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TRUST IS A BURDEN

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Jos crises has won 2011 for Jang - Aide



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Nigeria received N30trn from sale of oil in 10 years



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Why Jonathan couldn't swear in ministers

By Mohammed S. Shehu

THE swearing-in of 38 new as well as reappointed ministers whose nominations were confirmed by the Senate on Wednesday afternoon could not take place yesterday as widely expected because Acting President Goodluck Jonathan was unable to allocate portfolios to them, *Daily Trust* gathered from informed sources yesterday.

The Senate's hurried screening of the 38 nominees and the speedy con-

“ Acting President Goodluck Jonathan was unable to allocate portfolios to them

firmation of all of them was at the instance of Jonathan, who pleaded for speed so that the government could resume full business, but he failed to swear them in yesterday on the eve of the long Easter break.

A senior government official told *Daily Trust* last night that the swearing-in

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Chief Imam: I saw Yar'adua last night

By Suleiman M. Bisalla

PRESIDENT Umaru Musa Yar'adua's health condition is nowhere as bad as people are saying, Chief Imam of the Abuja National Mosque Ustaz Musa Mohammed said last night after a brief meeting with Yar'adua.

Uztaz Mohamed, who arrived at the National Mosque to lead the Maghrib [sunset] prayers a few minutes late, rose as soon as the prayers were

over and apologised for his lateness, saying it was because three other Muslim clerics and himself went to see Yar'adua.

According to the Chief Imam, when they arrived at the residence, they were promptly ushered in to see Yar'adua, and that they found him seated alongside his wife, Hajia Turai, with his Aide-de-Camp [ADC] standing to his left. Uztaz Mohamed said when they approached, President Yar'adua extended his hand and shook

each one of them. He said they then sat down and raised their hands to offer prayers for his recovery, and that Yar'adua also raised his hands and prayed along with them. When the prayers ended, he said, they rose to leave and Yar'adua again extended his hand and shook each one of them. They left his presence at 6:13 pm and hurried to the National Mosque for the Mahgrib prayers, he said.

The other clerics who went with Ustaz Musa

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PHOTO: FELIX ONIGBINDE



A petrol tanker that had a head-on collision with a construction truck fell over and caused traffic chaos at Airport Road, Abuja, yesterday.



Nigeria is an indivisible nation - Mark

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Kaduna refinery that resumed operation last month after maintenance is running at a loss **24**

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Men who drink about a litre of cola every day could be harming their sperm, says a Danish study **38**

Africa

Renegade soldiers yesterday seized the head of Guinea-Bissau's armed forces and briefly detained the PM **17**

3 Bauchi commissioners resign

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

THREE commissioners in Bauchi State have resigned from the state executive council to prepare for elective positions in next year's general elections, the state Com-

missioner for Information Alhaji Muhammad Tasi'u Muhammad has said. Addressing newsmen yesterday, the commissioner said the resignation of the commissioners followed a directive by the state government that any politi-

cal appointee wishing to contest elections should relinquish his position not later than April 1, 2010. The commissioners are Alhaji Yusuf Gulmi of the Ministry of Education, Alhaji Saleh Hussaini of the Rural Develop-

ment Ministry and Alhaji Yakubu Abdullahi of the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Cooperatives.

"The chairman-in council thanked the commissioners and on behalf of the council wished

them well," he added.

The governor had last month said any political appointee aspiring for any elective office in next year's general elections should relinquish his position before April.

Property worth N1.65 b lost in Kano market fire – C'ttee

From Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu

THE committee set up to investigate the recent fire incident at the Kantin Kwari market in Kano State yesterday said property worth N1.65 billion was lost in the inferno. The Chairman of the committee, Alhaji Ibrahim Garba, disclosed this when he submitted the committee's interim report to Governor Ibrahim Shekarau.

Garba, who is also the

state Commissioner for Project Monitoring said the amount was arrived at after an assessment by a sub-committee of experts and other stakeholders. He said it was also confirmed that 205 shops were razed by the fire.

He said seven shopping complexes and a mosque were burnt as a result of the incident, adding that N122.3 million was needed to renovate the damaged structures. Garba said the

committee also received donations of over N200 million from individuals, state governments and organizations with the highest donation of N100 million from Alhaji Aminu Dantata.

Governor Ibrahim Shekarau thanked the committee for the job and assured that the state government would study the report with a view to implementing its recommendations.

Bauchi Assembly lifts suspension on 19 council chairmen

THE Bauchi State House of Assembly has announced a lifting of the suspension it slammed on 19 local council chairmen since 2009 for alleged contract scam.

It would be recalled that the House in October 2009 suspended the chairmen, following allegation of financial mismanagement by their councillors. However, the lifting of the suspension order followed the adoption of a report by the Harmonisation Committee, which investigated the allegations. Presenting the report on the floor of the Assembly, Chairman of the Harmonisation Committee, Alhaji Auwalu Jatau (PDP-Sakwa constituency), said the committee

had harmonised reports of the various ad-hoc committees on the issue after inviting the affected chairmen to defend themselves. Jatau said the committee had completed its assignment and recommended the suspension of the council chairmen be lifted with immediate effect.

"It is recommended that the House should expedite action to lift the suspension placed on the council chairmen. The suspension was made in order to pave way for a conducive atmosphere to carry out investigations. This has been completed. The report of the committee should be forwarded to the governor to take nec-

essary steps and measures it deems fit in the circumstances," Jatau said.

He, however, said the committee had recommended for the removal from office of Zaki Local Government Chairman, Alhaji Lamara Hajiji, for gross financial mismanagement. Jatau explained that Hajiji had approved contracts exceeding his financial limit and failed to account for the amount expended on the fertiliser allocated to the council during the 2008 farming season.

The 31-member House unanimously adopted the committee's recommendations. (NAN)

Trial of Jos crisis suspects begins in Jos

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

THE trial of the suspects of the January 17, Jos crisis began yesterday in Jos, Plateau State. The Director Public Prosecutions (DPP) in the ministry, Barrister Alex Adama, led the prosecution counsels. 20 suspects were yesterday arraigned before the Federal High Court in Jos. The DPP told the court that though, they filed charges against the suspects before the court since March 25,

they had been trying to see if the suspects could be transferred from the Kujeri prison to Jos.

On Wednesday last week, the Plateau Police Commissioner Mr Ikechukwu Aduba said 90 suspects would be arraigned yesterday, but only 20 were taken to court and 18 arraigned. The remaining two will be arraigned next week.

Presiding Judge Justice Steve Adah adjourned the case to April 15 to enable the prosecutors transfer all the suspects to Jos. On

the recent attack on Dogo Nahauwa and other villages, counsel to the Federal Ministry of Justice, Assistant chief state counsel, Barrister E.E Akissa, arraigned 18 out of the 20 suspects brought to court with three different cases number, FHC/J/30c/2010, FHC/J/14c/2010 and FHC/J/17/2010 against the 18 suspects. They all pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The presiding judge adjourned the cases to the April 21, 22 and 29.

Why EFCC invited Plateau ALGON chairman

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

MORE facts have emerged on the reason behind the invitation of the Chairman of the Plateau State chapter of the Association of Local Governments Of Nigeria (ALGON) who is currently the Chairman of Shendam Local Government Area of Plateau State. Our correspondent gathered yesterday that his invitation was based on a report of his local government's legislature's House Committee on Works, Housing and Transport, which expressed serious reservations about the amount it approved for the execution of some projects in the local government and the actual amount released. The report of the committee made available to our correspondent indicates that the House committee

was also not satisfied with three contracts awarded by the local government. The contacts have to do with the construction of a shopping complex at Shendam Central and Total, and the legislature approved N70 million for them. The legislators in the report signed by the chairman of the committee, Tobias Niagwan Sunday and three others, said they discovered that only one of the projects had been contracted and at N84 million.

The legislators were also not satisfied with the contract for the stadium, which they approved for N40 million, but was contracted out at N73 million.

The administrative block of the local government secretariat which they approved at N40 million had also been jerked up

to over N63.5 million.

The anti graft body had on Wednesday invited the Plateau ALGON chairman to appear before it alongside the director for works and treasurer of his local government for an interview.



FARIDA Waziri

In tomorrow's

WEEKLY TRUST

The just-released National Examination Council result where way over 90 percent of students failed is generating debate. We bring you the inside story of the alarmingly high rate of examination failure.

NECO: National tragedy of sorts



Over 90 and still kicking

An interview with Shettiman Ilorin Abubakar Lah



Massive gullies are appearing all over Abia State, courtesy of extensive erosion which is currently going on unchecked.

Why Abia's 2,000 erosion sites will soon become 10,000





PIC: NAN

FROM left: Head of Media and Publicity, EFCC Femi Babafemi, Mrs Aisha Gambari and Chairman, EFCC, Mrs Farida Waziri, at a news conference on its activities in Abuja yesterday.

EFCC recovers \$3bn

By Boco Edet

OVER \$3billion has been recovered by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) as proceeds of crime since 2008, the Chairman, Farida Waziri told newsmen yesterday at the headquarters of the anti-graft agency in Abuja.

Waziri said N3billion of the said sum came from tax tracking which has been remitted to the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS).

She said unlike the practice in most developed countries where tax evaders go to jail, most Nigerians do not take the issue of tax payment seriously.

Speaking on the recent screening and approval of ministerial nominees by the Senate, the EFCC Chairman said the commission would probe the tenure of some former ministers on the request of their successors.

"If the new ministers take over and they have issues we can look into their tenure," she said.

She confirmed EFCC was investigating former governor of Delta state James Ibori over fresh allegations following a petition submitted by a group called Elders of Delta against him. Waziri said the prosecution of some Bayelsa state officials was not politically motivated.

Jos crises has won 2011 for Jang—aide

By Andrew Agbese & Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

THE recent crises in Plateau State has worked in favour of the Plateau State governor politically, and has already "won" him the 2011 elections, his political adviser Williams Ayuba has said.

Ayuba who spoke in an interview with our correspondents in his office in Jos said the governor was initially going to have difficulty getting a second term due to the obstacles being placed in his way by 'detractors'. He said the recent crises has exposed the

detractors and made the governor more popular in the state.

Mr. Ayuba said Jang does not even need to campaign for 2011 as the crises has done that for him. "If you look at 2011, based on what I have just said, unity has been created the more. The governor does not need to campaign because there is no candidate out there that can compete with this man."

He said Jang was able to win the heart of his people because of the manner he handled the crises.

"The governor has been doing and saying a lot of things an ordi-

nary mortal cannot. An ordinary mortal would have gone underground or collapsed, but thank God for his life, the governor is up and doing and still has the energy, which even younger people do not have," he said.

Ayuba said part of the obstacles placed in the governor's way to ensure he does not secure a second term was to remot-control the national secretariat of the PDP so that they could weaken his chances within the state before attacking him from outside.

"The national secretariat of the PDP was being remote-

controlled by some people who are fighting Plateau because they wanted to weaken us from within so that by the time they come, they will find weak social and political structures to enable them take over easily. But Jang has proven to be resilient and has put the people behind the plot to shame.

He advised the national secretariat of the PDP to be careful with the way he handles the PDP in Plateau, stressing that the party would be stupid to attempt to deregister some members in the state.

Nigeria gets \$200.34 bn in 10 years from oil

By Hamisu Muhammad

NIGERIA government has received about USD200.34 billion (About N30 trillion) in oil revenues in the last 10 years, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) document revealed in Abuja yesterday.

The amount was realised as proceeds from the sales of over 4.56 billion barrels of crude oil from 1999 to 2009, NNPC Managing Director Mohammed S. Barkindo said at the Stakeholders Roundtable organised by the Nigerian Extractive Industry Initiative.

Between 1999 to end of the Obasanjo's administration in 2007, about USD142.5 billion was collected and the remaining USD58 billion was received during the first two years of Yar'adua's

administration.

Other revenue generating agencies like the Nigerian Customs Service and the Federal Inland Revenue Services remitted about N1.8 trillion and N9.6 trillion respectively as the next major contributors to the federation account.

In 2009 alone, about N4 trillion was shared by the federal government, states and local government councils from the federation account.

Barkindo in his detailed presentation said highest revenue of USD38.9 billion was received in 2008, and the lowest was in 1999 when the government received USD6.7 billion.

NEITI conducted its first audit of the oil and gas sector when it ex-rayed earnings between 1999 to 2004 and for the second round

in 2005 which brought to the lime-light several shortcomings and anomalies.

The Executive secretary of the NEITI, Haruna Sa'eed said they are in a continuous dialogue with both the international and indigenous companies operating in the sector.

"Initially the audit templates were a bit strange to all of us, but today the situation is different."

In the 2005 audit by the NEITI the NNPC was found to have withheld payments for its lifting of crude oil totalling N654bn.

On the differences between what oil companies claimed they paid as Petroleum Profit Tax, Royalty, Gas Flare Penalty and other fees, and what the Central Bank of Nigeria admitted that it received, Sa'eed said NEITI was working with the Federal Inland Revenue

Service and the Department of Petroleum Resources to determine the net amounts payable by these companies.

According to Sa'eed, "We have talked about \$243m in the areas of under-calculations in terms of royalties; about \$340bn in terms of petroleum profit tax underpayment based on use of wrong price to determine such liabilities.

The Acting President said at the event that the public has a right to full and timely information necessary to meaningfully participate in environmental and social decision-making, which resource extraction invariably involves.

"But beyond building public trust and meeting international standards of good governance, transparency in the sector ensures the country gets the full value for its resources," he said.

Nigeria is an indivisible nation—Mark

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

SENATE President David Mark has urged Nigerians to renew their faith in the country as one indivisible, indissoluble corporate entity.

In a goodwill message to mark this year Easter celebrations signed by his Chief Press Secretary, Mr. Paul Mume, Mark said the current political and economic challenges being faced by the country are surmountable adding "all we need is sincerity of purpose and commitment to brotherhood".

Senator Mark expressed optimism that Nigerians can always overcome any challenge and resolve their differences amicably saying "there is the need for religious leaders to preach tolerance, love, piety and peaceful co-existence as an antidote to the incessant crises in the land."

On the part of the legislature, Mark assured that the National Assembly will be alive to its constitutional duties by laying a solid framework for the government to actualize its mandate to the people.

Ribadu says he wants to return home

Mohammed S. Shehu with agency report

FOLLOWING Federal Government's request for the withdrawal of criminal charges against the former Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) Nuhu Ribadu, Ribadu said he wanted to return home one day.

Ribadu, who is currently in the United States, faces charges of not declaring his assets while in office at the Code of Conduct Tribunal. He told the BBC yesterday that "he wants to return to Nigeria one day."

The request is seen as paving the way for the appoint-

ment of Ribadu as a special advisor on fighting corruption to Acting President Goodluck Jonathan.

He was removed in 2007 in controversial circumstances and later charged with not declaring his assets while in office. In November 2009, the tribunal ordered Inspector General of Police Ogbonno Onovo to arrest and acting on that, the police declared him wanted.

Reacting to the decision to withdraw the charges, EFCC lawyer, Festus Keyamo said the decision to withdraw the charges was wrong and amounts to abuse of office and power.

Keyamo, in a statement made available to Daily Trust

yesterday questioned the moral and legal basis upon which the decision was taken.

The statement reads: "On what moral or legal basis was the decision taken? In the last ten years in this country, corruption charges have never been withdrawn against any public officer except the court decides the public officer has no case to answer. So, why treat Nuhu Ribadu as a sacred cow when that was the very tendency he was reported to have fought against?"

"It is shocking that Ribadu, who arrested and detained many public officers for similar offences, can be left off the hook without letting him have his day in court."



A Mercedes Benz car with registration number DC 817 ABJ gutted by fire at Asokoro, Abuja, yesterday.

Confusion trails Taraba ministerial nominee

By: Fidelis Mac-Leva

THERE is confusion in Taraba State over the state's single ministerial nominee. This comes as a result of the replacement of Alhaji Umar Aliyu, who was nominated by Governor Danbaba Suntai but later dropped for Dr. Obadiah Ando following the objection allegedly raised by General T. Y Danjuma.

Umar, a director with the National Boundary Commission, who hails from Jalingo Local Government Area, was nominated by Suntai to fill Taraba State quota but was not screened by

the Senate due to oppositions that trailed his nomination.

The Southern Taraba PDP stakeholders led by Saleh Danboyi had issued a petition protesting the nomination of Umar on grounds that the immediate past minister from the state hailed from the zone and therefore, ought to have been replaced with someone from there.

