar in Lagos, said the development was necessary to complement existing energy supply from diesel generators, hydro and thermal plants.

He reasoned that if government and private sector alliance on renewable energy is adopted, it would go a long way towards actualizing the government's plans to substantially increase the share of electricity from renewable energy.

According to him, over reliance on fossil fuel for manufacturing operations in Nigeria, stressing that it may in the long run prove unsustainable due to uncontrollable external factors.

"These include issues such as global economic meltdown, fluctuating oil price, declining oil and gas reserves, and reduced funding by major oil producing companies for exploration activities, among others. The direct impact of this on the growth and even survival of our industries is not in doubt."

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo Iweala, hereby inform the general public that I lost my Land Document in respect of Plot 1280 B06, File No. AB 20015, located at Mabushi.

The loss occurred while I was in transit between Maitama and Wuse 2, Abuja. All efforts to trace the missing document have proved abortive.

The general Public and issuing authorities to please take note.

Signed
Dr. Ngozi Okonjo Iweala

Environment



environment@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079

102 dead in Brazil floods

THE most intense rain in half a century triggered flooding and mudslides that killed at least 95 people in southeastern Brazil, most of them in the Rio de Janeiro area.

Flooding was so intense that authorities urged Rio residents to remain indoors and not venture downtown, where streets were impassable.

Some motorists abandoned their partially submerged cars, while others were stranded for hours inside stalled vehicles.

"All the major streets of the city are closed because of the floods," said Rio de Janeiro Mayor Eduardo Paes. "Each and every person who attempts to enter them will be at enormous risk."

Flooding also wreaked havoc with air traffic, causing serious airport delays.

In a neighborhood close to the mountain where Rio's iconic Christ the Redeemer statue is located, the local weather service said that rainfall was recorded as twice the amount normally registered for the whole month of April.

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva criticized decades of administrative malfeasance which

allowed shoddy home construction in high-risk zones of the city's shantytowns.

The Brazilian leader was in Rio for ribbon-cutting ceremonies for a new health center, but the event was canceled by the rain, which made it nearly impossible to travel from one part of the city to another.

Until the waters subside however, he said, there was little that could be done.

"All we can do is pray to God to hold back the rains a little, so that Rio can return to normal, and so that we can set about fixing the things in the city that need fixing," the Brazilian leader told local radio.

The heavy rain began during Monday's evening rush hour, catching workers heading home for the day off-guard.

After a brief afternoon lull, rain on Tuesday again intensified after sunset, and officials warned that flooding could worsen on Wednesday.

The heavy rains in Rio followed equally heavy deluges in Sao Paulo earlier this year after the wettest summer in the region in more than six decades, officials said.



A flooded portion of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

'Incessant market fires worrisome'

By Ogechi Ohalee

A recent meeting of firemen in conjunction with fire experts in the Federal Capital Territory discussed on the amount of money lost in market fire incidents in the country, which runs into trillions of naira.

Apart from the monetary losses, the number of human losses was equally devastating and examples of such incidences were cited at Port Harcourt, Abuja, Lagos, Bauchi, Kaduna and Kano, among others.

Kano Textile Market fire at Kanti Kwari that occurred in March 12 stands out as the worst because over 5,000 shops were razed and goods as well as money running to billions of naira were lost in the inferno.

While market officials in the place put the cause of fire on power surge, the state fire service operation officer, Kassim Musa lamented

that firemen at the initial stage of the incident found it difficult to access one of the affected multi-shopping complexes at Gidan Labaran due to congestion.

A fire officer at Nyanya Fire Service said a lot of work needs to be done on the market at Nyanya because most structures are built on muster points, which makes it difficult for firemen to gain access to water in case of any fire outbreak.

Our reporter learnt that most markets, especially those in local government areas have illegal structures attached to them, which has made the place overcrowded.

Mr Sam Ayadi, a fire expert from Sagif Ventures Limited complained bitterly of improper designs of market structures from the initial stages.

According to him, building owners should have a fireproof safe at a strategic part of their structures

where buildings designs are kept, to enable firemen have a firsthand glance of the place during fire incidents.

He called on governments of all levels, especially those of the states and local governments to ensure that whenever market structures are to be designed, building must have fire preventive devices as well as escape routes.

"Most traders are not aware of safety issues, especially fire safety risks and management and it is time they are made conscious of this issues," he advised.

Mr Ayadi called on traders to acquire fire preventive devices in their shops such as intumescent gaskets, under floor fire barrier, fire extinguishers, meter cupboard fire protection system, fireproof sponge and profile sponge.

Car to run on coffee instead of petrol

A car converted to run on coffee grounds instead of petrol has made it all the way from London to Manchester, destination being The Big Bang: UK Young Scientists' and Engineers' Fair.

Engineer turned TV presenter Jem Stansfield devised the conversion kit when he wanted to drive to a science fair in something a little different.

Jem, who presents BBC One's Bang Goes The Theory show, had the carburettor and petrol tanks stripped out of a 1988 Volkswagen Scirocco.

In their place engineers fitted propane tanks and a series of pipes leading directly into the engine... via parts of an old vacuum cleaner. Coffee grounds, converted into dried pellets, were fed into the

tanks.

Under combustion, the pellets produced hydrogen and carbon monoxide which was fed, via filters, into the engine's cylinders to be burned just like petrol or diesel.

"The coffee grounds produced a fuel that worked really well. The only problem was that the car overheated when it became caught in traffic jams and the journey, which should have taken about 10 hours, took 19."

Much like a tired driver, the VW needed to be topped up with fresh coffee every 40 minutes on the 260-mile trip at 65mph and - after leaving London at 4am - finally arrived at the The Big Bang: UK Young Scientists' and Engineers' Fair in Manchester at 11pm.

Expert tasks FG on weather satellite

DR Joseph Akinyede, the Executive Director, African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology, has urged Federal Government to acquire a weather satellite.

He made the call in Abuja on Wednesday and said that the acquisition of the satellite would enable experts to predict weather conditions and give early warnings about certain climate conditions.

Akinyede lamented that the non-availability of such satellite had denied

the country the opportunity of having prior knowledge of impending natural disasters.

He stressed the need for the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET) also to collaborate with American, European and Russian space agencies.

He noted that there several meteorological satellites in space producing data on a daily basis, adding that Nigeria needed to know about them and use their data for disaster-prevention planning.

Akinyede said that the country's experts should be able to interpret the data and their implications to the country on a routine basis.

He recalled that the sandy, stormy weather that occurred in Nigeria in 2000 arose without the prior knowledge of experts.

He said that the experts ought to have informed the citizenry to take precautionary measures after interpreting the implications of the weather conditions. (NAN)

THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE NIGERIAN ARMY OFFICERS WIVES ASSOCIATION (NAOWA)



Mrs Hadiza Bello Dambazau
National President (NAOWA)



Air Chief Marshal Paul Dike CFR DSS psc(+) fwc
Chief of Defence Staff

Cordially invites Members of the National Assembly, State Executive Governors, Honourable Ministers, National Presidents and members of sister women organizations, officers, soldiers of the Nigerian Army and members of the general public to the commissioning ceremony of NAOWA Ultra-Modern Vocational and Skills Acquisition Centre

Date: Friday 9th April 2010

Time: 10:00a.m.

Venue: NAOWA Vocational and Skills Acquisition Centre, Mambilla Barracks, Asokoro, Abuja.



DAILY TRUST

EDUCATION

E-mail: education@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 08035910371

Group urges Jonathan to give 26% of budget to education

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

THE Education Rights Campaign (ERC) has called on the Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to ensure that the 2010 budgetary allocation to education is up to the 26 percent as recommended by UNESCO.

The organisation also called on Nigerians to reject the 2010 appropriation bill passed by two chambers of the National Assembly because if it fails to address funding of education.

National coordinator of ERC Hassan Taiwo Soweto, who made the call in an interview with *Daily Trust*, said acting President Jonathan should not sign the

2010 appropriation bill into law until the allocation to education is increased up to 26 percent.

According to him, the amount allocated to the education sector is not in line with the recommendation of UNESCO and the funding requirements contained in the agreement between the Federal Government and unions operating in the education sector.

"According to the agreement the Federal government is mandated to allocate a total sum of N497.5 billion to the education sector as a step towards meeting the UNESCO recommendation of 26 percent," he said.

He said the sum of N529 bil-

lion with a capital component of N97.2 billion is not enough to confront the challenges of development in the education sector.

He said the ERC would embark on mobilization for lecture boycott, protest, demonstration and other forms of mass actions until government met its demands for improved funding of education sector.

"How many standard libraries can N97.2 billion build? How many laboratories can it equip? How many hostel and lecture theatres can it construct in a situation where most of the infrastructures in our schools today are in different state of atrophy?

"This budget will lay the basis for increment in fees in tertiary institutions thus pricing education out of the reach of poor Nigerians. Already, the recent fee increases in University of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN) and other institutions were carried out in anticipation of the 2010 budget and expected cut in government funding of education. Now that the budget has been passed, most authorities of public institutions will latch on it to impose fee hike on students.

"We accuse the National Assembly and the Federal government of sharp practices in the preparation of the budget thus

short-changing the Nigerian people and students. We also condemn members of the National assembly in particular for being insensitive to the plight of Nigerian students and poor parents who are struggling to make ends meet and cannot afford the rising cost of tuition fees occasioned by government under funding of education.

"We urge the federal government to meet our demands. However if our demands are not met, the Education Rights Campaign (ERC) shall embark on mobilization for lecture boycott, protest, demonstration and other forms of mass actions until our demands are met," he said.



PERMANENT Secretary in the Ministry of Education Professor Oladapo Afolabi being received by Chief Afe Babalola and Senator Iyiola Omisore at the formal launching of Scholarship Encouragement Fund of the Afe Babalola University recently.

... As MSSN calls on FG to improve quality of education

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

THE Muslim Students Society of Nigeria (MSSN) has stressed the need for the Federal Government to take drastic measures to improve the quality of education in the country.

President of the association Mallam Qasim Badrudeen who made the call in an interview with *Daily Trust* said if government is serious about finding lasting solution to the increasing rate of mass failures by students in examinations, it must address the problems facing the education sector squarely.

He said available information indicates clearly that government is government is not serious about improving the education sector.

"We should emphasise the significance of learning and intellectualism rather than certificate acquisition. Our future as a nation largely depends on the education sector where youths are vigorously and rigorously prepared for future challenges.

"The recent statement credited to the Registrar of Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), Professor Debu Ojerinde, where about 6.5 million candidates have applied for places in Nigerian universities, and where only 500,000 can be accommodated calls for serious concern. Also alarming is the poor performance of students who wrote the last National Examinations Council's exam where only 2 per cent scaled through.

Korea to build model elementary schools

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma

THE Korea International Agency (KOICA) is set to build two comprehensive model elementary schools of 25 classrooms in Gombe and Adamawa States as part of agreement it signed with the Federal Government.

Daily Trust learnt that the project is part of Korea's pledge to support basic education in Nigeria with about N309 million between 2010 and 2011.

Speaking at the official signing of the agreement, Resident Representative of KOICA in Nigeria, Mr Cho Kyu-Chan said "since 1991, KOICA has made effort to

provide assistance in education and vocational training sector for the development of human capital."

He said the agency has commenced its educational cooperation project focusing on improving the educational environment and upgrading of the standard of life, adding that "the project can contribute to the Nigerian educational environment including all forms of educational activities."

In his remarks, Executive Secretary of Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) Dr Ahmed Modibbo Mohammed has said the commission will continue to

partner with Korea International Agency in implementing its programmes in the country.

He said signing of the agreement between the agency and the Federal Government marks a consolidation stage of an existing good relationship between Nigeria and Korea and between UBEC and KOICA.

He commended the agency for the completion of similar projects in Kogi and Kastina States and assured of UBEC's counterpart responsibilities which include the welfare and security of the Korean nationals working on the projects.

Aimola is NBTE acting scribe

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma

THE Governing Board of the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) has approved the appointment of Mr Ade Ojo Aimola as the acting Executive Secretary of the board.

His appointment followed the commencement of the three-month mandatory terminal leave by the erstwhile acting scribe of the board Dr Muhammad S. Abubakar.

Until his appointment, Mr Aimola, a product of the Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) with a B.sc and M.sc degree in architecture, was the Director Planning, Research and Statistics.

He also attended Edinburgh University in the United Kingdom for an M. Phil degree in Urban Design and Regional Planning in 1983.

He is a member of several local and international professional bodies including The Royal Town Planning Institute of United Kingdom, Nigerian Institute of Town Planners, Nigerian Institute of Architects, Town Planners Registration Council of Nigeria and Architects' Registration Council of Nigeria, among others.

Mr Aimola joined the services of NBTE in 1985 as an Assistant Chief Planning Officer and rose to the position of Director in 2009.

DAILY TRUST
EDUCATION

Government is gambling with education – Maiyashi

MR Tom Maiyashi was Commissioner of Education in Kaduna State. In this interview, he spoke about the challenges facing the education sector and the way forward.

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

IT appears that the fortunes of the nation's education sector keep dwindling, why are we getting it wrong?

We are getting it wrong because we have not put the necessary machinery on ground for the sector to blossom. In this country are bedevilled by lack of qualified teachers, lack of instructional materials and over congestions. With these impediments what do you expect?

The capacity of the state to retain qualified teachers is a big problem even where you have qualified teachers as soon as they have better work, they will quit the teaching profession. The classrooms itself, in most cases are not conducive for learning, particularly in urban centres and semi-urban centres where you have congestion in the classrooms.

A normal classroom should accommodate 35 or at most 40 students but if you go round the country you see that you have excess of the maximum number that you should have in an ideal classroom. Many of these schools run shift because of the high number of students. Their facilities are over stretch and the ratio of students to textbooks is very, very poor. In most of these schools you find out that library facilities are not there. Many of these students have not come across a single textbook, even when they are about to sit for the SSCE.

You don't expect students to do physics, chemistry or biology without having textbooks and laboratory experiences. These multifarious problems are in no small measures affecting the development of the education sector of the country.

Many parents are unable

to meet the very basic needs of their children or wards in school. It is impossible for students to learn well under the circumstances they found themselves today. The poor performances of Nigerian students are caused by lack of instructional materials and lack of qualified teachers, among others. These have a spiral effect on the quality of Nigerian graduates. Even those who managed to pass the SSCE are giving their lecturers headache in higher institutions and that shows that the performances of even those who passed the SSCE are very poor.

Nigerians are blaming examination bodies like NECO and WAEC for the mass failure in senior secondary school examination. What is your take on this?

It will be out of place for people to be apportioning all the blames to the examination bodies. We should not be saying that the examination questions are not properly set or they are too difficult. We should be honest to ourselves and do a thorough diagnosis of the whole system. We cannot have an educational system which is worth its name unless the contact between the learners and the teachers is effective. If the contact between the learner and the teacher is weak, we cannot get anything from the sector.

The whole thing boils down to the classroom. The structure of education is so bad that the classroom is remote and far away from the structure because all those claiming to be working for the revival of the sector are not serious. They are not worried about how policies on education affect the school system.

All the resources earmarked for the sector are always eating up before it gets to the schools by those manning the sector.

Why do you think the investments so far made in the education sector are not yielding the desired results?

All what we are investing in the education sector are far, far inadequate. All the claims by governors that education is their priority is not true, they are all fake. We have not been able to take a decisive decision to make sure that the appropriate resources that are required are invested in the education sector. Ask the governors or the commissioners of education that what is the unit cost of education in their state, they don't know. You need to know the unit cost of education for you to have good education policies. How much would a child require from primary to one to six.

The meagre resources that are provided for the education sector do not get to the classroom. Corruption has eating very dip into the education sector. Many people who found themselves managing education have no business in the sector, they don't have the correct attitude, they don't know the problems of the sector and they don't understand the challenges. They don't understand the import of running a weak educational system. Nigeria cannot locate itself within the league of nation in a knowledge-based century, a century driven by knowledge of science and technology.

They are running education like a local government and it should not be like this. Education is the development of the human person. You have to do it well otherwise we will not get it right. Government is just gam-



MR Tom Maiyashi

bling with education in Nigeria.

What is the way forward?

Ordinary Nigerians who own this country must begin to make specific demand at all levels of government from the federal, state down to the local government. Unless this

is done, the quality of governance will continue to affect the education sector adversely. We must put our heads together to address it and we must devoid the education sector of this our dirty politics because we are talking of the next generation if we don't do that the country is doomed.

8,000 civil defence officers to monitor UTME

By Maureen Onochie

ABOUT 8,000 officers of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) will monitor the conduct of the newly introduced Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) scheduled to take place on April 17, Registrar of Joint

Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) Professor Dibu Ojerinde, has said.

Ojerinde, who disclosed this when a delegation from NSCDC led by the Deputy Commandant-General (General Operations) Mr Evans Ewurum visited him in Abuja, said 5,000 hand-held scanners and detectors would be made

available at every examination centre to ensure that candidates sitting for the examination do not cheat.