Similarly TY Danjuma, who currently heads the Presidential Advisory Committee was said to have been aggrieved by Suntai's nomination of Umar even though the governor had promised to field Danjuma's preferred candidate for

the slot.

Although Suntai was said to have made a retreat by replacing Umar with Dr. Obadiah Ando, neither Umar nor Ando was screened during last Tuesday's ministerial screening exercise by the Senate, a development that Daily Trust learnt has heightened confusion in Taraba over who is the actual nominee of the state.

Attempts to speak with Governor Suntai on the matter yielded no positive results. His Chief Press Secretary, Hassan Mijinyawa, declined comments saying: "Only His Excellency is competent to speak on the matter."

Easter: Jonathan urges Nigerians to emulate Christ

From Mohammed S. Shehu

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan has urged Nigerians to serve God and humanity while promoting unity and peace across the country.

Jonathan, in his Easter message, by his

spokesman, Ima Niboro, asked Nigerians to pursue reconciliation and forgiveness and forge ahead towards a bright new dawn.

According to him, "we must dedicate ourselves to the service of our country, continuing in love for one another even as Christ loved us. We must resolve to do what is right at all

times, and uphold the virtues that strengthen our bond as a nation."

He enjoined Christians to emulate the sacrifice of Christ who laid down his life for the salvation of mankind, noting that the significance of His death and resurrection manifests in renewed hope and joy to the world.

Presidency probes Calabar airport security breach

By Mohammed S. Shehu and Misbahu Bashir

THE presidency has directed security agencies to investigate security breach at the Margaret Ekpo Airport in Calabar promising to reprimand concerned persons and airport authorities found culpable.

A taxicab rammed into an Arik aircraft on Wednesday just as the plane was getting ready to take off. The police said it has started investigating the taxicab driver now in custody.

The presidency said yesterday that maximum penalty shall be meted out to airport authorities if any form of dereliction of duty is established as a causative factor in "the very embarrassing Calabar airport incident."

A statement by the Senior Special Assistant to the

President on Aviation Captain Shehu Usman Iyal said the presidency through the National Security Adviser (NSA) has directed that detailed investigations be carried out to unravel the circumstances/factors surrounding the incident.

"Appalled by the obvious and unfortunate security breach at the Margaret Ekpo International Airport yesterday, the presidency through the office of the National Security Adviser (NSA) has directed that detailed investigations be promptly carried out to unravel the circumstances/factors that led to the incident.

"Requisite agencies and airport authorities are already briefing the NSA on this very condemnable breach at the Calabar airport.

"The presidency wishes to assure travelers that the

nation's security agencies are working virtually round the clock to keep our airports safe and secured. The Calabar incident is indeed a reminder that in spite of our efforts, a lot more needs to be done on improving security as per International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) standard and recommended practices (SARPs) in all the airports in the country," Iyal said.

The Police Force Public Relations Officer ACP Emmanuel Ojukwu told Daily Trust that the police will ascertain the motive behind the incident and have dispatched anti-bomb squad and sniffer dogs to the scene.

He said the cab driver is now in police custody. Although no casualties were recorded, the driver of the cab, who was alone in the vehicle, sustained minor injuries.

Fiscal federalism solution to Jos crises - IBB

From Nahimah Ajikanle nurudeen, Lagos

FORMER President Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida yesterday said the only solution to the sectarian violence in Jos was for political leaders to "practise true fiscal federalism."

Babangida, who spoke to newsmen at the presidential lounge of Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos, said he has commenced collation of opinions to determine his political activities ahead of the 2011.

On whether he was intending to contest presidential election in 2011, Babangida said he would make his position known as soon as he concluded consultations.

"I am still doing the consultations and honestly, I will give you a feedback very soon," he said.

When asked whether he will be disposed to make his contribution to the re-engineering of Nigeria, he said "No, but that is your own opinion which I very much appreciate, however, I will be dictated by the general opinion."

On his feelings with the way politicians are running the affairs of the state, he said, "What I want is for all of you, including me, you, politicians to be very, very tolerant and if we are tolerant, we will be able to move this country forward."

Asked to comment on calls for the removal of the Chairman of Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Professor Maurice Iwu, IBB said "I comment on national issues not individuals but change is the only permanent thing in the world."

The former military leader applauded the electoral reforms contained in Muhammad Uwais report.



FORMER President Ibrahim Babangida (left) with the Alake of Egbaland, Oba Adedotun Gbadebo (right) during the lecture to mark the 54th birthday of Governor Gbenga Daniel of Ogun State (middle) in Abeokuta yesterday.

PHOTO: NAN

Why Jonathan couldn't swear in minister

Continued from page 1

of the 38 nominees would now hold on Tuesday, when they would also be allocated portfolios.

Following their confirmation on Wednesday, the Acting President's aides told the new ministers to be "on standby" throughout yesterday. However, a senior source in the President said the Acting President could not make up his mind as to who would go to which ministry.

In fact, a Presidency aide said throughout yesterday, the CVs of many of the new ministers were being studied in the Acting President's office to see who would fit where. Besides considerations of each minister's area of specialisation, Jonathan and his aides were also worried that any mistake in the geopolitical allocation of ministerial portfolios could lead to a political uproar.

Initial speculations by some Lagos-based newspapers had indicated that the key portfolios of Finance, Petroleum Resources, Power, Federal Capital Territory, Works and Defence would all be manned by Southerners.

A Presidency source however blamed the confusion of what she said was the last-minute substitution of some nominees, and that some people's names were sent to the Senate ahead of the arrival of their CVs.

Army arrests dismissed soldier training MASSOB members

THE 82nd Division of the Nigerian Army, Enugu, has arrested a dismissed soldier who was allegedly training members of the Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) and kidnapers.

Parading the suspect, a 29-year-old man in Enugu yesterday, the General Officer Commanding 82 Division Maj.-Gen. Mohammed Isah, said the suspect was arrested in December 2009 in possession of a fake identity card of the Nigerian Army.

Isah, however, said that the Army on Tuesday discovered that the suspect was a wanted criminal involved in the kidnap of two Chinese in 2007 at the factory of Innoson Group of companies, Nnewi, Anambra.

He said the Army was replaying the press conference held by former Inspector General of Police, Mike Okiro, where the gang leader mentioned the suspect as a member of his gang.

"He is a fake army officer terrorising the people of the southeast. He was dismissed from the army as a private for always being on AWOL

(Absent Without Leave) and truancy," Isah said. The suspect confirmed training MASSOB members on combat drills but not to kidnap, saying he left the army to become a 'freedom fighter.

"I give the boys training not to kidnap but to fight for the freedom of the Igbos. "My aim is to set Igbos free so that they can become a republic. I have no regrets fighting for the freedom of my people. After all, Mandela did not regret fighting for the freedom of his people.

I was never discharged from the army. I honourably discharged myself in order to have time to fight for Biafra, he said.

The suspect said "I cross (freight) Tokunbo vehicles from border to Lagos so that is how I am making my money to fund my organisation."

Isah said the suspect would be handed over to the police for further investigation and prosecution.

Items recovered from the suspect include a shotgun, 26 live bullets, army identity card, letter headed papers of the Biafran Army, and two mobile telephone handsets with assorted SIM cards. (NAN)

Yar'adua: Possible causes of loss of speech

THE testimony by the Chief Imam of the Abuja National Mosque Sheikh Musa Mohamed last night about his encounter with the ailing President Umaru Yar'adua substantially confirms *Daily Trust's* lead story of Monday, March 22, which reported that though Yar'adua has made much progress physically, he appears to be suffering from a partial loss of speech.

Chief Imam's account of their meeting indicated that there was minimal communication between Yar'adua and his four visitors, though he participated actively in the prayers said for him. *Daily Trust's* earlier report, quoting sources close to the president, said Yar'adua does not communicate effectively and had brought with him a speech therapist from the King Fahd Hospital in Saudi Arabia.

Quick checks on the internet showed there are as many as 58 likely medical causes of speech loss. They include early-onset Alzheimer's disease, Angelman Syndrome, poisoning, cerebral hypoxia, brain tumour, cerebral infection, epilepsy, head injury and Huntington's disease.

Other possible causes are motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis, stroke and transient ischaemic attack. Of course, only the President's doctors could say what caused his partial loss of speech.

'I saw Yar'adua last night'

Continued from page 1

are Sheikh Isa Pantami, Sheikh Yakubu Musa and the President of the Supreme Council of Sharia in Nigeria, Sheikh Ibrahim Datti Ahmed.

Uztaz Mohamed told the same story again to the prayer congregation shortly after the Isha prayers at about 8.10pm last night, and he expressed surprise at the way the president's state of health is being "exaggerated" by the news media. He also led the congregation to pray for Yar'adua's full recovery and he enjoined Muslims across the country to do the same.

Soon after the Isha prayers ended, our reporters approached the Chief Imam, who appeared to be elated by the encounter. He again confirmed that he saw Yar'adua alongside three others and said the president's health was much better than Nigerians have been made to believe.

"When we were ushered in, we met him and his wife [The

first Lady Hajiya Turai] seated side by side while his Aide de Camp (ADC) standing to his left side. He stretched his hands and shook each one of us beginning with Ibrahim Datti Ahmed followed by myself and the others.

"We then proceeded to the prayer session where we all rose up our hands and prayed with the President. After we prayed together with him, he again shook hand hands and left at exactly 6:13 pm.

When he was asked him whether they had any discussion with the President, Uztaz Musa said that was not their mission to the Villa. He said he and the three others had sought to see the President only to pray for his full recovery so that he can resume office soonest. The short interview was conducted with several dozen worshippers surrounding the Imam, taking great interest in the story he was telling.

Daily Trust learnt that the three other clerics who accompa-

nied Uztaz Mohamed to the Villa were Dr. Ibrahim Datti Ahmad, Sheikh Yakubu Musa and Sheikh Isa Pantami. When *Daily Trust* contacted Dr. Datti Ahmad on phone last night, he confirmed that the meeting took place and said they were very happy with the situation in which they found Yar'adua.

Leader of the Izala Muslim sect in Katsina Sheikh Yakubu Musa was also contacted by *Daily Trust* last night and he confirmed the story. He said the four of them met with Yar'adua, shook hands twice and prayed with him and also had "a brief exchange" with him. Sheikh Yakubu however said he would need permission from his movement's national leaders before he would speak at length.

Daily Trust also learnt yesterday that in recent days, Yar'adua has been receiving many visitors. On Wednesday, he received several people including Governor Isa Yuguda of Bauchi State, who is his son-in-law, business mogul

Alhaji Dahiru Barau Mangal, who is a close political associate of Yar'adua's, as well as Alhaji Shehu Inuwa Imam. In earlier days, Yar'adua met with several members of his extended family, including his mother and sisters. He also met with several personal aides, including his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Olusegun Adeniyi.

Daily Trust also learnt arrangements have been made for him to meet with Senate President David Mark and Speaker Dimeji Bankole, but that no meeting has as yet been scheduled with Acting President Goodluck Jonathan. An aide told *Daily Trust* that Yar'adua turned down a suggestion to meet with Jonathan.

Sources close to Yar'adua had told *Daily Trust* about ten days ago that the president was planning to resume work as early as this week, although another family source had said at the time that Yar'adua would not resume work until the end of April.

Reps set to beat INEC's January timetable

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

THE House of Representatives yesterday said it will beat the Independent National Electoral Commission's (INEC) January timetable by passing electoral reform bill before the 2011 general elections.

Chairman of the committee on Rules and Business, Rep Ita Enang (PDP, Akwa Ibom State) who briefed newsmen in Abuja said the House's pledge to amend the constitution will be flawless

and will be concluded on time.

He said: "The House will work towards the earlier election timetable. We are working towards the timetable of INEC that will be in the interest of Nigerians. We are conscious of INEC's release of the timetable for next year's elections and that is why when we resume, we are going to prioritize the Electoral reforms".

He added: "We are aware that our time will be jeopardized when the electioneering process begins and we pledge that we will finish

the amendment way before the elections begin. The 'thing' that was infectious, acidic and considered to be the matter that killed the entire process is fortunately no longer in the process".

Enang said the House decided to delete of section 107 (1) (h), in the report of the House Ad-Hoc committee on the Review of the 1999 constitution because the word 'indictment' therein is not enough for disqualification because it is inconclusive.

He said when the word

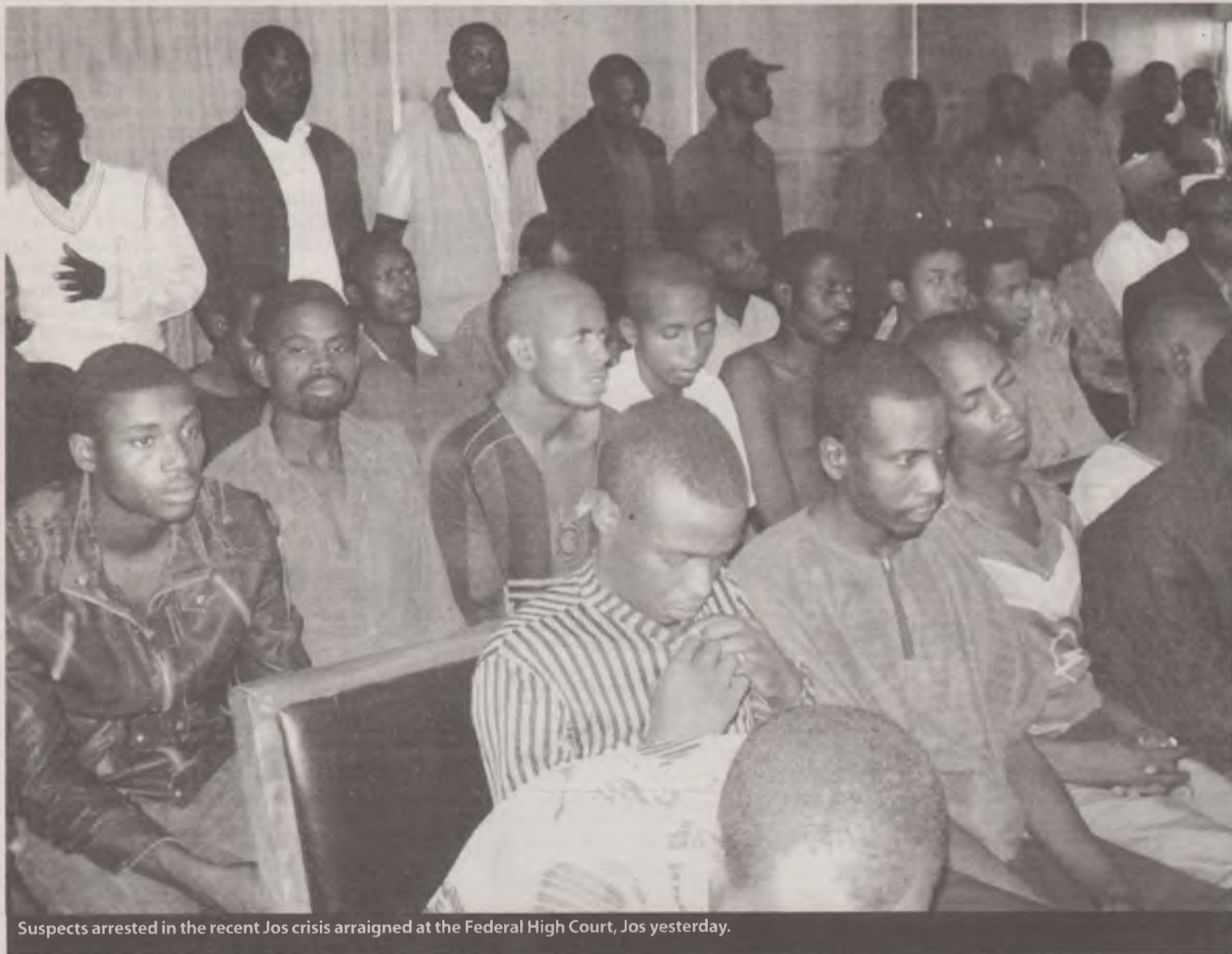
'indicted' is replaced with 'convicted' and 'the panels of inquiry' and such bodies replaced with 'a competent court of law', it will be more conclusive since there will be evidence to support the accusations.

Section 107 states, "No person shall be qualified for elections to a House of Assembly if - (h) he has been indicted for embezzlement or fraud by a Judicial Commission of Inquiry or an Administrative Panel of Enquiry or a Tribunal set up under the Tribunal of Inquiry

Act, a

Tribunal of Inquiry law or any other law by the federal or state government which indictment has been accepted by the Federal or State government, respectively".