He said JAMB was impressed with the performance of the NSCDC personnel during the conduct of the scrapped University Matriculation Examination (UME).

He said as part of the measures to check examination malprac-

tice, JAMB had procured examination materials such as erasers, sharpeners and calculators worth N1.5 million, and would be distributed to the candidates during examination.

In his remarks, Mr Ewurum condemned the roles played by some supervisors in undermining examinations, saying that the

NSCDC will do everything possible to ensure the successful conduct of the examination.

"We are all stakeholders and have a common objective. We are not only doing this job for JAMB but the nation. Whatever mechanism that will be used shall be deployed fullest to get the desired results," he said.

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email: citynews@dailytrust.com

Bizman denies sending threat messages to Gwarzo

By Usman A. Bello & Romoke W. Ahmad

A 25-year-old businessman, Donatus Onyenwe, yesterday denied before an Abuja magistrate court that he sent threat messages to former National Security Adviser (NSA), Alhaji Ismaila Gwarzo.

The businessman, who resides at Federal Housing Authority (FHA), Lugbe, was arraigned on a one count charge of criminal intimidation, punishable under Section 399 (B) of the Penal Code Law.

Police prosecutor, Adamu Abdullahi told the court that

one Jihad Khalil reported to the police that on March 12, the accused sent series of threat messages with a Zain line to Alhaji Ismaila Gwarzo, a former NSA to late Gen. Sanni Abacha.

"The text message read thus: Hi, on the land at Wuse Zone 2 and all those property, we know

what happened in the days of Abacha while you were the former National Security Adviser to late Gen. Abacha. Movement was restricted," the prosecutor said.

He said during police investigation, the accused confessed to the offence.

When the charge was read to

the accused, he pleaded not guilty and requested for bail. Magistrate Grace Eisape Adebayo granted the accused bail in the sum of N10,000 with two sureties in like sums.

The magistrate ordered that the sureties must be civil servants of any grade level and adjourned the case to April 19 for hearing.

Man in court over cheating

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A youngster was yesterday arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly cheating one Mr. Apochi James, by collecting N230,000 from him.

Mathew Livinus, a revenue collector from Gishiri, Maitama, Abuja, was accused of deceiving the complainant and collecting money from him on September 7.

Prosecutor Mohammed Ahmed told the court that on April 1, Mr. Apochi James reported to the police that the accused cheated him.

"The accused deceived him by promising to assist him secure recruitment into the Nigeria Police and to also help him buy an auctioned vehicle from the force," the prosecutor said.

He informed the court that the complainant gave N230,000 to the accused, which he converted to his personal use, adding that the act contravenes Section 322 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charge was read to the accused, he denied it and his counsel, Obaimoke A., made an oral application for his bail, which was not objected to by the prosecutor.

In her ruling, Magistrate Rosemary Kanyip granted the accused bail in the sum of N40,000 with a reasonable surety in like sum, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction and swear to an affidavit to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to May 3 for hearing.



A car skidded off the overhead bridge and rolled into the service lane in Area 1, Garki, Abuja yesterday.

10 ANPP members remanded in prison custody

By Usman A. Bello

ABOUT ten members of the All Nigeria Peoples Party at Kwali were on Tuesday remanded in prison custody by an Abuja chief magistrate court until formal presentation of their bail application is made by their counsel in court.

Banabas Gown, Abuja Yunusa, Ibrahim Muhammed, Ishiyaku Adetunji, Etsu Solomon, Abuja T Aliyu, Joseph Wakili, Muhammed Garba, Hassan Umar and Yakubu Audu were accused of injuring three persons and damaging some property.

They were arraigned on a four-count charge of joint act, unlawful assembly, causing grievous hurt and mischief, offences punishable under Sections 79, 248, 103 and 327 of the Penal Code Law.

Prosecutor Joseph Onwu told the court that on April 1, the acting Chairman of Kwali Area Council, Dalami Saleh Yebu reported to the police that the accused persons damaged his house, three vehicles and a motorcycle with cutlasses, knives and sticks.

He said the council boss also complained that the accused

persons attacked and injured Yahaya Barde, Sunday Ibrahim and Yusuf Yakubu, adding that they were hospitalized at Kwali General Hospital.

The accused persons pleaded not guilty to the charges, while their counsel urged the court to grant them bail, which was not objected to by the prosecutor.

Chief Magistrate Oyebola O. Oyewumi directed the accused persons counsel to apply for their bail formerly and remanded the accused persons in prison custody until the bail application is heard.

The case was adjourned to May 4 for hearing.

Engr confesses to stealing due to hunger

By Usman A. Bello

A computer engineer yesterday told an Abuja magistrate court that he stole a handset due to hunger.

The accused, Akinles Adekunle of no fixed address, was arraigned on a one count charge punishable under Section 287 of the Penal Code Law.

Police prosecutor, David Udeh had earlier told the court that on March 27, Bolale Yahaya of National Youth Service Corp's (NYSC) Quarters in Nasarawa State reported to the police that while she was walking besides Art and Culture Centre by Yar'adua Centre, the accused attacked her and forcefully collected her Nokia

handset.

The prosecutor stated further that during investigations, the said handset was recovered from the accused.

When the charge was read to the accused, he pleaded guilty and begged for leniency, saying he stole to enable him get money to eat.

"I was hungry and needed money to eat as this is my first time of stealing," the accused pleaded.

The prosecutor urged the court to try him summarily under Section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code, (CPC).

Magistrate Ann Katsinal Alu sentenced the accused to two weeks imprisonment or an option of N3,000 fine.

'I stole yams to feed my hungry family'

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A 25-year-old furniture maker yesterday in court confessed that he stole 13 tubers of yams in order to feed his hungry family.

The yam thief, Isaac Awa of Sauka village, Abuja, told the court that he left his house at midnight to where some yam were carefully packed and stole 13 tubers.

Prosecutor Ahmed Mohammed had earlier told the court that on April 1, one Rosemary Akaja of Iddo village, Abuja, reported to the police that the yam thief was caught red-handed with 13 tubers of yams belonging to her.

"The accused went to Iddo junction and stole 13 tubers of yams from where they were packed, but was caught on the spot by some security men with the stolen yams," the prosecutor added.

He said the accused confessed to the crime during police investigations and committed an offence punishable under Section 288 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charge was read to the accused, he pleaded guilty and told

the court that hunger was ravaging his family, hence he had to steal.

"I and my wife were very hungry and I decided to go out at night to steal 13 tubers of yam so that I can solve our hunger problem but I was caught by some security men who beat me with cutlasses," he narrated.

Based on his guilt plea, the prosecutor asked the court to try the accused summarily under Section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Magistrate Bahar Attahiru Alkali sentenced the accused to one month imprisonment or to pay N1,000 as fine.

The magistrate told the accused that if he had stolen one or two tubers of yam, the court would have agreed with him that it was hunger that made him to steal, wondering if the accused wanted to eat 13 tubers of yams.

"By the time you come back from prison and you see things belonging to another person, you would turn your eyes away from them," the magistrate said.

He also ordered the police to unfailingly return the stolen yams to the complainant.



A cross section of police officers during a lecture at FCT Police Command recently.

Man in court over N4.2m dud cheque

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

THE police yesterday arraigned one Jinadu Adenekan before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly attempting to withdraw N4.2 million with a dud cheque.

The man without fixed address, was accused of fraudulently going to the Maitama branch of Oceanic Bank to withdraw money in March.

Prosecutor Abu Okpanachi told the court that on March 29, one Joshua Igbonaba, the regional manager of Oceanic Bank, reported to the police

that the accused was caught while attempting to withdraw the said money.

"The accused fraudulent presented a cheque of N4.2 million but in the process of verification before payment, the cheque was discovered to have been forged," the prosecutor said.

He stated further that during police investigations, the accused confessed to have received the forged cheque from one Taiwo, now at large, adding that the offences committed are punishable under Sections 79, 364 and 95 of the Penal Code Law.

When the three-count charge was read to the accused, he pleaded not guilty and his counsel, Bright Igbinosa, made an oral application for his bail.

Chief Magistrate Hadiza Dodo granted the accused bail in the sum of N500,000 with two sureties in like sums, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction.

She also ruled that one of the sureties must be a civil servant and that both of them must swear to affidavits to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to April 28, for hearing.



www.britishcouncil.org/africa

VACANCY

The British Council has the following post that is available in Lagos. If you wish to apply for any of this post, please complete the application form as requested. You will need to address the competencies in the job description.

POSITION:

Business Partnerships Project Co-ordinator

Application pack and full job description can be found on <http://www.britishcouncil.org/africa-vacancies>

JOB AIM:

To contribute to the achievement of British Council objectives by supporting the effective and efficient planning, management, delivery and evaluation of products and services in business partnerships.

To contribute to the development of BC Nigeria as an innovative and high performing country operation. To model the values and principles of an integrated operation and to ensure that we are aligned with the BC regional and global priorities. To actively engage with and support regional developments.

COMPETENCIES REQUIRED

- Project and contract delivery
- Marketing and Customer Service
- Contact database management
- Scorecard data Collection and Evaluation
- Financial planning and management
- British Council Advocate
- Professional development

Applications should be sent to: Hposts@ng.britishcouncil.org

Applications received after the stated deadline will not be considered. Telephone applications and enquiries will also not be accepted. Please apply using the materials on the website. We are unable to process applications that do not conform to the required format, and we will not accept curricula vitae or handwritten applications.

Deadline for application: 10am, 19 April 2010.

Only applicants short-listed for interview will be contacted.

The British Council is committed to a policy of equal opportunity and is keen to reflect the diversity of UK society at every level within the organisation. We welcome applications from all sections of the community. Candidates with special needs should please ask us for this information in alternative formats. We guarantee an interview to disabled candidates who meet the essential criteria. We are the UK's international organisation for cultural relations. We are registered in England as a charity.



PUBLIC AUCTION

Following the pre-qualification of auctioneers conducted on 25th February, 2010, and in line with the relevant provisions as contained in the Public Procurement Act 2007, the Ministerial Tenders' Board of the Ministry of Police Affairs has approved the sale of all unserviceable VEHICLES/MOTORCYCLES currently lying in the under listed locations. The sale shall be by way of public Auctions. The Nigeria Police Force wishes to announce that the sales by public auction will take place as indicated below.

S/NO	LOCATION/ POLICE COMMAND HQTRS	DATES
1	Abuja	13/04/2010
2	Lafia	19/04/2010
3	Makurdi	21/04/2010
4	Jalingo	23/04/2010
5	Yola	26/04/2010
6	Maiduguri	28/04/2010
7	Damaturu	30/04/2010
8	Gombe	03/05/2010
9	Bauchi	05/05/2010
10	Jos	07/05/2010
11	Kaduna	10/05/2010
12	Kano	12/05/2010
13	Dutse	14/05/2010
14	Katsina	17/05/2010
15	Gusau	19/05/2010
16	Sokoto	20/05/2010
17	Birnin-Kebbi	24/05/2010
18	Minna	26/05/2010
19	Lokoja	31/05/2010
20	Ilorin	02/06/2010
21	Osoybo	04/06/2010
22	Ibadan	07/05/2010
23	Ado-Ekiti	09/06/2010
24	Akure	11/06/2010
25	Ikeja	14/06/2010
26	Benin	17/06/2010
27	Yenagoa	21/06/2010
28	Port-Harcourt	23/06/2010
29	Umuahia	25/06/2010
30	Owerri	28/06/2010
31	Awka	30/06/2010
32	Enugu	02/07/2010
33	Abakaliki	05/07/2010
34	Uyo	06/07/2010
35	Cainbar	08/07/2010

ACP EMMANUEL C.S. OJUKWU
FORCE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER
FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ABUJA



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF POWER

Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Rajiu'n



The Honourable Minister of State for Power, Arc. Nuhu Somo Wya, Management and entire Staff of the Federal Ministry of Power, wish to announce the sudden death of the former Minister of State for Energy (Power), **Mrs. Fatima Balaraba Ibrahim**, in a ghastly motor accident along Kano - Kaduna road on Tuesday, April 6, 2010.

She was the Minister of State from July 2007 to October 2008.

May Allah (SWT) grant her Aljannah Firdaus and give her family the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss.

Late Mrs Fatima Balaraba Ibrahim

Former Minister of State for Energy (Power)

April 16th 1947 - April 6th 2010

Signed
Alhaji I. B. Sali
Permanent Secretary



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Management Sciences for Health (MSH) is a private, non-profit educational and scientific organization. Since 1971, MSH has worked with its worldwide partners to improve the management of and access to health services such as primary health care, child survival, maternal and child health, family planning, and reproductive health.

The following positions will provide technical assistance aimed at improving the lives of children and families affected by HIV/AIDS in project state. The goal of this project is to deliver care and support activities to OVC as well as palliative care. Program intervention include care and support for children affected by HIV/AIDS, paediatric home-base care, gender, stigma and discrimination and program related data collection and analysis.

POSITION: ORPHAN & VULNERABLE CHILDREN (OVC) ADVISOR
LOCATION: ABUJA

The OVC Advisor will provide support and technical assistance aimed at improving the lives of children and families affected by HIV and AIDS. The emphasis of the OVC Advisors Technical support is to mobilize and support community based responses that will improve the delivery of services to OVC and strengthen systems to ensure sustainable services delivery and protection of OVC particularly female adolescent OVC.

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES:

- The Advisor will assist in identifying, locating and protecting OVC and providing both immediate and long-term therapeutic and social economic assistance to vulnerable household by:
 - Support to integrate strategies to reduce stigma and discrimination.
 - Improve delivery on services through a family centred and community based model
 - Assist OVC to acquire the skill and knowledge that protect them from HIV infection
 - strengthen networks, systems and leveraging wrap-around programs
- The advisor will work with the Ministry of Women and Social Development counterparts, USAID Cooperating Agencies and other partners in the public and private sector. S/he will assure the technical content and quality necessary for the National Health System to support decentralised system and to achieve effective implementation of appropriate interventions at the national, state, district and local level.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Masters degree or equivalent experience in Public health or related field
- Expertise in OVC program design and implementation and management and public health interventions and diseases control
- Experience developing relationships with provincial and district level government officials
- Minimum of 6 years experience in HIV/AIDS, TB, STI and/or Child Survival/IMCI projects in African countries, preferably Nigeria
- Knowledge and understanding of the paediatric home base care, gender, stigma and discrimination
- Ability to work independently
- Willingness to travel extensively within Nigeria

POSITION: GRANTS ASSISTANT
LOCATION: ABUJA

The objective of the Grants Assistant position is to collaborate with the Grants Manager in order to manage and coordinate MSH Nigeria's complex grants portfolio lending to a variety of Non-governmental organizations, faith based organizations, and community based organizations in order to strengthen health systems and improve health service delivery throughout Nigeria. The Grants Assistant will work closely with Grants Manager to establish and follow a transparent process, and develop tools to implement the process, assuring that sound grant practices are applied at every stage of the grant process from guidelines to closeout. The Grants Assistant must be available to travel up to 50% of the time, including the Niger Delta Region.

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Assist Grants Manager in setting up and administering a grants management system MSH Nigeria
- Help to issue grants to NGOs, FBOs, and CBOs ensuring that all necessary guidelines and regulations are followed
- Help Grants Manager establish a grants application evaluation of grants recipients to guarantee best use of project funds
- As directed by the Grants Manager, manage grants at all phases and ensure compliance with donor and MSH regulations
- With the Grants Manager, monitor and support grant recipients' financial and operations systems ensuring best practices are being implemented in the institutions or organizations
- Provide accounting support to the Country Operations Management Unit as directed by the Grants Manager
- Other tasks as requested by supervisor

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor's Degree in accounting, finance, business management or related fields.
- At least 3 years of relevant working experience with an international non-governmental organization. Experience with PEPFAR and USAID funded projects is highly desirable
- Fluency in the English language is required
- Strong organizational and financial management skills
- Ability to work well in a collaborative manner, including robust communications capabilities
- Mastered the use of Microsoft Word, Excel, and QuickBooks. Past experience with grants management software preferred.

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 msnigeria@msh.org, not later than April 23, 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.*



CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA NIGERIAN TREASURY BILLS

TENDER NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by the Central Bank of Nigeria that the Federal Government of Nigeria Treasury Bills of 91, 182 and 364-day tenors amounting to N 18, 585, 616, 000 N 30, 556, 565, 000 and N 30, 000, 000, 000 respectively would be issued by Dutch auction on Thursday, 15/04/2010.

All Money Market Dealers should submit bids through the CBN TEMENOS INTERNET BANKING between 9:00 am and 11:00 am on Wednesday, 14/04/2010.

Each bid must be in multiple of N1, 000 subject to a minimum of N10, 000. Authorized Money Market Dealers are allowed to submit multiple bids. A bid may be for authorized Money Market Dealers own account, Non-Money Market Dealers or interested members of the public. The result of the auction would be announced by 11:30 am on Wednesday, 14/04/2010. The Bank reserves the right to reject any bid.