Enang said: "Given the way the matter was used, we believe that 'conviction' should be used and not 'indictment'. Indictment means what you have done is in question but conviction means a court of law has convicted you".



Suspects arrested in the recent Jos crisis arraigned at the Federal High Court, Jos yesterday.

ECOWAS warns Guinea military on destabilisation

By Aisha Umar Agaie

ECOWAS has warned the military in Guinea Bissau against any attempt to destabilise the country promising the perpetrators dire consequences from ECOWAS and the entire international community.

In a statement, the regional body said "the timing of the current acts of indiscipline by the military could not have been any worse, coming at a time as it does when the successful presidential election of July 2009 has created the required environment for ECOWAS and the international community to engage the Government and people of Guinea Bissau in the efforts to stabilise the security environment, strengthen the democratic and national reconciliation processes, and initiate far-reaching security sector, social and economic reforms".

It added that ECOWAS is watching the developments in the country very closely and will leave no stone unturned in its efforts to defend the democratic gains and maintain stability in the country. In the meantime, it calls on the population to remain calm while efforts are being made to restore normality.

It added that ECOWAS urges the AU and the UN to also view this latest act by the military as an opportunity moment to scale-up our joint efforts to stabilise the political, security and economic situation in the country.

Easter: Sultan enjoins Christians to pray for peace

By Abbas Jimoh

AS Christians all over the world mark this year's Easter, the Sultan of Sokoto and President General of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA), Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad has urged Christians in Nigeria to pray for enduring peace, stability of the country and success of the Acting president Goodluck Jonathan,

This was contained in a letter addressed to

Archbishop John Onaiyekan, Catholic Archbishop of Abuja and President of Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), signed by Dr. Abdul-Lateef Adegbite, NSCIA Secretary-General on behalf of Muslims to felicitate with the Christians.

The Sultan also urges prayers for the full recovery of President Umar Musa Yar'adua.

"In the name of His Eminence the Sultan and President-General, Nigerian Supreme Council

for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) and on behalf of the entire Nigerian Muslims, I extend sincere felicitations to you and all Nigerian Christians on the occasion of Easter 2010. May the Holy Season usher in an enduring peace and stability everywhere in Nigeria. We pray too for the success of the administration of His Excellency, Acting President Goodluck Jonathan and the full recovery of President Umar Musa Yar'adua," the letter read.

NAPTIP nabs pastor with 23 children

By Akor Ojoma

AN Abuja based pastor, Bawa Madaki has been arrested by the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters, (NAPTIP) for illegal custody of 23 children whom he distributes to work in exploitative environment like restaurants and monies are remitted to him.

Deputy Director, Investigation and Monitoring of the Agency, Mr John Dashe said in a statement that the culprit who claimed to be the general overseer of Eternity Independent Baptist Church in Masaka near Abuja collects the children from Taraba, Plateau and Nasarawa states.

He said Bawa eventually distributes the children to work in restaurants where they

are paid N1,500 a week and remit N1,000 to him every Friday as they come for prayers.

Speaking to investigators, the pastor said the parents of the children brought the children whose ages range from five to twenty to him for deliverance from witchcraft attack adding that their parents as a result of their individual affliction or spiritual attack have abandoned many of them for him to cater for.

Executive Secretary of the agency Barrister Simon Chuzi Egede called on Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) to develop a mechanism of monitoring their members who in the guise of spiritual welfare engage in other criminal activities.

He advised parents not to reject their children for whatever cause but seek medical care or intervention from government bodies or agencies.

Protest in Lagos over Al-Mustapha's continued detention

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

YOUTH groups from the northern part of the country yesterday besieged the Lagos State Government House demanding the release of Major Al-Mustapha and others, who have been standing trial for a murder case since 1999.

The groups: Forum For Justice and Good Governance (FOJUGG), Arewa Youth Consultative Forum (AYCF) and the Hausa Community Association in Lagos (HCA) at about noon yesterday jointly submitted a letter titled: Appeal for Pardon to Lagos State Governor Babatunde Fashola, requesting that Major Al-Mustapha and his colleagues be pardoned. They carried placards with inscrip-

tions like: "11 years trial is injustice", "Lagos government tender mercy", "Let them go and sin no more," and "Justice delayed is justice denied."

Leading the groups was the Chairman of FOJUGG, Agba Justin Jalingo, who pointed that the Al-Mustapha case had remained the longest criminal case in the history of Nigeria, saying they were of the view that the accused ought to have already been released, no matter the offence.

Jalingo said they were not at the Government House to say Al-Mustapha and others did not commit the offence with which they were being tried, but that 11 years was enough for them to have learnt their lessons.

At the Government House, the Special Adviser to the Gov-

ernor on Security, Major Tunde Panox and the Commander of the Rapid Response Squad (RRS), Mr. Hakeem Odumosu received the petition on behalf of the governor.

The petition signed by Agba Justin Jalingo and Alhaji Yerima Usman Shettima, the Chairman and Secretary of FOJUGG, said they were of the view that the on-going prosecution of former Chief Security Officer to late General Sanni Abacha was not aimed at ensuring justice.

A Special Adviser in the Governor's office, Mr. Sunny Ajose, addressed the youths, promising that justice would be done. Major Hamza Al-Mustapha, Danbaba, Rabo Lawal are being prosecuted for the attempted murder of Chief Alex Ibru by the Lagos State government.



PROTESTS by the Arewa Youth Consultative Forum over the non-release of Major Hamza Al-Mustapha and others in Lagos yesterday.

Kogi governor signs 2010 budget

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

KOGI State Governor Ibrahim Idris yesterday signed the 2010 budget which was passed by the state House of Assembly on Wednesday.

Assenting to the budget, the governor said the budget of N78.5 billion would transform the socio-economic situation of the state. Idris commended the House for the timely passage of the budget which he described as a budget of renewed hope for the state. He said the budget would spur the government into action, especially

in the execution of its policies and programmes.

The governor expressed satisfaction with the cordial relationship among the three arms of government in the state, saying there cannot be good governance without the cooperation and understanding of all.

He called on the people of the state to support his administration. Presenting the bill to the governor for his assent, the Speaker of the state House of Assembly Clarence Olafemi said the quick passage of the budget was aimed at fast tracking the development of the state.

Gov Obi swears in 16 commissioners, talks tough

GOV. Peter Obi of Anambra State yesterday swore in 16 commissioners and four special advisers, following the approval of his nominations by the state Assembly. All the commissioners and advisers served in the first tenure of the governor.

Speaking at the ceremony in Awka, Obi said the state government would actualise the vision it had set and warned the officials against laxity, laziness and complacency. The governor urged those not ready to work, to quit and warned that anyone who performed below expectation would be thrown out of the government.

While commending the commissioners and special advisers for their services to the state, Obi appealed to them to always be of good cheer and show love for their ministries.

"No ministry is better than the other, it depends on what individual commissioners make out of it. This calls for creativity and ingenuity on your part as you will at the end of the day be

judged by how rich or poor your ministry is and how you use it to serve the people of the state and humanity at large," Obi said.

The governor urged the commissioners to be at peace with themselves, their ministries and local government areas, saying that now was the time for reconciliation and not belligerence.

Responding, the Commissioner for Lands, Mr Peter Afuba, expressed gratitude to the governor for the opportunity given them to work again in the vision of transforming the state. Afuba said Obi had scored another first by being the first governor to return his entire cabinet and described the action as a vote of confidence on them.

"Our return by the governor is a mark of recognition that we worked well with him and a challenge to even do better. We shall not let you down, whatever we did well, we will do better and whatever we did not do well we shall amend; we are bound with you in your desire to transform the State," he said. (NAN)

Maitama Sule tasks North on unity

From Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

KANO based elder statesman, Alhaji Yusuf Maitama Sule, has tasked northerners on the need to stay united irrespective of religious or ethnic differences. He said unity is the only way through which the North could move forward.

Maitama, who said this in Kano at a function organized by a Non Governmental Organization yesterday,

maintained that the north was blessed with abundant resources, which could be utilized if the people could put aside their differences.

Kano State Governor Malam Ibrahim Shekarau said the involvement of youths in the activities of NGOs was commendable, saying it would reduce unemployment.

Shekarau urged youths to contribute to the nation's economy through small and medium scale enterprises.

Am not an advocate of confederation - IBB

From Kehinde Akinoyemi, Abeokuta

FORMER President, General Ibrahim Babangida yesterday said he was not an advocate of the confederation system of government, saying he was an apostle of true federalism.

He said this at the lecture in honour of Ogun State Governor Gbenga Daniel,

who was marking his 54th birthday anniversary in Abeokuta.

Babangida, who was the chairman of the occasion said true federalism was sacrosanct.

"I am not an advocate of confederation. I hear people say I am, but that is not true. We do not have to go back. The issue of true federalism is settled," he said.

Ijaw leaders, ACF meet on national dev.

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

THE Ijaw National Congress (INC) attended the National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting of the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) yesterday where issues of northern interests and national importance were deliberated upon, the forum's national Publicity Secretary, Anthony Sani, said.

In a communiqué issued at the end of its meeting, ACF praised the Ijaw leaders, saying, "Such interactions between diverse people of Nigeria goes a long way in underscoring the fact that Nigerians are linked by history and geography so deeply

that any suggestion of break up is utterly impossible," the forum added.

According to the communiqué, the meeting dwelt on the havoc corruption and social conflicts have inflicted on the socio-economic and political development of the nation.

It added that that the ACF would organise lectures to campaign against those ills during its 10th anniversary celebrations which comes up between April 29 and 30. The forum considered the endless ethno-religious crises in Plateau State. It also noted that true reconciliation was not beyond the leaders and people of Plateau State.

Committee seals shops at Kwari market

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

THE committee set up to investigate the recent fire incident at the Kanti Kwari Market in Kano State, has sealed up some renovated shops in the market to prevent them from collapsing. A member of the committee and Managing Director of the Kano State Urban Planning and Development Authority (KNUPDA) Alhaji Hassan Sani Na'Abba disclosed this shortly after the agency's operatives carried out the operation.

Alhaji Hassan, who spoke on behalf of the chairman of the committee, Alhaji Ibrahim Garba, said they had to do that because the burnt shops were not safe. He expressed concerns that immediately after the inferno, some anxious victims started renovating their burnt shops.

He said the state government would not fold its arms and allow them endanger themselves.

He also appealed to them to exercise patience and wait for the committee to conclude its assignment, assuring that the state government would take concrete measures to prevent a re-occurrence.

Alhaji Hassan advised Nigerians to offer prayers to the Almighty Allah to bring relief and succour to the victims.

Sokoto School of Nursing for upgrade

From Abdulfatai Abdulsalami, Sokoto

THE Executive Director of the Sokoto State School of Nursing and Midwifery, Mallam Abdullahi Muhammed Sokoto, has said that the school will soon be upgraded to a degree awarding institution. He said this yesterday during an orientation course organized by the state School of Nursing and Midwifery in collaboration with the state's Ministry of Health for graduating nurses. Mallam Muhammed said the course would prepare them for the challenges ahead.

While thanking the state government for its support, he said the institution's academic performance had greatly improved.

The state Commissioner for Health Alhaji Jabbi Muhammed Kilgori said the government was impressed with the progress in the school. He assured the school that the state government would continue to support it to ensure better performance. He called on the nurses to be more committed in their chosen career.

10,000 jostle for 200 NSCDC jobs in Katsina

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

THE Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) will screen only 200 applicants out of over 10,000 people that applied for jobs with the corps in Katsina State.

A source at the corps headquarters in Katsina told our correspondent that of the 10,000 applicants; only 270 slots were given to the state in the on-going nationwide recruitment exercise.

Our correspondent, who visited the command's headquarters,

where the screening and documentation exercise for successful candidates were being conducted, reports that many big wigs were seen trooping into the secretariat apparently to lobby for their candidates.

The state Commandant of

the NSCDC, Haruna A Balarabe told our correspondent that the command had successfully screened and documented about a 100 applicants for the junior cadre, saying those for the senior cadre would be conducted by the NSCDC board.

PIC: NAN



NATIONAL Youth Coalition for Progressive Transformation (NYCFPT) at a rally in support of INEC Chairman Prof. Maurice Iwu yesterday.

Army raids cafe over sale of recruitment scratch cards, exploitation

From Johnkennedy Uzoma, Owerri

SOLDIERS from the 34 Field Artillery Brigade Obinze, Imo State have raided a popular Cyber Café, the Garden Park in Owerri, over the sale of the army recruitment scratch cards and exploitation of applicants. The soldiers, who stormed the cafe yesterday morning said they received information that the operators of the cyber cafe were illegally selling the Army recruitment scratch cards for N2,500 instead of

the authorised N1000. The Army Public Relations Officer, Lt. Adamu Yahaya Nguide, who spoke with our correspondent said only Unity Bank was authorized to sell the scratch cards, adding that in a state like Imo, where there was no Unity Bank, candidates were expected to go to the Government House to obtain them, not cyber cafés.

Nguide said attempts to talk to the Managing Director of the cyber café, Mr. Kingsley Ononuju, was abortive as they were told that

he had travelled to Lagos. He however ordered that the Managing Director of the cafe reports to the command, whenever he returns to the town to explain his involvement in the sale of the cards. The Army spokesman said the only staff of the cyber café arrested during the raid would be handed over to the police.

Efforts by our correspondent to reach the Managing Director of the cyber café for reactions proved abortive as he could not be reached on phone.

GIABA tasks ECOWAS on fight against money laundering

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

THE Director General of the Inter-Governmental Action against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA), Dr. Abdullahi Shehu, has tasked members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to step up the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing.

Shehu, at a one-day interactive session with media executives in Lagos said money laundering and terrorist financing undermined the integrity of any nation, stressing that if allowed to flourish, criminal activities would undermine the system, rule of law, weaken the criminal justice system and eventually affect the development of democracy, peace and security of a country.

Shehu lauded Nigeria's role in enacting relevant legislations to fight the various crimes, urging the government to put measures in place to sustain the standard. "Nigeria is doing well. It is the pacesetter in the sub-region. Nigeria was the first country to enact a legislation against money laundering in the sub-region and also the first in the region to establish a financial intelligence unit (FIU). I believe that if the system in Nigeria is fixed, half of the problem in the sub-region is solved," he said.

On corruption, the GIABA boss said it was a global problem and that it was wrong to describe Nigeria as the bastion in the sub-region, saying with the current legislations, institutions and support of the civil societies in place, corruption would soon become a thing of the past.

"Corruption is a global problem. We cannot solve it one day. What Nigeria has done is to demonstrate a way to fight it. What is required is the commitment of the government to empower the necessary agencies fighting it. Look at Hong Kong in the 60s and 70s, the level of corruption prevalent in the country was high, but because of the commitment of the political leaders, it is now one of the most economically developed and least corrupt nation in the world," he stated.

Shehu lamented how wealthy criminals were frustrating and delaying justice, adding that, the judiciary had not been very helpful due to unnecessary adjournments of court cases and in some instances, absolution of perpetrators of such offences.

ECOWAS to partner EU to curb small arms

By Aisha Umar Agale

ECOWAS has launched an appeal to its European Union partners to help limit the influx into West Africa of small arms and light weapons which has contributed to more than a decade of instability in the region and has the potential to undermine ECOWAS efforts to promote democracy and good governance.

"We believe the governments of the European Union are also in a position to influence trade in such arms which should not be left to the dictates of market forces, particularly the clandestine

trade in small arms and light weapons," the President of the ECOWAS Commission, Ambassador James Victor Gheho told the Belgian Ambassador to Nigeria.

A statement from ECOWAS commission added that in order to regulate the flow of such arms into the region, Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS Member States in 2006 signed a regional instrument to control its proliferation in the region. The ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms, Light Weapons, their ammunition and other related materials with enhanced mechanisms to check the influx

of arms into the region replaced the regional Moratorium on the Exportation, Importation and Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons prepared with the support of the UNDP.

"The President told the ambassador that developing and developed countries share a responsibility for the control of such arms as they could not only be used for insurgency as experienced in Liberia and Sierra Leone but could also become a tool for terrorism.