Allotment letters would be issued for successful bids on Thursday, 15/04/2010, while payment for the successful bids should be made to your account with Central Bank of Nigeria not later than 11:00 am on Thursday, 15/04/2010.

The Bank reserves the right to vary the amount on offer in line with market realities prevailing as at the period of auction of the Nigerian Treasury Bills.

**Government Securities Office
Financial Markets Department
Central Bank of Nigeria
Abuja**



TAKAI LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF KANO STATE INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AND TENDER FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF TARED ROADS

The management of Takai Local Government Kano State hereby invites competent and experience contractors for pre-qualification and tender for the construction of tared roads projects.

SCOPE OF WORK:- Construction of Tared Roads

- Durbunde - Diribo - Karfi 11.8 km
- Takai Township Roads.
- Faruruwa - Shukutu Road 4km
- Fajewa - Birnin Bako 2 coat surface dressing road.

Pre-Qualification Requirements:

Interest contractors for the pre-qualification and tendering process are required to submit comprehensive technical and financial information as follows:

- Evidence of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission
- Evidence of Tax clearance certificate for the last 3 years
- Companies audited account for the last 3 years
- Evidence of financial capability and banking report
- Technical qualification and experience of personnel
- Verification list and document evidence of similar jobs successfully executed with their locations within the last three years (including photocopies of latter of award)
- List of plants and equipments to be used for the project
- Annual turnover of company
- VAT registration and evidence of past VAT Remittance.

Submission of pre-qualification document should be sealed and submitted in an envelop marked pre-qualification for the construction of Tared Roads, and addressed to:

**Director Personnel Management
Takai Local government
Kano State.**

To reach him within 4 weeks from the date of this Publication

OPENING OF BIDS AND PRE-QUALIFICATION

Bidder's representatives are invited to the public opening of pre-qualification at the end of the four weeks from the date of this publication.

Note:

- All pre-qualification documents shall be rendered in English Language and spiral bound
- Late submission will not be accepted.

Signed:
Director Personnel Management
Takai Local Government
Kano State

Inside Politics

Buhari added no value to ANPP – Aruwa

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

FORMER Head of State General Muhammadu Buhari added no value to the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) throughout the period of his stay in the party, Senator Ahmed Aruwa has said.

Buhari recently quit ANPP on account of irreconcilable differ-

ences with the party's leadership. He moved to the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) which he founded.

Aruwa told newsmen in Kaduna yesterday that the fortune of the party dwindled when Buhari was in it. "General Buhari did not join ANPP until 2003 and ANPP started in 1998 so I don't see reason why you be describing

him as the backbone of our party. With due respect to the former head, in 1999, we have nine governors, in 2003, we lost three and in 2007, we come down to three and you are saying he was the backbone of our party," he said.

Aruwa said the two-time presidential candidate of the ANPP could not deliver his ward in Katsina State to the party, and

that the former general cost the party more than what he brought to the party.

"We know how he got the two tickets of our party in 2003 and 2007. I single-handedly got him the tickets. I convinced Yarima through Aliero to step down for him in 2007 because we all know that the delegates are going to vote for Yarima. But we asked him to

step down for peace and tranquility in the party," he said.

He described the ongoing crisis in the party as normal. "Crisis in ANPP means nothing. Crisis most happen and in fact in necessary for the entrenchment of democracy. If you have a political party without a varied opinion or stand on issues then something is wrong," Aruwa said.

PIC: SHEHU K. GORO



A cross section of participants at a news conference by Women Mass Mobilisation for Namadi 2011 in Kaduna yesterday.

PDP sets up caretaker c'ttee for Katsina

A Caretaker Committee for the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in Katsina State has been set up, administrative secretary of the party Alhaji Shamsudeen Imam has announced.

Governor Ibrahim Shema had in March dissolved the state and local executive councils of the PDP.

In a statement in Katsina yesterday, the administrative secretary named Alhaji Rabi'u Gambo as chairman of the committee.

Other members are Alhaji Tukur Doro, vice chairman; Garba Tailor, Treasurer; while Sabi'u

Maijama'a, Ali Sakwatawa and Alhaji Yaro Mamman were named vice chairmen for Funtua, Katsina and Daura Zones respectively.

The statement said Alhaji Lawal Lada was appointed the state Secretary with Isiyaku Charanchi, Amir Tamilo and Kabir Kafur as Assistant Secretaries (Katsina, Daura and Funtua) respectively.

It said the setting up of the committee was based on the party's constitution.

The statement added that the caretaker committees for the local governments would be announced in due course. (NAN)

Zamfara guber aspirant shares cars, bikes

From Sadeeq Aliyu, Gusau

ALL Nigeria People's Party (ANPP) governorship aspirant Bello Mohammed Mutawalle has appealed to party supporters in Zamfara State to remain committed and ensure the party's success in the 2011 general elections despite mass defection that hit the party recently.

Mutawalle, a member of the House of Representatives representing Bakura/Maradun Federal Constituency, made the call while addressing party supporters at the opening of his campaign office in Gusau. He said by remaining steadfast and committed, ANPP would form next government in the state.

The lawmaker said he was in Gusau to commission his campaign office and also to disburse 12 cars and 100 motorcycles to party supporters.

He commended ANPP supporters in the state particularly the youths for their perseverance in spite of the defections from the party.

"I am proud of your

commitment to the party despite harassment and intimidation by the opposition party, the PDP. The contribution you have made to sustain the party is known to all of us and by God's grace you will reap what you sow when I take over government come 2011 election," Mutawalle said.

PDP mobilises youths for 2011 elections

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE People's Democratic Party (PDP) is mobilising its youths preparatory to 2011 general elections with a charge on them to brace up for the coming challenges.

Addressing a quarterly meeting of the party's youth leaders in Abuja, PDP National Youth Leader Muiyiwa Collins appealed to

leaders of the party at the states and zones to assist the youths in building a virile party.

The ruling party is expected to release guidelines for 2011 polls after its coming National Executive Council (NEC) meeting.

"We are at the eve of another general election and the enemies of democracy and gold diggers,

those who don't believe in the power of the ballot box are already devising strategies to achieve their selfish objectives.

"There is no doubt that the plans of those who don't have the interest of the nation will hardly succeed if the youths shun them. The PDP has lined up activities which we hope will constructively engage the youths of the party in near

future.

"But while we wait for these programmes to mature, I have been in touch with the zonal and state youth structures on how to also generate peculiar programmes to augment what is done at the centre," he said.

The meeting was attended by PDP zonal and state youth leaders across the country.

Why I'm running for senate, by Uba Sani

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

A former presidential aide Malam Uba Sani says poor representation of Kaduna central in the Senate and the desire to make a difference in the federal legislature motivated him to stand for election into the Senate.

Speaking to newsmen in Kaduna, Sani, who was special assistant to former President Olusegun Obasanjo, lamented that the incumbent senator of his zone had neither contributed to landmark debates nor sponsored any major bill in his close to three years in the National Assembly.

He said he decided to contest for senate in order to contribute to robust law making and to give his constituents a vibrant representation.

Sani dismissed the claim that the state governor has an anointed candidate for the Senate

from Kaduna central. He said the rumour was being spread to discourage credible aspirants from contesting elections, adding that the era of governors anointing candidates was over.

Sani also said he wanted to stand for election because of the proposed electoral reform. He said with the reforms, the reign of impunity where just about anybody would be anointed and foisted on the people was gone.

He also said he would reverse the election failures of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Kaduna North and South local Governments where the opposition produced more council chairmen, state and federal legislators than the ruling party.

He said the defection of General Muhammadu Buhari from ANPP has weakened the party and would make his task easy.

Bayelsa AC wants LG poll tribunal set up

THE Action Congress (AC) in Bayelsa State has called on the state's chief judge to immediately constitute an Election Petitions Tribunal to hear complaints rising from last Saturday's council polls.

State party chairman Mr. Ebikibina Miriki who made the call in a statement in Yenagoa on Wednesday, urged the state Chief Judge, Justice Kate Abiri, to constitute an election petitions tri-

bunal.

"We in the AC believe that the judiciary is our only hope. Since the party hopes and desires to have the anomalies corrected, we therefore, urge the Chief Judge of Bayelsa

State to without further delay constitute the local Government Election Tribunal as "provided in the Local Government Cap L.10 Laws of Bayelsa State," it said.

AC said that it made the call in

view of the time frame within which a petition could be presented to the tribunal.