He described the proliferation of such arms as a legacy of the end of the cold war especially

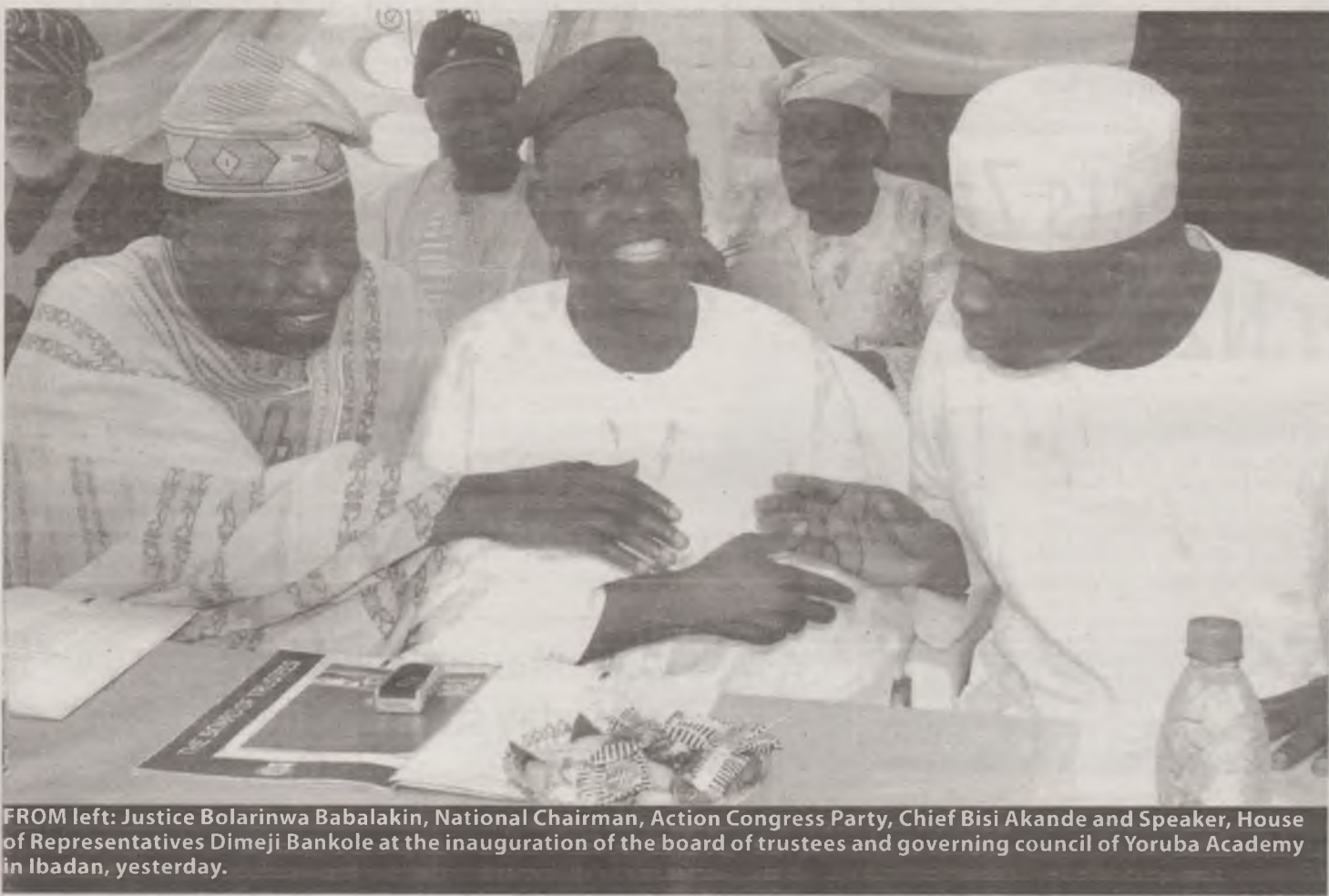
in Afghanistan, and reassured Ambassador Michel Dewez that the region was committed to regulating and ultimately eliminating the influx of such arms into the region.

He also spoke about the recent Coup in Niger and admitted that the region was "embarrassed" by the incident which forced it to temporarily suspend its mediation efforts in that country through the former Nigerian Head of State, General Abdulsalam Abubakar.

Such "errant" development, the President said, did not diminish the "remarkable progress

achieved by West Africa with democratization and good governance in the last decade" after a period of instability occasioned mostly by military interventions.

On the issue of the signing of an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between ECOWAS and the European Union, Ambassador Gheho said it was the "wish" of the region to sign the agreement which is being negotiated by officials of both sides but said that it should not be restricted to a trade relationship only but should be linked to development in order to enable the region avail itself of the full benefits of the arrangement.



FROM left: Justice Bolarinwa Babalakin, National Chairman, Action Congress Party, Chief Bisi Akande and Speaker, House of Representatives Dimeji Bankole at the inauguration of the board of trustees and governing council of Yoruba Academy in Ibadan, yesterday.

NANC, Tafida trade words at interactive session

Ibrahim Chonoko

AN interactive session between officials of the National Association of Nigerian Communities (NANC) and the Nigeria High Commissioner to UK, Dr Dalhatu Sarki Tafida was nearly marred by hot exchanges and accusations before the high commissioner tactfully restored calm and sanity into the session.

Daily Trust correspondent who witnessed the session in London on Tuesday reports that some officials of the NANC, led by its National President, Mr Frank Amadedon had accused staff

of the commission of maltreatment of visitors and rendering bad services to visa and passport applicants.

One of the complainants alleged that sometimes applicants were asked to make extra payments for visas or passports at the commission, in addition to online payments already made.

He further alleged that following a notice that his passport was due for collection, he travelled from Birmingham to the Commission, only to be cut off from the queue at the last moment and asked to return the next day.

The NANC also subtly accused the Commission of not only neglecting the association in the scheme of things, but also relating closely with its rival, the Central Association of Nigerian Associations in the UK (CAN-UK)

The officials, who resisted suggestions that NANC should merge with or metamorphose into CAN-UK, insisted that they wanted to remain as a separate association, and urged the high commission to recognize and interact with it as such.

The High Commissioner, Dr Tafida vehemently denied by Dr

Tafida, and advised the visiting NANC officials to embrace dialogue and consultation instead of making "wild allegations".

"You don't have to fight to solve problems", he said, and urged the NANC to come together instead of "staying aside" or fragmenting Nigerian associations in the UK.

Dr Tafida described complaints on visas and passports as "out of date" as every effort was now being made to render services to applicants openly and transparently, but apologized for any mistreatment meted out to visitors.

Reps pass N347bn FCT budget

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

THE House of Representatives on Wednesday passed the Federal Capital Territory 2010 budget. The budget of N362.3 billion 47.5 billion was presented by the executive arm a but was slashed to N347.5 billion.

As the members proceeded on the Easter break Wednesday, there are indications that the House would announce the reconstitution of its standing committees when it resumes plenary on April 20.

The budget was approved after consideration of the report of the joint committee on the FCT, FCT Area Councils and Ancillary Matters, and Finance on the Bill for an Act to authorize the issue of N 347.5 billion from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the FCT Administration account.

A breakdown of the budget passed show that total personnel cost of the FCT would gulp N36.2 billion while N33.2 billion was approved for overhead cost, and total capital expenditure of the FCT 2010 stood is N278.2bn.

Under the capital expenditure, the Engineering Services Department has been allocated the lion's share of 111.7 billion Naira, while the Satellite Towns Infrastructure Department had 20.2 billion Naira, and Transport Secretariat; 76.8 billion Naira.

Members though expressed reservations over high appropriations to overheads and personnel costs, the FCT Administration has however been advised to ensure judicious implementation of the budget.

FCT Administration has however been advised to ensure judicious implementation of the budget.

Corps members blame NYSC for colleague's death

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

CORP members serving in Kwara State have blamed the management of the National Youths Service Corps in the state for the death of Mr. Shuaib Tijani, a Corp member at the state's NYSC orientation camp located at Yipakta in Edu Local Government Council of the state. The corps members, who spoke at the conclusion of the three weeks orientation course, alleged that the corps member died due to lack of fumigation of the camp.

But the management of the National Youths Service Corps

has denied the allegation, saying the camp was properly fumigated before the camp opened, which they said was a national procedure.

The deceased with registration number KW/10A/1881 was said to have died from snake bites. The corps members, who spoke on condition of anonymity, accused the management of the NYSC in the state of insensitivity to their plights. They alleged that the incident was due to the lack of fumigation of the camp.

"We see reptiles here all the time, but it wouldn't have been so if the place had been properly fumi-

gated before we were allowed in.

Our late colleague was going to pray in the mosque around 7pm when he was bitten by a snake. The medical personnel around tried to help, but their efforts were in vain as they used about five different types of anti viral drugs because they could not ascertain the exact type of poison. He was later rushed to the Teaching Hospital, where he died after four days", the source said.

A member of the state NYSC management, who would not want his name mentioned said, "The camp was fumigated before the corps members resumed, it is

a national rule. For them to say the camp was not fumigated is not right".

He added that the management met with the government and that the government had accepted to fence the entire area to prevent a re-occurrence.

"The camp is very big and no amount of fumigation will solve the problem, but with a fence and regular fumigation, the camp will be okay," he added.

The state Coordinator of the NYSC, Mrs. Adetoun Makinde also told newsmen that efforts were made to save the corps member's life.

We'll deploy 1,000 thugs if... —ALGON boss

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

THE Chairman of the Kano State chapter of the Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON) Alhaji Danladi Isa Kademi Wednesday said the All Nigeria Peoples' Party (ANPP) would deploy thousands of thugs if the opposition parties attempt to make use of thugs.

Speaking in Gaya, Kano State during the commissioning ceremony of some constituency projects by Senator Kabiru Ibrahim Gaya, the ALGON chairman said if the opposition deploys thugs, the party was ready to double the number.

"We will not allow opposition parties to use thugs to rig us out of power. If they deploy ten thugs, we will provide a hundred, and if they provide a hundred thugs, we will overwhelm them with one thousand," he said.

The Gaya Local Government Area boss said his party could not afford to lose any election in the state. Kademi noted that in the past seven years of the Shekarau Administration, the state had witnessed tremendous change in infrastructural development, water supply and education.

PHCN disconnects Zamfara Govt House over N27m debt

From Sadeeq Aliyu, Gusau

THE Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) Wednesday disconnected the Zamfara State Government House over a debt of over N 27 million owed it by the state government.

The Gusau District Acting Business Manager, Engineer Mukthar Murtala, said the disconnection was sequel to a directive from the zonal head office in Kaduna.

"We received a directive from the zonal office in Kaduna that we should disconnect all govern-

ment departments, agencies and ministries that are owing", he said.

It was gathered that the Presidential lodge, ministries, government parastatals and departments including the state owned newspaper company, publishers of Weekly Legacy were also dis-

connected. Engineer Murtala said though, there was a plan by the Zamfara State government to make part a payment of about N8 million, the payment was not a guarantee that the disconnected apartments would be reconnected.

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS MADE PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 30(4) OF THE INSURANCE ACT, CAP 117, LFN 2004.

Notice is hereby given that Crusader General Insurance Limited intends to apply to the National Insurance Commission/the Federal High Court for their approvals/ sanctions that the assets, liabilities and undertakings of Crusader Life Insurance Limited be transferred and consolidated in Crusader General Insurance Limited which will thereafter be known as Crusader Insurance Limited, a composite insurance company, subject to regulatory approvals.

It is proposed that the acquisition will be effected vide a Scheme of Arrangement in accordance with **Part XII of the Investment and Securities Act, No.29, 2007.**

The proposed consolidation will eliminate the duplication of functions and responsibilities, enhance operational efficiency and effectively position the composite company to respond to the challenges in the operating environment.

Certified copies of relevant documents stipulated in Section 30 (5) of the Insurance Act, Cap 117, LFN 2004 will be kept open for inspection by all Shareholders and Holders of Policies issued by the companies at their respective principal and branch offices.

THIS NOTICE IS DATED THE 9TH DAY OF MARCH 2010.

By order of:
The Boards of the Companies

Maritime workers give 14 day strike notice to NPA

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

Maritime workers under the aegis of the Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria (MWUN) and the Senior Staff Association of Communications, Transport and Corporations, (SSACTAC) NPA branch, have given a 14-day ultimatum to the management of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) to resolve all impending workers welfare issues and benefits. They said failure to address the issues would cause them to shut down the nation's maritime sector.

Leaders of the two unions, in a joint petition to the management of the NPA, enumerated their grievances to include the non-implementation of agreed minimum standard for dockworkers for tally clerks and on-board security, non-payment of outstanding severance benefits to dockworkers, non-payment of gratuity to retired

NPA workers, non-payment of monetization arrears, non-payment of agreed year 2008 bonus and non-implementation of the new NPA's condition of service. The petition was signed by Comrades Tony Nted Emmanuel and A. Aham Ubani, President-General and Secretary-General of MWUN and O. J Umar and A. O Leoso, President and General Secretary of SSACTAC NPA.

"We wish to observe that your management's refusal to implement the long standing demands of the workers in spite of our continued appeals/meetings has caused tension in the workplace. We as an organized body can no longer tolerate this, haven exercised patience for years, at the risk of the continued confidence of our members. We therefore demand the implementation of these demands within 14 days, effective from the date of this letter," the union added.

Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com

NLC vows to shut down Nigeria over Iwu

IWU has not achieved anything. He contributed to the woes of the nation today. He was used by the former president Obasanjo to destabilize the nation. We want the next election to be handled by a credible person.

Albert Ojapah
albertoajapah@yahoo.com

Our problem is corruption, greed and selfishness and not Iwu. Did Iwu appoint himself? Those that appointed him put heads together and deceived us that we had an election in 2007 and are enjoying their various seats from Local Government, the National Assembly to the Presidency but Labor is shouting at Iwu. What has the labor done on the massive corruption taking place? What have they done about the inability to insist on the full use of our constitution? What are they saying on the crimes, abductions and killings taking place? What have they done to put heads together with government and solve our fuel and light problems? I am not sure labor can



PROFESSOR Maurice Iwu, INEC Chairman

shut down Nigeria on the basis of Iwu. They have failed to fight on the major issues parading the state of Nigeria. The various unions have not been paying attention on critical issues but on sponsored issues. If there is no corruption and greed in Nigeria, even the devil will not be able to conduct dismal elections in this country.

Aji Isuwa Suleiman

suleimanaji@yahoo.com

If you point accusing finger at someone, the remaining four fingers point at YOU! The ratio is 4:1. If Iwu commits one crime then the stake holders in the electoral process must have committed four of that. Labor leaders are not talking about INEC staff condition of service, they are not interested in mobilizing the voters to vote for good candidates; when political parties conduct sham conventions and primaries the labor unions look the other way! Labor and trade unions you have a lot to do, not only the removal of Iwu.

Muhammad Guiwa
dunguza3@hotmail.com

I totally agree with the entire 140 million Nigerians and the NLC to sack Maurice Iwu. Iwu in his totality has failed us and I believe God will catch up with him one day.

Stephen B
egister@aol.com

Well, the NLC has finally

found its voice! Better late than never, as they say. But this may turn out to be too little, too late. At the time the country was enmeshed in a serious constitutional crisis, labor went into hiding; only to emerge when SNG took up the battle and confronted a cabal that had held the nation to ransom. The labor congress has lost much of its vibrancy since the departure of Adams Oshiomhole. Still, one commends the NLC for this gesture. Better late than never.

Pita
justpita@yahoo.co.uk

The leadership of the NLC is a big disappointment. The NLC abandoned civil servants' cause for increased salary to champion that of politicians. This is a diversionary tactics as we have already heard that the NLC leadership collected bribe in order to shy away from agitation by civil servants for better pay.

Mikel Moganson
moganson66@yahoo.com



BAYELSA State Governor Timipre Sylva

Sylva: FG wants to give me Alams treatment

I think both of them don't have that kind of time to be wasting in such type of a crisis because they will be losing the confidence of their electorate.

Abubkr Badru Jkamshi
damurna@yahoo.com

We are crying of neglect in our region perpetrated by other tribes in Nigeria, but we are a serious aspect of the problems. Whatever it is, these kinds of things - corruption - should not be mentioned among our leaders. But unfortunately, it's a part of our leadership pattern. God deliver the Niger Delta from our leaders.

Sunday
asun692002@yahoo.com

I wonder what the Governor is afraid of. Let him allow the law to take its course. Visiting these officials shows that he is desperate to cover some tracks that may lead to him.

Usman
shehudal@yahoo.com

It is unfortunate that people leaves substance and pursue shadows. EFCC is doing its work. Why is the governor making such a comment to attract sympathy?

Abubakar Jones
faribo@hotmail.com

This man lacks any credibility; I don't trust him for he's crying wolf. If he has a problem with the acting president, he should learn from the dignified behavior of Gov. Shema from Katsina state, who despite constant provocation during president Yar'adua's regime, maintained his dignity by not engaging in a fight that he knew he couldn't win. Sylvia should face the corrupt allegations against him.

Dongoyaro Tsadu
dotsa@yahoo.com

I think the EFCC should fast track their investigations for early prosecution of those found wanting. I am afraid the EFCC cannot hold such top government officials for this long if nothing incriminating is not traced to their activities in government business. However, let us wait and see what happen after the holidays.

Achalla
patokpa2007@yahoo.com



IGP Ogonna Onovo

Police arrest man for allegedly setting 5 children on fire

THIS is really a serious offence. If this man is found guilty of committing this offence he should be punished according to the law in order to serve as an example to people with similar intentions.

Abubakar Chika Maru
abubakarsuleiman2009@yahoo.com

Gaddafi protests Mark's comments

WHAT does Mr Gaddafi have with Nigeria? He has been talking about the nation breaking up for some time. Some Nigerians agree with him but some have been at war with him, calling him all kinds of names. I think it is about time we all make peace.

Deleola
isaac-akinniyi@bell.net

The Acting President's response is commendable. He has called the bluff of all those who do not wish Nigeria well, at home and abroad.

Remember When Gaddafi said the Arab world was not half of the population of Nigeria yet peace has eluded them? He wondered how Nigeria still kept itself as a nation. This is the same man that is suggesting we break up.

Jaffar
accordsforth@gmail.com

Why are we calling President Gaddafi names when we are not taking necessary measures to prevent the break up we are afraid of?



LIBYAN Leader Muammar Gaddafi

Honestly the blood of the innocent children slaughtered in Jos are crying for vengeance and unless Nigeria begs God for mercy, we will not go scot free. So calling President Gaddafi names is childish.

Chuka Umenne
chuka_umenne@yahoo.com

I entirely agree with Mr. David Mark. Even the students of history refer to Ghaddafi as the 'Madman of the African Continent'. How can his calls for African Unity be recon-

ciled with his statement on division of Nigeria?

Muhammad Guiwa
dunguza3@hotmail.com

That is just what he, Qaddafi, would have done if had succeeded in become the leader of the impossible Union of Africa. Divide Africa in two camps; one for Muslims and the other for Christians. God will always reveal the devil's identity before a harm is committed. An Igbo adage says 'the person the gods want to kill they first make mad'. God we thank you for your faithfulness.

Adamu Garba
dan_anita2008@yahoo.com

That statement credited to the Senate president to my opinion is worrisome. Two wrongs will never make a right. We ought to be cautious of whatever is coming out of our mouths. Besides Gaddafi needs to be heard.

Bala A.M. Egiyaya
egeeyayaadee@yahoo.com

Court to rule on divorce suit between 18year old boy and 55 year old bride

I just want to advice the mother of the boy that she should pray harder. This woman has really charmed her son.

Ibrahim Ahmad
bima20074u@yahoo.ca

Why will people interfere in personal matters of the heart? Please urge youths to emulate this giant stride, so as to develop our social dynamics and make all young girls wake up from slumber in the face of healthy and worthy competition for the boys from the women.

Ibrahim Dauda
ibrahim.dauda@finbank.com.ng

Hajiya Aisha, the mother of the groom, should please know that love is blind and instead take the issue in good faith. It is better for her son to get married than to commit fornication and even if the court dissolves the marriage there is the likelihood that her son will go back to Ai illegally.

On that note, she should just pray over this issue instead of ridiculing her son. Mother's prayers never fail.

Zainab
zilyganga@yahoo.co.uk

This is funny though. How I wish

I could get to Zamfara to see the couple. There is more to this than meets the eye. Could it be love? But how much would one think that an 18 year old boy knows anything about love and what would he want to get from a 55 year old woman? I am sure that she's older than his mother. I will like to know what the court rules.

Ibrahim
bolajiabdulwahab@yahoo.com

It sounds funny but unfortunately it is a reality. I hope the 'boy' is wrestled away from the claws of the woman to safeguard his future

or what can we call that a woman marrying her grandson. A fast dissolution is required.

Babatunde
alphaaliy@yahoo.com

Is this love, is this love, is this love that he's feeling? Age is just a number. If a 55 year-old man marries an 18 year old bride, there is no problem. Why can't they allow the boy to make his choice? If its charm, let the mother of the boy counter it with another charm but not through a court of law.

M. Bukar
mbeekay@yahoo.co.uk

“ Hajiyayye Liman
(maumarzuq@yahoo.com)

GSM ringing tones

‘Yori’, ‘Yori’ the ‘Bracket’s’ song started playing in my living room. I sang along and eventually located my phone where someone had dropped it before rushing off. So, this was now my latest ring tone. I need not to change it, because the ‘co-owners’ will change it back again.

Since the GSM revolution, I’ve had numerous musicians serenade me each time I have a call. From King of Pop Michael Jackson to our local artists such as, Tu Face, D’Banj, 9ice, Wande Coal, P-Square, etc. I hear their melodious voice each time I have a call; but they are replaced so frequently that if I am in the company of others, I assume it’s not my phone till someone draws my attention, or I hear the sound coming from my bag, then I realize the co-owners have decided we need a new tone between my last call and this.

It’s really interesting and sometimes amazing, especially at gatherings to hear different ring tones. While matured minds stick to the original signature tone of their phone brand, those who seek adventure change from one to another, from downloading to creating their personal customized tones.

“ It’s really interesting and sometimes amazing, especially at gatherings to hear different ring tones

So much ‘kida’ (music) around and you’ll think it is enough till you call someone and before he answers you, instead of the normal ringing tone that tells you your call’s through, your eardrums are barged with some music which plays on and on until your call’s received.

I like music and listen to all kinds. I understand little of Dolly Parton, Michael Bolton, Toni Braxton, Whitney Houston, Celine Dion, Rod Stewart. Bring on Fela Anikulapo-Kuti, Sani Dankwairo, Dan Anace, Aminu Ala, and with the legendary Mamman Shata I think that’s quite a collection.

I drew a line at raps but co-owners tell me there are messages in its lyrics, well I think it’s the age factor. I think I came too early to understand it, I said to the co-owners who believe my old school favourites are stuff for the archives. So I rebelled, went through my phone and successfully made ‘Bakandamiyar’ Mamman Shata my ringing tone! Hajo laughed and made fun of me, but I had my own back, as I watched her embarrassed at a function searching her bag for her phone as D’Banj’s ‘Omo you don make me fall in love’ played on, attracting all eyes to her.

‘The co-owners have done it again!’ said Maryam who was at the

same table as we, and we laughed some more. ‘At least I don’t have a baby crying each time I have a call’, Hajo threw at Maryam in mock fury. It’s an attention grabber for mothers any day. Before the end of the function we heard ‘busa’ (horn) typical of maharba (hunters), the happy birthday song, etc. And the Lord’s Prayer prompted Christina to cross herself before answering the call. Another was a voice shouting ‘mal-lam ana waya (there is a call), zata katse, zata katse, (it’s cutting off).

Then suddenly we began to clear our bags from the table as we heard the sound of shattering glass, only to be told it was someone’s ringing tone. I thought Africans blush, until the original Nokia tone came through a phone next to our table and we heard the owner, a fellow Fulani woman shamelessly translate each sound to ‘something else’ in Hausa. ‘Ankam a semtata!’ I cautioned her in the mother tongue. Calls kept coming through and we were kept entertained, with the naughty ones even dancing before calls are picked up. They didn’t like the flashers, they confessed.

Those are in three classes you know:

1. You don’t hear any sound; you just see your phone lights, then the missed call sign. Those are A graders (‘tsananin iyawa, sun kware’) (experts)
2. You hear just one sound, you’ve been alerted! Just call back, they are A graders too, (can’t catch them)
3. They hold for two to three rings before disconnecting-----well, don’t bother catching these ones too! I don’t have a grade for them for they are normally well known to you, even if you catch them, you’d be told to your face, sorry ears! ‘Flashing ne’, please call me back.

As I entered my home, it was the sound of ‘shattering glass’ that answered my salam, a plate had been broken. By the time I reached the Kitchen, the culprit who looked really sorry had braced himself for a reprimand, and didn’t understand what I meant when I said, ‘I thought that was your new ringing tone’. He sighed with relief when I explained. I rounded up saying as far as attention grabbing went, it was the limit. But the co-owners begged to differ. ‘Malam Maigadi’s own has to be the limit. In fact, his own ‘na BA-BA’, one of them continued, ‘his, is a patriotic tone Mama, it sings the national anthem! Certainly another new one for me, so if right here in my house there’s someone playing the national anthem as his ring tone then I am very sure weirder ringing tones abound. ‘Very patriotic!’ I said to the kids who as co-owners have already commandeered the phone. ‘I hope he stands up each time he has a call.’ The sound of their laughter followed me to my room.

“ By Tamuno Briggs

Do we need police affairs ministry?

The nation was recently treated to a comic relief when the immediate past Minister of Police Affairs, Dr Yakubu Ibrahim Lame, attempted to deny a statement he made at a press conference on March 4, 2010, castigating the police high command over Nigeria’s security situation. No Nigerian seems to believe the highly publicised denial which came a day before the dissolution of the federal cabinet by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan because Lame’s charges were made in a written statement.

I was still in the public service when Chief Olusegun Obasanjo took office as elected president in 1999 and I was able to observe at close quarters the endless fight between the newly appointed Minister of Police Affairs, General David Jemibowon, and the new Inspector General, Mr Musliu Smith. Both powerful public officers were gentlemen, and so could not have taken their disagreements before pressmen. The situation did not change when Mr Smith was replaced by Tafa Balogun, nor did it change when Sunday Ehindero succeeded Balogun. As expected, Jemibowon’s replacement in the Ministry of Police Affairs by another cultured gentleman, Broderick Bozimo, did not help matters, either.

In other words, the disagreement

“ How well have various Police Affairs Ministers defended or canvassed interests of the Nigeria Police Force?

between the immediate past Police Affairs Minister and the current Inspector General of Police, Mr Ogbonna Onovo, was more or less in keeping with tradition.

What was unusual—and absolutely unacceptable—was Dr Lame’s unprecedented press conference where he set out to undermine the police high command for political reasons, but dressed up the whole exercise as a national security issue. Most analysts believe Dr Lame actually undermined national security by his action. The police force may be the foremost national security organisation, but it is not only security apparatus. There are, among others, the State Security Service, National International Agency, Defence Intelligence Agency, Customs Service, Immigration Service, Directorate of Military Intelligence, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, etc. Most report to the National Security Adviser.

The question on the lips is: Is there a pressing need for the Ministry of Police Affairs? The Ministry exists only when there is a civilian government. As everyone easily acknowledges, civilians create all kinds of posts so as to help party members. The first Minister of Police Affairs, I can recall, is Emmanuel Osamur, who was appointed by Presi-

dent Shehu Shagari in 1979. The next minister was Jemibowon, who was succeeded by Bozimo and later Lame. The military governments of Generals Muhammadu Buhari, Ibrahim Babangida, Sani Abacha and Abdusallam Abubakar had no such ministers.

The basic argument advanced anytime the ministry is brought back is that the police force needs to be headed by a cabinet member who will bring up police matters before the Executive Council of the Federation. Is this argument compelling enough to create or recreate a whole ministry? How well have various Police Affairs Ministers defended or canvassed interests of the Nigeria Police Force? The truth is that the police often complain that their financial allocations are unconscionably misappropriated by the ministers who are politicians, and not security professionals or even technocrats.

For instance, the police under the leadership of Sir Mike Okiro used to complain bitterly that the federal government erred seriously when it allowed the Ministry of Police Affairs to manage the over three billion naira provided for the Safe City project meant to radically address the security situation in Port Harcourt, Ibadan, Abuja, Kano, Maiduguri, Lagos and Onitsha. Much of the money has reportedly been spent, but it is a different ballgame if the citizens have observed any improvement that can be attributed to the huge intervention funds made available the Ministry of Police Affairs. Yet, the police force—and not the ministry—is held responsible for every security problem in any of these leading commercial cities.

A highly respected former IGP pointed out recently that the country’s chief cop has too many bosses and institutions that he reports to. They include the National Security Adviser, the Chairman of the Police Service Commission, the Vice President, and the President and, of course, the Minister of Police Affairs. There are, in addition, the Senate President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the legislative committees on Police Affairs. There are profound frictions inherent in dealing with the Minister of Police Affairs in particular. Every minister despises the idea and practice of the IGP dealing directly with the president. Each minister wants the IGP to communicate with the Presidency through him as part of the strategy to control every step of the police. This situation creates very serious problems. It means that if a big serious security problem develops in, say, Jos or if Boko Haram strikes in Maiduguri and the police authorities need to quickly mobilise riot policemen on a large scale to the affected place, the IGP has to seek approval for funds from the Presidency through the Ministry of Police Affairs? The ministry will also approve the strength of officers so deployed. Why should such a national emergency be left at the whims and caprices of bureaucrats? Worse, the Police Affairs Ministry wants to interfere in day-to-day police operations like postings of officers, from corporals to commissioners.

Briggs is a retired public servant in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.



Your Letters

Send your letters to letters@dailytrust.com

On the mass failure at NECO exams

One are the days when even though students were taught under

trees, they came out with flying colours in examinations. This is because teachers were then well taken care of and they themselves had excellent teaching skills and they were proud to be teachers. Nowadays, teachers' remunerations are not only low compared to their peers in other govern-

ment parastatals and ministries, some of their entitlements are being denied them. For example, teachers in federal government colleges who were transferred in 2008 are yet to get their benefits.

Ali Saminaka, Kwangila, Zaria, Kaduna State.

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Gaddafi isn't mad

I wonder how self-centred Nigerian leaders are to ascribe madness to one who proposed solution to a lingering problem. Instead, they should have reflected back to history and called Lugard a Lunatic for amalgamating nations of different colours, outlook and ideology, which are unable to live together, and named them Nigeria. Gaddafi's crime is lesser to the White man whose act is now our major problem. But unlike Gaddafi, we need to divide into 250 nations, going by his analysis.

SAGIRU Usman K/Nassarawa, Kano, 08034233279.

Britain should leave us alone

I want the British to please allow Nigeria solve its problems, while they face theirs. They can donate what they can to victims of the Jos crises, but should keep their noses out of our affairs. Is Britain a true friend of Nigeria?

YUSUF I, 08034299958.

Seeking Alams

THE drama playing out in Bayelsa is a confirmation that the acting President has graduated with a 1st Class from OBJ's school of devi-

ous politics. It's a pity how power intoxicates.

BAR. Wale, 08035231406.

Carpetbaggers

SO Albishir and co have joined the PDP. For God's sake, what kind of politics are Nigerian political elite playing? What worries me most is that nobody seems to bother.

AHMED XL, Maiduguri, 08136554442.

Governors and oil industry cash-calls

NIGERIAN authorities should heed the advice given by Venezuelan ambassador to Nigeria. Remember his remarks to Akunyili, a few months back? That advice is still relevant; use it.

ALIYU Kofarbai, Kano State, 07068292027.

On Jonathan's dangerous quest for absolute power

IF the writer, Ibrahim A Mohamad, has nothing to write about, he should hold his pen. Nigeria must go by the rules of Law, no matter.

08057058980.

"You cooked food for Turai!"

THIS line of childish exchange got nothing to do with screening a Ministerial nominee? It proves that raising educational level of a contestant will not necessarily mean quality contribution or leadership.

SALIHU, AB., Katsina, 08057516623.

Re: Thai option, anyone?

THIS is in response to Engr David's suggestion for Nigerians to take the Thai style of protest by pouring some quantity of our blood on the road. My question is, do you think THEY would be ruffled by THAT? Especially if (assuming) the international media doesn't capture same? Do you think THEY TRULY care for US?

LAWAL Yakubu Sabon Kudi, Bauchi, 08069838307.

What manner of screening?

I think there was no need for ministerial screening, since the exercise is of no value. The event was waste of time and the questions asked irrelevant.

ABUBAKAR Gamjee, SH303, Bakin Kasuwa, Gashu'a, Yobe State, 08062383383.



By Tunji Ajibade

US-UK: End to 'special relationship'?