AC won only one councillorship seat in Ekeremor local government area at the election. (NAN)



GOVERNMENT OF SOKOTO STATE OF NIGERIA
UNDP – ASSISTED PROGRAMME



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Sokoto State Government of Nigeria has signed a technical cooperation agreement with the Federal Government of Nigeria and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with the National Planning Commission serving as the National Coordinating Authority for the implementation of the following:- **Economic Governance Programme, Private Sector Development Programme, Capacity for Governance Programme and Sustainable Risk Management Programme for the execution of activities for 1st and 2nd Quarter 2010 under the 7th Country Programme.**

The Partnership Implementation Committee for the UNDP – Assisted Programme therefore, wishes to invite suitable qualified Consultants/Companies as may be applicable to submit Consultancy Technical and Financial bids in respect of the following:-

LOT:A: ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME (EGP)

- 1) 3 Days Training Workshop on Populating SYB template for 40 Statistical Officers of SSA and MDAs in the State.
 - Data updated/clearing Backlog Data
 - SYB Template Populated
- 2) 5 Days Training Workshop of 40 Statistical Officers of SSA and line MDAs on Primary Data collection techniques.
- 3) Advocacy Workshop for Policy makers, legislators and LGA Chairmen
- 4) Conduct Training workshop on Medium terms plan and vision 20-2020 for MBEP and line MDAs for 40 participants
- 5) Capacity assessment of Planning and Budget Agency in the MBEP and MDAs for institutionalization of M&E Department/Unit within MOBEP in the State.

LOT: B: PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PROG. (PSDP)

- 1) Conduct 5 days Capacity Building for 25 participants on Business Development Services Providers NASSI and Chambers of Commerce supporting MSMES.

LOT: C: CAPACITY FOR GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME (CGP)

- 1) Organize advocacy visit by CSOs and Development Partners to executive and legislators on the draft public procurement Bill
- 2) Conduct capacity building for Due Process Office Staff on ICT, Budget analysis and Procurement

process.

- 3) Strengthen institutional Capacity of Due Process Office through Information and Communication technology
- 4) Review draft and Print public procurement guidelines
- 5) Organize 2 days workshop for women and youth on the fundamentals of good governance
- 6) Conduct conflict mapping and Need Assessment of orthodox and fractional mechanisms for conflict management in 3 selected communities from three (3) Senatorial Districts
 - Organize 2 days Stakeholder consultation on conflict mapping report.

LOT: D: SUSTAINABLE RISK MANAGEMENT PROG. (SRMP)

- 1) Develop and produce the farmers guide/validate guide
 - Organize workshop/training for farmers associations and co-operatives on Climate Change and the guide
- 2) Develop training Manual for Community Nursery operations
 - Facilitate establishment of Nurseries in three Senatorial District
 - Conduct Stakeholders on-site training for Nursery establishment
- 3) One-day Advocacy/Sensitization workshop for policy makers/legislators on Gender, Human Rights and HIV/AIDS
- 4) Two-days Capacity Building workshop for CSOs/support Groups on Gender, Human Rights and Access to Justice
- 5) Training of M&E Officers of LACAs, MDAs and CSOs on appropriate Software's (GIS, DHIS, LHPMP) for effective Monitoring and Evaluation of the HIV & AIDS response

Interested and eligible Consultant/Company can obtain Terms of Reference for activities bided for on the payment of **N5,000.00 each Non-Refundable processing fees**, you should also submit 2 sealed envelopes both Technical and Financial Proposals for every activity should be address to:-
Sokoto State Partnership Manager (UNDP) at Block 5, Flat 102 Shehu Kangiwa Secretariate Western Bye-Pass Road Sokoto Not later than 2 Weeks from the date of this Advertisement.

SIGNED:
State Partnership Manager
Sokoto State.

SPORT

Man Utd crash out
of Champions
League

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Lagerback eyes Owello

By Ismaila Lere

SUPER Eagles tactician Lars Lagerback has confirmed that Norway based Solomon Owello is on the list of 50 players shortlisted for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

The Swede told Norwegian newspaper *Faerelandsvennen* on Tuesday that he would soon be in Norway to watch the IK Start Kristiansand defensive midfielder.

"There's a list of 50 players that plays abroad and that we will watch live in action and evaluate, and adding to them are some players playing in Nigeria that we also will look at.

"The players we can't travel around and watch live we will call up to a camp. This camp will be in May," Lagerback told *Faerelandsvennen*. "It is most likely that either me or one of my assistants will come to Norway and Kristiansand to see Solomon Owello play for Start."

However, the Eagles gaffer refused to comment on the former Niger Tornados player's chances of making the World Cup squad.

"That I can not comment. Because of the huge media interest in Nigeria and abroad we will not make any comments about special players at this time," Lagerback declared.

Owello, 21, played for Flying Eagles at the FIFA U-20 World Cup in Canada three years ago.

Similarly, Lagerback will meet with Manchester City defender Nedum Onuoha during his trip to England on April 14, but is offering no guarantees, according to Super Eagles Media Officer Idah Peterside.

Last month, Onuoha told *Kick-OffNigeria.com* that he would consider an approach to represent Nigeria, and on Tuesday, he restated that commitment in an interview with the *Manchester Evening News*.

"We had reached out to him some time ago, but what he said at that time was that he needed to clear some things up with his family.

"It is good news for us that he has made the consultations and is now ready to play for Nigeria," he said.



NORWAY midfielder Solomon Owello has caught the eyes of Super Eagles technical adviser Lars Lagerback.

No date yet for NOC election

NO date has been fixed for the Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC) election, the committee's spokesman Tony Neziyanya, has said.

The election, which had earlier been fixed for December 2009 in Dutse, was postponed indefinitely.

Neziyanya said on telephone yesterday in Lagos that the NOC board had yet to deliberate on the report of the three-man committee which evaluated the screening of candidates for the election.

"The NOC has to show respect to the elders by deliberating on their report and seeking clarifications, where necessary.

"We also need to ensure full reconciliation in line with our agreement at the botched Dutse Annual General Meeting/elections to move the body forward.

"The NOC, therefore, has a duty to present the report to the house for deliberation and adoption. This will happen in due course, in line with international sports convention," Neziyanya said.

He said that the May 4 date published by a section of the media was not decided by the NOC.

"We appreciate the anxiety of some individuals who have been eager that we hold the elections, but they have to realise that the date, time and venue must be mutually agreed upon.

"This is the only way it will be in line with the International Olympic codes, to which we have all sworn to protect.

"Again we must take cognisance of the fact that the report of the three-man body of elders to evaluate the screening of candidates for the election has just been received," Neziyanya said.

The committee was made up of Rev. Moses Iloh, Ibrahim Galadima and Olatokunbo Thomas.

AJC closes today, as Junior Davis Cup begins

THE 33rd edition of the Africa Junior Tennis Championship holding in Abuja comes to an end today at the Abuja National Stadium.

The closing ceremony will be held at the Tennis Centre of the Abuja National Stadium by 3:00pm.

Preceding the closing ceremony will be an epoch making

event of a foundation laying ceremony of a centre court at the newly constructed Tennis Arena by International Tennis Federation (ITF) President, Francesco Ricci Bitti.

However, the Junior Davis Cup/Federation Cup will commence tomorrow in the final lap of the tournament.

Team Nigeria coach, Ubale Mohammed said the Junior Davis

Cup is an event Nigeria is eyeing to make a mark considering its importance to tennis development globally.

"At the end of the AJC, our next focus is the Junior Davis Cup. We want to make an impact in this category because of its international importance. It is for players between U-14 and 16. We have Idoko Emmanuel and Mohammed Mohammed in the U-14 and

Umaru Balam/Onyeka Mbanu in the U-16. It is important we prove a point because it serves as a qualifier for the Junior World Davis Cup to be held in Czechoslovakia next year. To enter the qualifiers you present a minimum of two and maximum of four players," he said.

The coach said the Team Nigeria camp is putting everything into this Junior Davis Cup because no Nige-

rian player has ever qualified for the World Junior Davis Cup competition.

He said those to qualify for the Junior Davis Cup tournament will be fully known at the end of today.

"By the end of today's hostilities, we shall have a clear picture of those to play at the Junior Davis Cup," he added.

PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE



Mohammed Mohammed of Nigeria, pictured above, and Emmanuel Idoko have booked a place in the final of the U-14 boys doubles after beating the duo of Saad Hamza and Zahoud Amine of Morocco yesterday at the ongoing African Junior Championship in Abuja.