The perception that the British Government was a subservient 'poodle' to the U.S. Administration leading up to the period of the invasion of Iraq and its aftermath is widespread both among the British public and overseas. This perception, whatever its relation to reality, is deeply damaging to the reputation and interests of the U.K. That was part of a report released recently by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the British House of Commons. The manner former British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, and former U.S. President, George Bush, went about prosecuting the Iraqi war is well-known. Their claim of nukes in Iraq, foremost basis for the invasion, is on record too, just as mistakes to which both of them confessed.

One factor sacrosanct in international relations is sovereignty; the equality of all nations, big or small, powerful or weak. This may be largely theoretical; but no nation wants to be seen as the lackey of another. Yet people of one nation would be the first to see their leaders' link up with nations of like minds. These two opposites, students of international relations notes, are at play in the latest expression of disdain for the current patterns in US-UK relations.

Many things have changed since the end of the cold war. Communist Russians have become capitalists; even American leaders have called them friends of the West. Communist China is communist, only in name. Patterns of conflict on the international scene have changed significantly. New issues come up; Old issues take different shapes and colours. The world familiar with 'balance of power', 'balance of terror', 'détente', 'Strategic Arm Limitation Treaty' and the like, in which opponents operated by identifiable rules to maintain some semblance of global security has changed. Threats to global security have become individuals, armed groups, many of whom are willing to self-destruct in order to hit targets. The manifestation of this was the September 9/11, bombing in the U.S. which brought the Western world together in a global war on terrorism or GWOT.

President George Bush (Snr) had earlier pointed out how useful the special relationship had been in combating fascism and communism in the 20th century, describing the relationship as "the rock upon which all dictators this century have perished." President George Bush (Jnr) pointed out how terrorism gave life to the relationship in the 21st century, frequently referring to Britain as America's most important global ally in the war on terror. And at a time the American public thought France, for instance, was not cooperating enough on the war, Prime Minister Blair was a welcome face in Washington, hugely perceived as America's number one ally. Sections of British public have been cynical about all this, but observers have pointed out that even the worst of cynics acknowledge there is an intimate connection between the United States and the United Kingdom.

What do MPs who passed a resolution on the phrase 'special relationship' and some other issues in US-UK relations want? Do they want relations with the US to be severed, bring an end to an old relationship, which observers say has influenced global stability in every ramification? "The use of the phrase 'special relationship' in its historical sense, to describe the totality of the ever-evolving UK-US relationship, is potentially misleading," the MPs stated. They then recommended that its use "be avoided." They added that the overuse of the phrase by some politicians and many in the media serves simultaneously "to de-value its meaning and to raise unrealistic expectations about the benefits the relationship can deliver to the UK." As one of the lawmakers, Mike Gapes, noted, "we must be realistic and accept that globalisation, structural changes and shifts in geopolitical power will inevitably affect the UK-US relationship." And there is the consciousness that the reference to "special relationship" does not reflect the "modern" state of the partnership, as over the longer-term, the UK is unlikely to be able to influence the US to the extent it has in the past. Above all, the MPs wanted the UK government to be "less deferential" to the U.S. and be more willing to say no.

This, according to observers, may be all that the flurry of activities in the Commons as well as the negative perception of US-UK relation across Britain, will achieve for the moment. Opinion polls indicate that the fate of Gordon Brown's Labour party in the election scheduled for May hangs in the balance, partly as a result of the current perception. However, whichever party benefits from this anti-American sentiment, analyst pointed out, cannot wish war on terrorism away.

Ajibade wrote from Abuja (tunjioa@yahoo.com)

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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A sham screening process

The Senate last Wednesday completed its 3-day screening of the nominees for ministerial appointment submitted to it by the Acting President Goodluck Jonathan. The exercise, in which 38 nominees were screened, was broadcast live on television. Nominees were asked questions by the senators on various issues, mostly relating to the contents of their curriculum vitae. At the end of the exercise, all the nominees submitted were confirmed for appointment. That exercise was of doubtful utility in terms of assessing the nominees' suitability for holding high public office. Nigerians are right to express their frustration and anger at the sloppy process that the senate used in the exercise.

Apart from the nature of questions that the nominees were asked, based on their highly sanitised résumés, the quality and direction of the sessions were of such shallowness that we wonder at the ability of the legislators to hold the executive truly accountable. In other instances, the nominees got away without satisfactorily answering some of the few probing queries put to them.

Perhaps the senate's apparent inability to ask the many questions begging for answers by most of the nominees may be explained by the possibility that the lawmakers had no access to further documents and facts beyond the nominees' résumés; but we assert that it was their duty to have sought additional information. On the other hand, they may have had access to such information, but played by a script and gave the nominees smooth passage. Perhaps it would have helped if each nominee was assigned a portfolio before the screening process commenced, to gauge their suitability and capability. Whatever the case may be, the senators did not do the nation proud.

Equally important is the need for the senate to borrow a leaf from similar climes. How are ministers nominated and screened? Is such screening usually done by the entire senate or through its standing committees? In our situation, it is difficult for committees to screen nominees because the intended portfolios are not enclosed along with the nominations. This serious lapse needs to be addressed. It is important that future screening of nominees be done by relevant committees of the senate which would present its report to the senate in plenary for consideration. This will go a long way in strengthening the supervisory and oversight capacities of the National Assembly over the executive arm of government in general.

Another disturbing development in the manner the senate conducted the screening exercise was the crass and strange tradition it had cultivated of asking nominees to 'take a bow'. This procedure allows otherwise incompetent people to pass the screening without being asked the tough questions that need to be asked, just because they happened to have been members of the National Assembly, particularly the senate, at one time or another.

The senate needs to be serious in grilling every nominee to determine their suitability or otherwise for the job. The culture of 'taking a bow' is apart from being discriminatory, also a fraudulent means of evading national responsibilities. Every Nigerian nominated to ministerial position must be thoroughly screened before being confirmed or otherwise for the job. The people and the constitution demand no less.

The system of government Nigeria is operating is similar to what obtains in the United States of America. We saw how members of senate that were nominated for ministerial appointment were drilled. We recall the thorough screening the Hillary Clinton went through in the hands of her erstwhile colleagues before confirming her as Secretary of State. This basically is to ensure the right people are put in the right places. Here in Nigeria as the recent screening process has shown, it is as if the Senate hears nor sees any evil in the nominees presented to it. Once again it shows that the Senate does not take its job seriously.

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What have emirates got to do with development?

Abba Gana Shettima

agshettima@gmail.com

Recent events in Borno State have literally forced me to revisit the contentious emirates issue for the third time since my *Emirates: The wages of political apostasy* (Citizen magazine, January 4-10, 1993 vol. 4 No.1 pp18-19). Some of the issues I raised 17 years ago in that article are still worth recounting. First, I argued that the emirate system in the Muslim North has committed *political apostasy* by carelessly and contemptuously replacing *Islam* with *tradition* as the basis of its legitimacy. Consequently, I submitted that corruption and injustice were enthroned in the emirates when Islam no longer reigned as the guiding principle. I argued further that the life styles of the emirs bluntly belie the social and material conditions of their wretched subjects. In this submission, I advance the scope of the critique by moving away from the internal decay of the emirate system to focus on the manipulation of that institution by politicians. In my earlier article, I had argued that the emirate system has virtually made itself irrelevant by abandoning the fountain and principles of its very existence—thereby setting itself apart from the people and their cherished values.

The Borno State House of Assembly, at the behest of the state governor, recently passed a controversial Local Government and Chieftaincy bill empowering the governor to create additional emirates and chiefdoms in the state. Initially, it appeared that the state legislators were totally opposed to the bill, but after some horse-trading, the bill was passed in the twinkling of a political eye. The governor in exercise of this power, has since gone ahead to partition the Dikwa Emirate into two—namely Bama Emirate with headquarters in Bama and Dikwa Emirate with its base at Dikwa. The governor has already indicated that he will use the powers conferred on him by the new local government and chieftaincy law to create more emirates wherever such emirates are desired on the basis of "viability, historical antecedence, and thinking of the people". More often than not, 'thinking of the people' has meant the thinking of the few. How do you determine the 'thinking of the people' when no public hearing preceded the passage of the bill? Personally, I am not perturbed by the creation of new emirates. However, I am deeply agonized by the feeble argument that the creation of additional emirates and chiefdoms in the state will bring about development. What development? What have the creation of new village units, districts or emirates got to do with development? Is the creation of more village units, districts and emirates the kind of *development* our people have been desperately yearning for years?

It is obvious that our politicians are historically antiquated and do not seem to have an elementary

grasp of the concept, process and above all, the purpose of development. They do not seem to be in touch with the appalling social and material conditions of our people. For the majority of our people, the creation of more village units, districts and emirates might provide a psychological escape route from their sufferings and give them a primordial sense of greatness and an ephemeral breathe of freedom. But then, the majority of the people in the state still remain imprisoned behind the grim reality of the great walls of underdevelopment. As

education system of the *sangaya* ought to be re-positioned to meet the challenges of today. The innocent young children called the *almajiri* shouldn't be allowed to roam aimlessly on the streets—dirty, hungry, rejected, and dejected; and exposed to all sorts of dangers including ritual killers and other criminals. Indeed, one way in which the emirs can re-claim their lost glory and assert some relevance to development is to speak and act on behalf of these children. They have a right to decent life.

Consider also the health sector. The present administration has built a new ultra-modern hospital in the state capital and renovated the state specialists' hospital. In addition, it has also built additional hospitals in some local governments. Unfortunately,

Consequently, I submitted that corruption and injustice were enthroned in the emirates when Islam no longer reigned as the guiding principle

Joseph Stiglitz, the 2001 Nobel Prize winner in Economics, argued in his *Globalization and its Discontents* (2002:252) 'development is about transforming societies, improving the lives of the poor, enabling everyone to have a chance at success and access to health care and education'. The creation of a new district area or an emirate may give some political freedom to an otherwise muffled ethnic, religious or geographical minority and in that sense, can constitute some kind of "development" for them. But what meaning has ethnic, political or religious freedom got outside the freedom from abject poverty, disease and ignorance?

Instead of the government dissipating its energy on the creation of emirates on the false premise that it will bring about development, it should squarely address the real development aspirations of the state in a holistic way. For instance, education is one critical area of development in which the state is lagging behind. No doubt some efforts have been made by the present administration in the renovation of a number of primary and secondary schools. However, a great deal of work still needs to be done especially in relation to the welfare of teachers, feeding in public boarding schools, provision of furniture and other facilities necessary to restore confidence in the public school system. At present, the public school system has virtually collapsed and only the children of the extremely poor attend such schools. But for an excellent public school system in the past, many of us wouldn't have been trained to render service to the state and the nation today.

Similarly, the traditional Islamic

again, a lot still needs to be done. Many health personnel particularly medical doctors and nurses have left the services of the state to greener pastures in the federal service and other states. Addressing the health needs of the state must be *people and service-centred*. Presently, it looks more like *infrastructure-centred*. Critical health issues to be addressed include the problems of Maternal and Child Health. For instance, the 2008 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) shows that while only 43% of women surveyed in the North East received antenatal care from a killed provider in the five years preceding the survey, in the South West up to 87% of such women received antenatal care. Similarly, infant and under-five mortality in the North East is 109 and 222 per 1,000 live births respectively; while it is 59 and 89 per 1,000 live births in the South West and 91 and 217 per 1,000 live births in the North West. As a matter of fact, compared to all the other five geo-political regions, the North East recorded the highest rates of both infant mortality (between birth and first birthday) and Under-five mortality (between birth and fifth birthday). Most certainly, if the data for the state is further disaggregated from the regional data, it might even provide a more dismal picture.

Yet, despite all the multiple development challenges confronting the state, the government behaves as if the state has reached its zenith, and has vehemently refused to accept federal government sanctioned international development interventions in health agriculture, such as the World Bank assisted Fadama III project.



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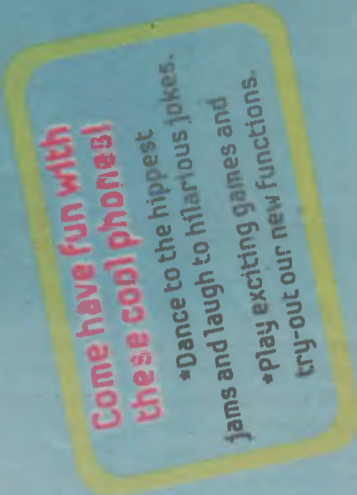
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May Allah Continue to guide you and protect you as you continue with your selfless service to humanity.

ALH. I.B. SALI

S I G N E D

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- (5) Ahaji Ibrahim Jibrin
- (6) Dr. (Mrs) O. R. Abdullahi

- (7) Alhaji Ya'u sulaiman
- (8) Mrs. Petel Bajoga
- (9) Mr. Garba Shu'aibu (10) Ms. Mary Alim
- (11) Musa Kangiwa (12) Mr. Sam Nwanelo

INTERNATIONAL

South Sudan's main party pulls out of elections



YASSIR Arman, presidential candidate of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) speaks at a press conference at the Friendship Hall in the capital Khartoum, Sudan yesterday.

SOUTHERN Sudan's main political party withdrew its candidate from the country's upcoming presidential election, a surprise move that erodes the credibility of the nation's first multiparty election in decades.

The Sudan People's Liberation Movement pulled Yassir Arman — widely considered the most serious challenger to President Omar al-Bashir's reelection bid — from the race yesterday. The party also announced that it will not field candidates in the volatile Darfur region for local or nationwide parliamentary elections being held at the same time as the presidential vote.

The announcement comes as more than a dozen northern opposition parties and independent candidates also consider a boycott of the April 11 vote amid concerns that alleged government control of the media and biased legislation make a fair vote impossible.

The decision was made as the U.S. envoy to Sudan, Scott Gration, arrived in Khartoum late Wednesday. Gration was holding talks Thursday with political

leaders in Khartoum about the upcoming vote, US Embassy spokeswoman Judith Ravin said.

SPLM party spokesman Yien Matthew said party officials plan to meet with Gration for talks aimed at warding off a crisis 10 days ahead of the country's first multiparty elections in 26 years. Matthew said the party decided to withdraw Arman from the presidential race and withdraw candidates from the votes in Darfur because of "numerous violations" committed by al-Bashir's ruling National Congress Party and "instability and state of emergency in Darfur."

The party will still participate in local and parliamentary elections in the rest of Sudan's regions, he said. "The SPLM can't put itself in fire with its people and supporters for participating in flawed elections," he said.

"We will not reconsider our decision and we may develop it further," Matthew said the party is in talks with other opposition groups and warned they could decide in unison for a total election boycott within days.

Soldiers detain head of Guinea-Bissau's army

RENEGADE soldiers seized the head of Guinea-Bissau's armed forces yesterday and briefly detained the prime minister in an apparent coup attempt in the tiny, coup-plagued African nation where the president was assassinated last year.

A crowd of hundreds gathered outside Prime Minister Carlos Gomes Jr.'s office in the capital to denounce the apparent coup attempt as martial music played on the radio, code for a military-led coup in this part of the world.

Hours later, the mutinous soldiers released the prime minister, but the head of the armed forces Zamora Induta remained under guard at a military base while his No. 2 appeared to be in control.

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International

Saudis may behead Lebanese for witchcraft

THE lawyer of a Lebanese TV psychic who was convicted in Saudi Arabia for witchcraft said yesterday her client could be beheaded this week and urged Lebanese and Saudi leaders to help spare his life.

Attorney May al-Khansa said she learned from a judicial source that Ali Sibat is to be beheaded on Friday.

She added that she does not have any official confirmation of this. Saudi judicial officials could not be immediately reached for comment.

A Lebanese official said Beirut has received no word from its embassy in Riyadh about Sibat's

possible execution. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

The Saudi justice system, which is based on Islamic law, does not clearly define the charge of witchcraft.

Sibat is one of scores of people reported arrested every year in the kingdom for practicing sorcery, witchcraft, black magic and fortunetelling.

These practices are considered polytheism by the government in Saudi Arabia, a deeply religious Muslim country.

Later yesterday, a dozen people demonstrated near the Saudi

embassy in Beirut's western neighbourhood of Qureitim. Four of the men wore masks to look like executioners and carried a wooden gallows with a cloth bag hanging from it. One of the men carried a small banner that read in Arabic: "Don't kill."

Al-Khansa said she has called upon Saudi King Abdullah to pardon Sibat, a 49-year-old father of five. She also says she is in contact with Lebanese officials about the case.

She added that Sibat did not make predictions in Saudi Arabia and was neither a Saudi citizen nor a resident in Saudi and therefore should have been deported

rather than tried there.

Sibat made predictions on an Arab satellite TV channel from his home in Beirut.

He was arrested by the Saudi religious police during his pilgrimage to the holy city of Medina in May 2008 and sentenced to death last November.

"Ali is not a criminal. He did not commit a crime or do anything disgraceful," al-Khansa said.

"The world should help in rescuing a man who has five children, a wife and a seriously ill mother." She added that Sibat's mother's health has been deteriorating since her son was sentenced

to death.

New York-based Human Rights Watch said last year that Sibat's death sentence should be overturned. It also called on the Saudi government to halt "its increasing use of charges of 'witchcraft,' crimes that are vaguely defined and arbitrarily used."

Last year, the rights group presented a series of cases in the kingdom, including that of Saudi woman Fawza Falih, who was sentenced to death by beheading in 2006 for the alleged crimes of "witchcraft, recourse to jinn (supernatural beings)" and animal sacrifice.

Iraq health official killed at his Baghdad home

GUNMEN armed with silenced pistols fatally shot a Health Ministry official at his home in Baghdad in an apparent targeting of government employees, according to Iraqi police.

The killing, one of a number of scattered attacks late Wednesday and into yesterday, comes amid growing concerns that the political uncertainty created by last month's indecisive elections could lead to more violence as US forces prepare to accelerate their withdrawal in the coming months.

Police say Mohammed Chillab was sitting in his garden at home in the capital's northern Sunni al-Silaikh neighbourhood late Wednesday when three attackers shot him using silenced pistols. Chillab was the deputy head of the technical affairs department at the Health Ministry, according to a ministry official. Baghdad's morgue confirmed the death.

Violence has fallen considerably throughout Iraq since the height of sectarian bloodshed in 2006 and 2007. Occasional attacks against government officials by insurgents and criminal groups continue to occur, however.

Many Iraqis fear the uncertainty of the postelection period could provoke increased violence as competing political parties struggle to form a coalition government.

Also late Wednesday, attackers shot dead the owner of a mobile phone shop in Baghdad's north-eastern Ur district he was closing according to police.

Kerry says Syria is committed to Mideast peace



SYRIAN President Bashar Assad, left, meets with US Sen. John Kerry at al-Shaab presidential palace in Damascus, Syria, yesterday.

US Senator John Kerry said yesterday during a visit to Damascus that Syria is committed to engaging in peace making and is essential to the Mideast process.

The Democratic senator, who is the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, told reporters after a three-hour meeting with President Bashar Assad that Washington is also concerned about the flow of weapons to Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group through Syrian territories.

"That is something that must stop in order to promote regional stability and security," Kerry said about the weapons.

Washington has reached out to Syria in recent months by nominating the first US ambassador to Damascus since 2005 and sending top diplomats to meet with Assad.

Washington is hoping to draw Syria away from Iran and the militant groups Hezbollah and Hamas. Syria is a strong supporter of militant groups such as the Iranian-backed Hezbollah and the Palestinian Hamas, whose exiled leadership is based in Damascus.

"Syria is an essential player in bringing peace and stability to the region," Kerry said. Kerry mediated several rounds of indirect negotia-

tions between Syria and Israel in 2008, but the discussions made no significant headway.

Direct talks between the Mideast enemies broke down in 2000. The Syrian news agency said that Kerry and Assad stressed the need of continuing "constructive dialogue" between Syria and United States based on "mutual respect and common interests to reach positive solutions for issues of common interest" the agency said.

Kerry said Washington and Syria "have a very deep interest, a mutual interest" in having a very frank exchange on any differences if they exist. Kerry who said he has long advocated American engagement with Syria and "I am very committed to working on a continued effort to achieve progress in our bilateral relationship."

President George W. Bush's administration withdrew a full-time ambassador from Syria in 2005 after the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

Hariri's supporters blamed on Syria but Damascus denied involvement. Kerry's visit to Syria is the latest in a series of American officials to make the trip, as Washington pushes for the country's cooperation in Middle East peace efforts and the standoff over Iran's nuclear program.

International



CHINESE President Hu Jintao, will attend a summit on nuclear security in the United States this month, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

China's leader to attend nuclear summit in Washington

CHINA'S president will attend a nuclear security summit in Washington this month, signalling a fresh start between the superpowers amid a chill in relations over Beijing's unhappiness with US arms sales to Taiwan and a meeting with the Dalai Lama.

It was unclear prior to yesterday's announcement whether President Hu Jintao would attend the US-hosted event because of a number of contentious issues that have soured American-Sino ties this year.

Hu will stop in Washington for the April 12-13 summit on his way to Brazil, Venezuela and Chile. "The nuclear security summit will mainly discuss the threat posed by nuclear terrorism and the corresponding measures of countries and the international community," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said at a news briefing yesterday. He called it an important multilateral meeting, and said China hoped it would "yield positive results."

Qin would not say if Hu would meet President Barack Obama for bilateral talks during his visit. The spokesman said the US and China shared a key diplomatic relationship, and maintaining healthy ties depended on "respecting each other." Hu's trip was billed as specifically tackling nuclear issues. If all goes smoothly in the coming months, Washington plans to play host to Hu again in the fall with all the pomp of a state visit.

The Foreign Ministry called in US Ambassador Jon Huntsman on Thursday morning to tell him Hu would attend the Washington summit — a positive message after weeks of being summoned for harangues over American policies. "Where have we been in the last few months? We've been in the penalty box," Huntsman told a meeting of US business executives later Thursday. He predicted relations would now steadily improve.

However, two major problems still loom on the horizon. Pressure is rising in Washington for the Treasury Department to name China a "currency manipulator" for pegging the yuan to the US dollar, making Chinese exports cheap, critics say.

Beijing has warned it would retaliate for any such move, which could result in sanctions. The Obama administration also wants a largely reluctant Beijing to stand with other permanent UN Security Council members in backing new sanctions on Iran — a key energy supplier to China — over its nuclear program.

Iran's top nuclear negotiator, Saeed Jalili, met with senior Chinese officials Thursday, presumably lobbying China to hold firm after Beijing signaled in UN talks it was willing to consider new sanctions against Tehran.

India begins world's biggest head count; 1.2 bn

INDIA began a yearlong census of its billion-plus population yesterday in which it plans to photograph and fingerprint every citizen over the age of 15 to create a national database and then issue its first national identity cards.

About 2.5 million census-takers began traveling across more than 630,000 villages and 5,000 cities in an effort to visit every structure serving as a home, from tin shanties to skyscrapers, in what the government calls the world's largest administrative exercise. For the first time, they will note the availability of toilets, drinking water and electricity, and the type of building materials to create a comprehensive picture of housing in India.

They will also take fingerprints and photographs of each

person and collect information on Internet, mobile phone and bank account usage.

The census-takers, mostly local government officials or schoolteachers, also plan to include millions of homeless people who sleep on railway platforms, under bridges and in parks. So far, India has not had a system of national identity cards.

The collection of fingerprints and photographs will be linked with another massive exercise launched last year to assign every Indian an identity number.

"It is for the first time in human history that an attempt is being made to identify, count, enumerate and record and eventually issue an identity card to 1.2 billion people," Home Minister

Karzai lashes out at West over Afghan elections

PRESIDENT Hamid Karzai accused the West yesterday of trying to ruin Afghanistan's elections, intensifying a showdown with parliament over whether foreigners will oversee a parliamentary vote this year.

Karzai's international reputation took a battering last year after a U.N.-backed fraud watchdog threw out a third of the votes cast for him in last year's presidential election. He is now wrangling with parliament and the United Nations over fraud protection measures for a parliamentary vote due in September.

"Foreigners will make excuses,

liametary election," a defiant Karzai told a gathering of election officials. "They want parliament to be weakened and battered, and for me to be an ineffective president and for parliament to be ineffective."

"You have gone through the kind of elections during which you were not only threatened with terror, you also faced massive interference from foreigners," Karzai told the officials. "Some embassies also tried to bribe the members of the commission."

He singled out Peter Galbraith, the American former deputy of the UN mission in Kabul, sacked

a blind eye to fraud, and French General Philippe Morillon, head of an EU vote monitoring mission. "There was fraud in the presidential and provincial election, with no doubt there was massive fraud."

This wasn't fraud by Afghans but the fraud of foreigners, the fraud of Galbraith, of Morillon and the votes of the Afghan nation were in the control of an embassy," Karzai said. He accused Galbraith of telling an election official he would be "digging himself an early grave" if Karzai was declared first round winner and said Morillon had tried to block the announcement of results to force Karzai to

International

18 gunmen killed in attacks on Mexican army bases

DOZENS of gunmen mounted rare and apparently coordinated attacks targeting two army garrisons in northern Mexico, touching off firefights that killed 18 attackers.

The attempts to blockade soldiers inside their bases, part of seven near-simultaneous attacks across two northern states, appeared to mark a serious escalation in Mexico's drug war, in which cartel gunmen attacked in unit-size forces armed with bulletproof vehicles, dozens of hand grenades and assault rifles.

While drug gunmen frequently shoot at soldiers on patrol, they seldom target army bases, and even more rarely attack in the force displayed during the confrontations Tuesday in the border states of Tamaulipas and Nuevo Leon — areas that have seen a surge of bloodshed in recent months.

Villegas said gunmen parked trucks and SUVs outside a military base in the border city of Reynosa trying to block troops from leaving, sparking a gunbattle with soldiers.



RUSSIAN President Dmitry Medvedev, right, and officials observe a minute of silence for victims of this week's suicide bombings, yesterday.

Russia's Medvedev promises 'crueler' measures

PRESIDENT Dmitry Medvedev made a surprise visit yesterday to the violence-wracked southern province of Dagestan, telling police and security forces to use tougher, "more cruel" measures to fight the "scum" responsible for terrorist attacks. Russia's security chief said some terror suspects had been detained.

Twin suicide bombings in Moscow — which Islamic militants from the North Caucasus claim to have carried out — have refocused attention on the violence that for years has been confined to Russia's pre-

dominantly Muslim regions. The rush-hour attacks Monday on the Moscow subway killed 39 people and left nearly 90 hospitalized. On Wednesday, two suicide bombings in Dagestan killed 12 people, including nine policemen, a frequent target of attacks in part because they represent Russian authority.

Another explosion yesterday killed two suspected militants and wounded a third in Dagestan near the border with Chechnya. Police said the men may have been transporting a makeshift bomb.

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NIGER STATE HOUSING CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT HOUSING SCHEME IN NIGER STATE

In an effort to reinvigorate the housing sector in line with its development action plan (2007-2011), the Niger State Government has embarked on the development of affordable Mass Housing Estate Through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) initiatives. The first phase of over 2000 housing units in Minna, Bida, Kontagora and Suleja are now nearing in completion with all necessary infrastructure.

Arrangement have accordingly been completed to commence work on the second phase involving construction of 50 housing unit comprising 30Nos 2 Bedroom and 20 Nos 3 Bedroom detached Bungalows in each of the remaining local government Areas of the state.

In view of the above, interested reputable and competent contractors with relevant experience And good track records are hereby invited to tender for pre qualification.

PRE QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENT

- a. Evidence of Corporate Affairs incorporation and registration with Corporate Affairs Commission.
- b. Corporate Tax Clearance Certificate for past (3) years (2007-2009)
- c. Company VAT Registration Certificate and Past remittances
- d. Letter of attestation of good financial standing from the company s Bank (s) Evidence of similar contracts stating cost and showing evidence of award and timely completion.
- e. Company profile including names, qualifications and years of experience of key personnel.
- f. List of support equipment available for such projects
- g. Evidence of registration with Niger State Due Project office
- i. Original documents should be available for sighting on demand during or after opening of pre-qualification documents.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

All prospective contractors should submit their application for pre qualification in seal envelopes clearly marked APPLICATION FOR PRE QUALIFICATION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT HOUSING SCHEME IN NIGER STATE and address to;

Permanent Secretary (housing)
Through
The general Manager,
Niger State Housing Corporation
P.M.B 105, Paiko Road,
Minna.

To reach him or before 12.00 noon on Friday 9th April 2010, the submitted documents will be opened at 2.00pm the same day in the Board room of the corporation. Late submission will not be accepted and names of pre-qualified contractors as well as other related matters will be published on the notice Board of the corporation.

4. NOTE:

This is not an invitation to tender and the corporation shall not bear the cost of preparation and submission of applications for pre-qualification. The Niger State Government is neither committed nor obliged to undertake the work described in the advertisement.

Signed
Arc. Stephen Shiru
Ag. Director of Works



IBB INTERNATIONAL GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, ABUJA

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE 12TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS WILL BE HELD IN THE CLUBHOUSE AT 1.00PM ON SATURDAY, 24TH APRIL, 2010 FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES:-

1. Reading and adoption of the Minutes of the 11th AGM held on Saturday 25th April, 2009.
2. Matters Arising.
3. Adoption of the Captain's Report for the year 2009/2010.
4. Auditor's report.
5. Adoption of the Accounts for the year 2009.
6. Adoption of the Budget for the year 2010.
7. To authorize the Board of Trustees to fix the Auditor's remuneration.
8. To consider Motions (if any).
9. Any Other Business.
10. Dissolution of the Executive Committee of 2009.
11. Election of the Executive Committee for 2010.

By order of the Executive Committee.

DR. P.J. DESHI
Hon. Secretary



NATIONAL THEATRE
Iganmu, Lagos

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION TO TENDER

The National Theatre hereby invites applications from qualified and reputable contractors for pre-qualification for the following project stated for implementation under the 2010 Capital Funding:

PACKAGES

- 1) Purchase of 1000 KVA Generating Set (1no)
- 2) Plumbing works at -250 of Theatre Complex
- 3) Rehabilitation of the Main Hall
 - Cooling System
 - House/Stage Lighting
 - Electrical Panel Works
 - Installation of Sound System
 - Replacement of Chairs & Wooden Panel/Stage
- 4) Rehabilitation of 10nos Toilets
- 5) Supply of Electrical Replacement Parts
- 6) Purchase of Projector
- 7) Purchase & installation of 5 Nos distribution (surface) pumps (50HP, 75HP & 35HP) (2 Nos. Each).

- 8) Purchase of Airconditioners for Halls
- 9) Supply and Installation of 2000 AMPS, 415V Automatic change Over-Switch.
- 10) Supply of Armoured PVC & Cables

GUIDELINES FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

For Pre-qualification, interested contractors and experts are required to supply relevant information and documentation in the following order separately for each of the 10 Packages listed above

1. Current Certificate of Incorporation from the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)
2. Evidence of Registration with National Theatre.
3. Tax Clearance Certificate for past 3years.
4. VAT Registration Certificate
5. Company Profile and evidence of specialization and relevant experience.
6. Evidence of Financial capability

NOTE:

The Pre-qualification documents are to be submitted in sealed envelopes Separately for each package (1-10).

The Package Number must be indicated on the top right hand of the envelop and addressed to:

The General Manager/CEO
National Theatre
National Theatre Complex
Iganmu, Lagos

All submission should be at the office of the General Manager/CEO, National Theatre, Iganmu Lagos not later than two(2) weeks from the date of this advertisement.

This is not an invitation to tender; full tendering will be applied to only pre-qualified contractors found capable of executing the project.

Signed

The General Manager/CEO, National Theatre
National Theatre Complex, Iganmu, Lagos



CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA

REDEMPTION OF 12.5% FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA 23RD DEVELOPMENT STOCK 2010.

THE CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA ANNOUNCES THAT THE 12.5% FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA 23RD DEVELOPMENT STOCK 2010 ISSUED ON 29TH APRIL, 1985. WILL BE REPAID IN FULL ON 29TH APRIL, 2010. ALSO THE LAST HALF YEARLY INTEREST WILL BE PAID ON THAT DATE.

STOCK HOLDERS WHO ARE YET TO RECEIVE FROM THE CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA THE 'INDIVIDUAL NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS' ARE HEREBY ADVISED TO WRITE IMMEDIATELY TO THE SENIOR MANAGER, REGISTRY AND DEPOSITORY OFFICE, CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA, TINUBU SQUARE, PRIVATE MAIL BAG 12194, LAGOS.

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USMANU DANFODIYO UNIVERSITY, SOKOTO
(Office of the Registrar)

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION TO TENDER FOR 2010 CAPITAL APPROPRIATED PROJECTS

INTRODUCTION

The Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto hereby invites reputable and interested contractors who wish to bid for the underlisted projects in the University, to submit their pre-qualification documents for assessment.