Scouts to storm Kano for Boska Cup

From Abdulgafar Oladimeji, Kano

RENOWNED international soccer scouts would be on the hunt for fresh talents at the annual Boska Soccer championship scheduled to begin today at the Kano Pillars Township stadium.

Speaking during a visit to Media Trust Office in Kano, Abel Daniel, Boska's regional sales supervisor, said that the motive behind the staging of the tournament is to unearth and nurture youngsters, who would be aided to fulfill their life dream in becoming international football stars.

"This very competition is in its 4th edition in the south western Nigeria, and I can tell you confidently that over 12 players from that zone have made it to Europe and Asia to play professional football, it is this success that has motivated us to bring the tournament to Kano, in a bid to pay back to the people of the north through football.

"We have invited football scouts to attend the competition to scout for good players from Kano and we will work with these players to see that they fulfill their football potentials. I wish to add that very soon we will arrange for victorious teams from the north to compete against their southern counterpart," he added.

Benin coach tips Nigeria for WAFU Cup

BENIN Republic assistant coach has tipped hosts Nigeria to clinch the eight-nation West African Football Union (WAFU) Cup tournament holding from April 9 to April 18.

Edmond Annie said in Abeokuta on Wednesday that his prediction was based on the fact that "the Nigerian team is one of the leading sides in West Africa." Annie, however, said that administrative challenges had adversely affected Nigeria's ability of realising its potential as one of the world's soccer nations. He said his team was made up of the country's junior players as the federation was in the process of building a new national side.

"We have a problem of discipline with our national team.

"We want to rebuild our national team with a new set of players who can combine football skills with character," Annie said. He said they intended to use the tournament to learn from other countries, especially Nigeria, adding that they hoped to give a good account of themselves.

The coach expressed satisfaction with arrangements for the competition, saying the stadium, accommodation and security were excellent.

Nigeria, Benin, Republic, Guinea and Senegal are playing in Abeokuta in Group A while Ghana, Liberia, Togo and Burkina Faso are playing their Group B games in Ijebu-Ode.

Bio urged to develop all sports

SPORTS enthusiasts yesterday advised Alhaji Ibrahim Bio, the new Sports Minister, to give priority to the development of the Nigerian youth using sports.

Speaking with the *News Agency of Nigeria* (NAN) on their expectations from the minister, the enthusiasts said he should ensure adequate funding for sports.

They noted that inadequate funding had been the bane of sports in the country.

The President of the Cycling Federation of Nigeria (CFN), Mohammed Sheriff, urged the minister to do something drastic within the short period of his tenure to boost sports.

Sheriff noted that sports standard in the country had fallen and blamed it on paucity of funds.

He said inadequate funding for sports must be addressed, adding that the minister must stop paying lip service to sports development as his predecessors did.

Sheriff said he had been seeking funds from the private sector for cycling without success and stressed the important role of the government in sports development.

"Funding must be addressed as the major challenge facing sports in the country is inadequate funding," the cycling chief added.

In her contribution, 1996 Atlanta Olympics silver medalist, Falilat Ogunkoya-Omotayo,

said that the minister should ensure that sports returned to the grass roots through organisation of more competitions at all levels.

Ogunkoya-Omotayo said regular competitions would ensure that athletes were not recycled and taken to competitions without adequate preparations.

She said there should be fair play in funding for sports by ensuring that some sports were not provided with more money to the detriment of others.

...Nigerians should not expect much —Basse

By David Ngobua

AS reactions continue to trail the appointment of former minister of Transport, Hon. Ibrahim Isa Bio, as the new minister of sports, veteran sports journalist and publisher, Mr. Paul Basse has said Nigerians should not expect much from the new sports helmsman.

Speaking to Trustsports on phone yesterday, the CAF Media

Committee member said apart from the fact that the new minister can not boast of any credential in sports administration, he is going to work with the same technocrats who had deliberately refused to help the minister's predecessors.

He said: "It is hard to say what the minister will be able to achieve within the time left for him to lead sports before the life of this administration runs out.

He has no track record in sports administration and to make matters worse, he is not going to get a better deal in the hands of those who should provide him with the road map he needs.

"Most of the technocrats in the ministry have been part of the problem.

Had it been they lived up to their responsibilities, most of the past ministers wouldn't have

failed woefully. How are we sure that the case of the new sports minister will be different?" he asked.

He reiterated that Bio may be a good administrator but he would need the guidance of some technocrats in the sports ministry to navigate the difficult sports terrain but added that he may wait in vain for such assistance because the structure is defective.

Supporters Club flags off World Cup campaign

From Adeolu Johnson, Lagos

THE Nigeria Football Supporters Club (NFSC) has begun its mobilisation campaign for the next World Cup kicking off in South Africa in two months time.

The mobilisation exercise commenced yesterday by the President General of the Nigeria Supporters Club world wide, Dr. Rauf Ladipo who was ably assisted by the NFSC Chairman, Bashorun A. Adesanya.

Workers had hardly settled down at duty posts when members of the Club hit the National Stadium, Lagos in droves dancing to the rhythm from their trumpeters and band boys.

They danced round the national stadium and later ended up the entrance gate where Dr. Ladipo later addressed the press.

He said if the Eagles would do well at the championship, the preparation should start from the sup-

porters club which has lined up a lots of programmes from now till the commencement of the competition.

He said since Nigeria was not at the last edition in Germany, it is essential its presence is felt in South Africa. He exuded confidence that the national team can surprise the world in South Africa if the preparations are adequate.

He said: "I believe the Super Eagles can do it, don't let us under-

rate them. What they need are prayers from everybody particularly those that will not be in South Africa. We the supporters club are storming South Africa with 2000 supporters including 100 trumpeters and band boys who will be there to spur the team to victory".

The President General said the South African Embassy has been contacted to ensure that there are no hitches towards obtaining visas for the supporters.

SCHOOL Sports



PICKING the balls ... pupils of Iyanda Progeny School engaged in a ball race during their inter-House Sports competition held recently in Abuja.

81 Division wins 9th Army Schools Games

By Orkula Shaagee

THE 81 Division of the Nigerian Army, Lagos has emerged the overall winner of the 9th Biennial Inter-Command Secondary Schools and Nigerian Military Schools Games which took place in Enugu.

Despite losing the final football match for male by a 2-3 score line to host 82 Division on the last day of competition, the Lagos Division did well to be crowned champions with a total medals haul of 10 gold medals, 6 silver medals and 6 bronze medals to beat other contestants to the first position.

The second position went to One Division Kaduna that amassed a total of 9 gold medals, 7 silver medals and 6 bronze medals, while host 82 Division came third with a total medals haul of 7 gold, 8 silver and 10 bronze medals.

Host of the last edition, 3 Division Jos placed fourth on the log with 7 gold, 6 silver and 7 bronze medals, while 2 Division Ibadan placed fifth with 3 gold, 2 silver and 7 bronze medals while Nigeria Mili-

Lagos Division did well to be crowned champions.

tary School and Army Headquarters, Abuja, came sixth and seventh respectively with 2 gold, 6 silver and 4 bronze as well as 2 gold, 4 silver and 6 bronze medals.

In the final football match 82 Division subdued hard fighting 81 Division with goals from the MVP of the football event, Eze Michael who scored twice in 5th and 28th minutes with Eze Chiele and substitute, Michael Coker finding the back of the opponent's net on 25 and 57 minutes before Barnabas Buter stole the show with a late strike on 81 minutes for the host Division to end proceedings 3-2.

Coach of the victorious side, Mentor Gabriel, stated, "It is gladdens my heart to have led these young boys to a major victory. It was not an easy game but we did our best to ensure we emerge winners.

"No doubt, some players here can effectively fit into the national U-17 side. Eze Michael, Barnabas Buter, Yakubu Dominic, Duru Ifeanyi and Henry Osusu can hold their own against any opposition."

Abubakar House wins Inter house meet

By Ibraheem A. Fatai

ABUBAKAR house has won the second edition of inter-house sports competition of Iyanda Progeny Private School, Plot X 22 Federal Ministry of Works and Housing Scheme, Gwarimpa, Abuja.

The competition which took place at the Aguiyi Ironsi Cantonment Sports Complex, Asokoro, Abuja, saw the pupils of Abubakar House dominating pupils of the three other houses to win the overall winner trophy.

Uthman House came a distant second, while Ali House and Umar House came third and fourth respectively.

Events competed for among others were: 100m, sack race, ball race, fill the bottle race and drinking competition, while parents and staff provided comic relief by engaging in 100 race, which produced more laughter than action.

After the race, Muhammad Sani Lawal, expressed happiness that the proprietor of his school deemed it necessary to organise sporting com-

petition for the pupils, saying the meet has made it possible for them to interact among themselves better than they used to.

"I am happy with the organiser of this inter-house sports for recognising the importance of sports to the total development of their pupils. I hope they will make it a yearly affair," Lawal said.

Also speaking with Trustsports, Mubarak Usman Tahir, said without a yearly inter-house sports competition, it will be very difficult to discover hidden talents in the pupils,

adding that some of them will grow up to become great sportsmen and women in future.

In her contribution, the proprietors of the school, Hajia Salawu Simbiat, congratulated the pupils for high level of skills displayed by the pupils, saying if the talents discovered can be properly harnessed, the future of Nigeria in sports is very bright.

Hajia Salawu appealed to parents to allow their children take part in sports, saying combining academic and sports will ensure physical and mental development of the children.

Primerose holds 5th sports meet in style

THE tracks of Anthony Village Recreational Centre was set ablaze recently, as pupils, staffs and parents of Primerose (Montessori) School in Gbagada phase II in Lagos trooped out for the 5th edition of the school's Inter-House Sports competition. THE event was full of excitement as pupils engaged themselves in over 25 competitive sporting events for both boys and girls of various age grades.

THE events competed for include march pass, picking the balls, toddler race, filling the bottle, balancing, 25m, 50m, 75m and 100m race. Others are threading the needle, sack race, getting ready for school, lime/egg and spoon race, building pyramids, invitational schools relay, school relay, staff race, parents race and beauty pageant.

GREEN House emerged the overall winners of the inter-house competition with a total haulage of 176

points. They were closely followed by Red House who scored 156 points. In third position was Blue House who amassed 142 points, while Yellow House came fourth with 134 points.

IN the boys sack race competition, Master Isreal Adeleye of Yellow House emerged winner, followed by Master Tamilore Olopade of Red House came second, while Master John Onwuka of Green House was in third position.

IN the 100m boys event, Master Tijani Sherif of Red House won the race, closely followed by Master John Onwuka of Green House who returned in second position and Master Precious Oyedeji of Yellow House came third.

IN the girls 100m event, Miss Tolani Odesanya of Green House came first, followed by Miss Praise Onabajo also of Green House in second position and Miss Chelsea Osunde of Blue House in third position.

THE THURSDAY COLUMN

Is'haq Modibbo Kawu

kawumodibbo@dailytrust.com 08059100368 (SMS only)

USA: In the belly of the imperial whale

I spent a week penultimate week in the United States. It was my first visit in ten years. My last visit was in 2000, in the wake of the controversial elections of "hanging and dimpled chads" which inflicted George W. Bush on the world, as the president of the most powerful country in the world. 9-11 would tragically happen and the gloves went off as the reactionary regime of Bush and the neo-conservatives went in search of enemies in the Muslim world. The gung-ho approach of that regime worsened perceptions of the United States around the world, as a super power, or hyper-power, as the French used to describe it, went about diplomacy with a militarist attitude, which alienated the whole world.

I have always had an ambiguous relationship with the United States. On the one hand is the incredible diversity of that huge country; its achievements in science and technology and the success it has made of its economic life not to talk of the warmth of its people. Diversity is a major strength of the United States and the vibrancy that it brings to the making of the country cannot be over-emphasized. Everywhere I travelled: Connecticut, New Jersey and New York, you see the multi-cultural influences which weave like a tapestry to making the United States the most unique country in the world, as a nation of emigrants sourced from every culture and influence. Multi-culturalism has the strength of a constant renewal and a permanent vibrancy that keeps the country on its toes, and the fact that a lot of those who come from the far-flung corners of the world believe there is an "American Dream" to tap into keeps that innovative spirit alive.

As a young man, I was fascinated with an American education and wanted to study in America but my life took a different trajectory, as I have described on this page in the past. Education is certainly something that is taken very seriously and as the leading capitalist country in the world, it is quite good to see that the public school system is central to the formative years of American children. I must not forget the incredible influence of American popular culture on my life for as long as I can remember. I have listened to the jazz greats: Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald from so long ago, and when I was a Disc Jockey on radio I presented jazz music and other popular forms for years and the influence of the cinematic tradition, the great classics of literature all continue to be some of the great American contributions to the treasure house of human culture. Who can be the same again after reading Mark Twain or the poetry of Langston Hughes or hearing the uniquely rebellious poetry/music of Gill scot Heron or watching the provocative and insightful cinema of Spike Lee? Yet they are all American!

But there is also the America which gallops around the world like a demented cowboy: the America which killed thousands of people in Korea, in Vietnam and Iraq. That is the America of imperialist arrogance and contempt for the humanity of other peoples and nations. That America is built on the doctrine of might is right because the military-industrial complex needs to create weapons of war which must make profit; in the same manner that imperialist transnational corporations must lengthen the margins of profit around the world. In order to keep this world going, even other countries have to implement policies which favour the American way of doing things. This America elaborately

talks about democracy, but in real terms, it is undemocratic. It rejects the choice of democracy once it is determined that dictatorship serves its best interest. So Palestinians voted for HAMAS for example, but the Americans reject democracy in that instance, but they accept the massively rigged 'election' in Afghanistan, in the same manner that they organized a coup to topple a democratically-elected Salvador Allende in Chile!

I was also struck by the surfeit of media in the United States. Television is pervasive but most of it is simply trash. There is a consumerist culture which dominates the lives of people. The transition from citizen to consumer wired to buy and drop dead happened in the United States a long time ago! I travelled with a SONY world band radio, to listen to international broadcasting stations and I also had a frequency guide. They were useless in America. The imperialist countries, who broadcast into our homes from London, Washington and Paris, do everything to harvest our minds in manners that suit their imperial interest but spare themselves

of the same propaganda output, doing it in a different way, from domestic platforms. There is shared honour among the imperialists to do as they like to us, but respect territorial integrity amongst themselves. In the week that I was in America, President Obama's landmark health care reform bill was passed by Congress, which means that 32million Americans hitherto without health insurance cover will now get a look in. It remains a very divisive issue, with right wing conservatives literally up in arms, egged on by the good-looking

but empty-headed, shrill-voiced, Sarah Palin, described as the most powerful individual in the Republican Party now. That is one of the many contradictions of American life: that the richest country in the world will not give its people free access to health care, and unfortunately for us, it is this uncaring attitude of the American system which is imposed on us as part of a baggage of neo-liberal reforms!

It is this hegemonic duality of remarkable vibrancy, scientific development, and incredible popular culture on the one hand, and the imperialist arrogance of the American ruling class on the other, which has been responsible for my own ambivalent attitude to the United States. But when you travel in the United States and take in its multi-sidedness, you discover that you simply cannot ignore the country in any way. Trust Nigerians to make the best of the vibrancy of the United States; there are Nigerian intellectuals, doctors and scientists making a contribution to the United States. Even our greatest writer, Chinua Achebe, is resident there now. But at near-grass roots levels are Nigerians who run small restaurants selling Nigerian food such as the one where we ate pounded yam and *egusi* soup in New Jersey. This week, I returned to the United States, this time to travel in California. If you are wondering why I am travelling in America this time, it is because I am on vacation and desperately trying to take my eyes off the ball of Nigerian political life, at least for a week or two. I have visited Barnes and Noble, the American bookshop chain, and you can bet that I have purchased a few really juicy titles, including a history of coffee and of salt, titles on politics, photography and slavery and an intriguing book on Jews and Judaism in African history. I am savouring life in the giant belly of the imperial American whale!

Trust Nigerians to make the best of the vibrancy of the United States; there are Nigerian intellectuals, doctors and scientists making a contribution to the United States

SPORTS REPORT



MAROUANE chamakh

Lyon through despite defeat

Olympique Lyon booked their place in the semi-finals of the Champions League with a 3-2 aggregate victory over Bordeaux.

Though Marouane Chamakh's strike at the end of the first half

gave Bordeaux a 1-0 second leg win, it was not enough to overturn the 3-1 defeat they suffered in Lyon last week.

Claude Puel's side will now meet Bayern Munich in the last four, after the Bavarian giants eliminated Manchester United.



IVICA Olic of Bayern Munich

Man Utd crash out

Bayern Munich sent 10-man Manchester United crashing out of the UEFA Champions League on away goals after recovering from a disastrous start.

Wayne Rooney, back from injury, teed up Darron Gibson to fire United ahead inside three minutes and Nani's cheeky flick made it 2-0 soon after.

Nani drilled home a third goal but Ivica Olic replied before the break.

Bayern ramped up the pressure after Rafael was sent off and Arjen Robben's stunning volley proved decisive.