S/No	Project Description	Tender Processing Fees
1.	Construction of Laboratory Building for the College of Health Sciences at UDUTH	N100,000.00
2.	Completion of Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Phase I	N50,000.00
3.	Completion of School of Medical Laboratory Science – Phase II	N50,000.00
4.	Furnishing of College of Health Sciences Complex – Phase I	N20,000.00
5.	Rehabilitation Projects:	
	(i) rehabilitation of Students Hostels	N5,000.00
	(ii) rehabilitation of Classrooms/Lecture Halls	N5,000.00
	(iii) replacement of Overhead Tank at City Campus	N5,000.00
	(iv) construction of Footpath to Students Hostels, Main Campus	N5,000.00
6.	Supply and Installation of Teaching & Research Equipment	N20,000 per lot

2. SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Interested companies should submit their detailed pre-qualification documents for assessment which should include:

- (i) evidence of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC);
- (ii) evidence of registration as a contractor with the University;
- (iii) evidence of Tax clearance certificate for the last three years;
- (iv) the company's profile with names of key personnel to be involved in the project, stating their technical qualifications including registration with professional bodies and experience;
- (v) Verifiable list of similar and other jobs successfully executed with their locations, contract value, evidence of award and timely completion;
- (vi) names and address(es) of Banker (s) including a letter of recommendation from the bank indicating financial capability of the company to undertake the project; and
- (vii) List of equipment and machineries at the disposal of the company.

3. OPENING OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Pre-qualification documents will be opened **two weeks** from the date of this advertisement. All companies that submit their pre-qualification documents are therefore invited to attend the opening of the documents at 12.30pm on that date.

NOTE: Only pre-qualified companies will be invited to collect the tender documents after payment of the prescribed tender processing fees.

Signed
U. U. Bunza
Registrar & Secretary to Council



USMANU DANFODIYO UNIVERSITY, SOKOTO
(Office of the Registrar & Secretary to Council)

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONSULTANTS FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES IN THE UNIVERSITY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto intends to execute some capital projects under its 2010 capital projects and hereby invites interested and competent consultants to submit details of their pre-qualification documents for assessment. The Companies should have the capability of providing the following services:

Architectural/Structural/Electrical/Mechanical Engineering and Quantity Surveying Services

Detailed pre-qualification documents should be addressed to:

The Secretary,
Tenders Board,
Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto

2.0 SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Interested companies should submit detailed pre-qualification documents for assessment, which should include;

- (i) Evidence of incorporation/registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission;
- (ii) Evidence of registration of Firms/Principal Partners with relevant Professional bodies.
- (iii) List of Key professional technical and administrative staff;
- (iv) Evidence of projects executed in the last five years;
- (v) Evidence of use of latest technologies in carrying their services (e.g Computer Aided design);
- (vi) Evidence of financial capability (e.g Audit Report for the last three years) and reference letter from their bankers.

3.0 OPENING OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS.

Pre-qualification documents will be opened, two weeks from the date of this advertisement. All companies that submit their pre-qualification documents are therefore invited to attend the opening of the pre-qualification documents.

Signed
U.U. Bunza,
Registrar & Secretary to Council



USMANU DANFODIYO UNIVERSITY, SOKOTO
(Office of the Registrar)

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION TO TENDER

1. INTRODUCTION

The Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto intends to execute the construction of office blocks approved for the University by the ETF under its 2009 Intervention Fund to the University. Interested and competent companies who wish to participate in the execution of the project are hereby invited to submit their pre-qualification documents for assessment.

2. BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS OF THE PROJECT

The scope of the project shall involve the construction of two office blocks each consisting of 30 offices, a board room and ancillary facilities. The structures are two-storey buildings of reinforced concrete frames with sandcrete infill blocks, with finishings.

3. REQUIREMENTS

Interested companies should submit the following information in their pre-qualification documents:

- (i) Evidence of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC);
- (ii) Evidence of registration as a contractor with the University;
- (iii) Evidence of Tax and VAT clearance certificate for the last three years;
- (iv) The company's profile with names of key personnel to be involved in the project, stating their technical qualifications including registration with professional bodies and experience;
- (v) Verifiable list of similar and other jobs successfully executed with their locations, contract value, evidence of award and timely completion;
- (vi) Names and address of Banker (s) including a letter of recommendation from the bank indicating financial capability of the company to undertake the project;
- (vii) List of equipment and machineries at the disposal of the company;

4. SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

All documents are to be signed and submitted in a signed and sealed envelope marked "Pre-Qualification for the Construction of Office Blocks". Submissions are to be addressed to the office of the Secretary to Tenders Board, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, P.M.B. 2346, Sokoto, not later than 12. noon, two weeks from the date of this publication.

Note: Only pre-qualified companies will be invited to collect the tender documents after payment of the prescribed tender processing fees.

Signed
U.U. Bunza
Registrar & Secretary to Council

BUSINESS

0805 1000 536



Director-General and Chief Executive Officer of The Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE), Prof. Ndi Okereke-Onyiluke, at the formal pulling out ceremony of the former Assistant Director-General of the Exchange Mr. Musa Okakama on Wednesday.

Kaduna refinery running at a loss

From Ibrahim Musa, Kaduna & Hamisu Muhammad

THE Kaduna Refining and Petrochemicals Company that resumed operation last month after the Turn Around Maintenance is operating at a loss with a daily production capacity of 1.5 million litres of petrol, the Group Executive Director, Refining and Petrochemical, Austine Oniwon has disclosed. Speaking on Wednesday at the unveiling of the transformation agenda of the NNPC at the KPRC, Oniwon said for every one litre of crude oil that is processed in the refinery, the corporation is losing N21.28 k. Currently, the price per litre at petrol station is N65 per litre.

In essence the refinery is producing Premium Motor Sprit (PMS) at a higher cost than what is obtained in the market. "Every litre of crude oil we process today suffers a loss that is why we cannot scale at 60 capacities. 60 per cent capacity will not help NNPC out from the Negative 320 billion that we are in. Therefore we have to tighten our belt more. And let us move very fast".

Ndukwe retires, hands over to Stephen Bello

By Yunus Abdulhamid

ENGR. Ernest Ndukwe finally retired from public service yesterday after concluding his 10th year and second term in office as the Executive Vice Chairman of the Nigeria Communications Commission (NCC).

Daily Trust learnt that he handed over yesterday to Engr. Stephen Adedayo Bello, the senior of the two Executive Commissioners at the commission on the order of Acting President Goodluck Jonathan.

A memo from Ndukwe to all staff of NCC dated March 31, 2010 which was obtained by *Daily Trust* reads in part: "It is with pleasure that I announce the successful end of my tenure as the Executive Vice Chairman of the Nigeria Communications Commission effective from 3rd April 2010.

"The Acting President, Dr Goodluck Jonathan, has approved Engr. Stephen Bello, the Executive Commissioner, Stakeholder Management to act as the Executive Vice Chairman, pending the

appointment of a substantive Executive Vice Chairman and Chief Executive."

However, indication emerged yesterday that Engr. Bello may have clocked 60 years and going by the new Public Service rule was supposed to retire.

Bello was appointed a Deputy Director/Director in NCC in 2000 as a career staff and rose to Executive Commissioner, Stakeholder management.

Daily Trust check revealed that Engr. Bello was 60 years last August and as a career staff of the NCC should have retired before now.

Spokesman of the NCC, Mr Rueben Mouska said it was mischievous for anyone to say Engr. Stephen was not qualified on the basis of age. He said: "Engr. Stephen stopped being a career staff of NCC since 2005 when he was appointed as Executive Commissioner. The position is a five year tenured office and he could even be reappointed."

A graduate of Electrical/Electronic Engineering from the University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University) in 1975, He

joined GTE (Nigeria) Limited in June 1980 as Senior Project/Sales Engineer and moved to the Department of Electrical Engineering of the University of Ilorin in June 1987 as Principal Technologist, rising to the position of Chief Technologist in 1995.

Engr. Ndukwe has been in charge of the NCC since year 2000. He was re-appointed for a second term in office in April 2005 by the federal government having completed a first tenure of five years.

Nigeria telecoms sector witnessed remarkable growth during his 10 years stewardship and has moved up from the bottom of the ladder to the top 10 fastest growing mobile subscriber-base countries in the world.

By last month, the nation's subscriber base had grown to 73 million connected lines from about 400, 000 in December, 2000.

Also retiring with Ndukwe is the NCC Chairman, Alhaji Ahmed Joda and Chief Patrick Kentebe.

Stock Market Index

Date: Thursday, April 1, 2010

Index: 25,966.25

Deals: 10,252

Volume: 408,781,638

Value: N 2,754,413,169.09

Cap.: N 6,280,598,749,995.20

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 —————> \$80 a barrel

Power Supply —————> 2, 500MW

Oil output per day —————> 2.5mbd

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

31/3/2010

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

BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES

BUYING

DOLLAR.....	N150
EURO.....	N204
POUNDS.....	N230

SELLING

DOLLAR.....	N151
EURO.....	N206
POUNDS.....	N232

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

Business/ICT

Nigeria: Taking ICT to rural folks

By Yunus Abdulhamid

ALL over the world, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is fast dictating the pace of development. From communication to banking, education to defence, oil and gas as well as health and agriculture, electronic technology has become the norm.

In Nigeria, access to ICTs remains low in spite of liberalisation of the sector ten years ago.

In many part of Africa where the rural population constitutes 70 percent of the entire population, people don't have interest in investing in businesses there not to mention in terms of ICT, Chief Executive Officer of the Common Wealth Telecommunications (CTO), Mr Ekwow Spio-Garbra said.

The CTO where Nigeria is a member also estimate that only 10 percent (10 million) of Nigeria's 140 million population have access to the internet. In this scenario, the rural dwellers that constitute the bulk of the people are either totally cut off or under served in terms of ICT.

The Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF), a federal government agency affiliated to the National Communications Commission (NCC) says it is determined to provide ICT access for all especially the agrarian rural dwellers.

The Universal Service Fund is a global phenomenon with over 50 countries as signatory to an International Telecommunications Union (ITU) agreement to set aside funds to provide access to technology to the citizenry of their country. USPF is the Nigerian organ with that responsibility. It is funded by the government and a percentage of the in country telecoms operators revenue contribution.

The USPF has a five-year strategic



USPF intends to take ICT to the unserved population

plan 2007 – 2011 which consists of five broad goals to promote the widespread availability and usage of network and applications services throughout Nigeria.

Between 2007 till date under the School Access Programme (SAP), 438 secondary schools benefitted 100 units of classmate computers each along with two units of printers, one 5KVA generator and wireless internet connectivity, the USPF said. Additional 327 schools were proposed for 2009 but it was not clear if they have been delivered.

Over 70 public owned tertiary institutions have also benefitted from the project.

It has over the years also provided subsidy for GSM operators to build shared infrastructures in un-served communities across the country. In such areas, network operators do not consider investing in them because of low profitability from the poor.

Two workshops have been held this year; the first in Ibadan, Oyo state and the second took place in Yola Adamawa state. At the Ibadan forum, a collective commitment of stakeholders and the USPF was made that 10 million people would be trained in ICT by the USPF. This would be done using the train-the-trainers technique.

USPF Director/Secretary, Mr Funsho Fayomi said in Ibadan that the forums were "bottom up" approach to establish the ICT needs of the locals in the regions. Tailor made projects would then be fashioned to address them as it relate to their environment. The consultative meeting was attended by community and opinion leaders, union and cooperative leaders in the South West geopolitical zone.

A replica of the consultative forum was also held in Yola for the North East geopolitical zone. Same would be repeated in other four regions, USPF said.

Head of the information Technology unit of the USPF, Engr. Bako Wakil said the agency has embarked on ICT intervention across the country since 2007.

Challenges however stare the organisation in the face. The greatest challenges of achieving the goal of ICT for all in Nigeria bother on security, bandwidth, training, management, and power. The USPF said it is working on a partnership to deal with these issues.

Teachers in schools especially in rural areas are mostly not ICT trained. The USPF intervention only offer training to two teachers in each school to superintend the facilities. These teachers are subject to transfer to other schools rendering

the ICT equipment underutilized.

One year cost of bandwidth connectivity is paid for by the USPF along side with a 5KVA power generator. The school management is hardly able to afford the fuel and bandwidth cost for sustainability.

Participants from Taraba state had disputed USPF claims that ICT centers have been established across all states. They said they had never seen on in their state. *Daily Trust* however learnt that much of the projects in the North-East were not concluded on schedule due to the failure of contractors. The contracts were later revoked by the USPF board. They are to be implemented soon, *Daily Trust* learnt.

"Protection of the ICT infrastructure already deployed across the country. We have cases where the infrastructure installed in schools have been either stolen or vandalized or carelessly handled and destroyed," Fayomi had said.

Daily Trust findings show that a secondary school in Edo state had 100 computers stolen within months of installation. The school's name is Iheivbe Secondary School, Iheivbe located in Owan East Local government of the state.

Months later, a letter from the school's principal came to the USPF, intimating the management that all 100 class mate laptop computers have been stolen including a five KVA power generator and a broadband wireless internet connectivity facility.

Daily Trust also learnt that a senator requested the USPF to extend the ICT project to a particular school in his constituency. Few weeks later, the school's principal told the USPF he could not guarantee the safety of the equipment. Instead, he recommended another school. That put a final stop to the school benefiting.

To have sustainability, community ownership need to be incorporated into rural ICT connectivity, Mr Ekwow had advocated. It could be a 25%/75% arrangement to be able to fight off "government property is no body's property," syndrome. By so, doing the community knowing they have a stake in terms of profit returns would be given to collective care and protection of the facilities.

This was the collective resolve at both forums. Potential of African telecoms is quite recognised. The

CTO Chief Executive Mr Ekwow Spio-Garbrah believes that danger signs do not put off those who believe in the future profitability of the African ICT sector and the continents untapped markets.

Speaking on "Financing models for rural connectivity: Examples from around the world," Garbrah said critical investments in African infrastructure has been led by the private Sector and this is projected to hit \$50 billion from GSM Operators by 2012.

International Community backing includes EU Trust Fund for Africa - €100 million in grants plus €260 million for loans for 2007 – 2008.

World Bank - Doubling Commitment to African ICT to billion by 2012, African Development Bank - increase its financing of infrastructure by 60% over the next three years.

A total of \$308.6 million has been spent by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) in Commonwealth Africa for investment in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector development in the last five years.

The expenditure was through its Global ICTs Department (GICT) on the continent, which has benefited countries including Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroon, among others.

Nigeria led the pack with \$135m through MTN Nigeria, followed by Ghana via Areba with \$40m and Cameroon's Orange network receiving \$13.6m, while multi-national beneficiaries came through Celtel, now Zain, between 1994 and 2008.

According to 2003 statistics by the ITU, a total of 972 people used the internet per 1,000 globally. Internet is only an aspect of ICT. Africa recorded the least of all - 100 whereas North America recorded the highest - 5,322. Developed countries put together averaged 3,330 per 1000.

This clearly shows that Africa has a lot of working to do in terms of ICT penetration of the populace to be able to catch up with the rest of the world.

If properly harnessed, the creativity and entrepreneurship of Nigerians could be used to make ICTs an engine for economic and social development.

There are immense opportunities derivable from e-education, e-health, e-commerce, e-security, e-government e-socials etcetera.



CTO Programme Director Bashir Patel and USPF Director/Secretary, Mr Funsho Fayomi at the Ibadan stakeholders' forum

Business/Banking

Banks start dismantling ATM machines from public places

From Kayode Ekundayo and Chris Agabi, Lagos

MOST of the banks in Nigeria have started removing their Automatic Teller Machines (ATM) from public places in compliance with Central Bank of Nigeria

(CBN) directive.

The CBN had directed all banks to remove their ATMs from public places or hand them over to private operators to manage on or before March 31st 2010.

It could be recalled that

UBA and Guarantee Trust Bank had handed about 80 percent of their ATMs to a private operator some months back.

The directive was in response to high cases of ATM fraud from ATM machines located outside the banks premises.

Following the expiration of the deadline yesterday, some banks had begun removing their ATM machines in public places.

Among the ones spotted by our correspondents include Skye Bank Plc and Intercontinental Bank Plc.

Some banks still operate off-site ATMs in Lagos

SOME banks in Lagos are still operating their off-site Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) after the expiration of central bank's deadline that banks close all such machines.

The CBN had directed banks to stop operating ATMs outside their premises and gave them up till March 31, 2010 to close such machines.

The apex bank directed that banks should limit the facilities to their premises and allow other agencies to offer the service outside banks' premises.

A survey by the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) showed that some banks are still operating their off-site machines 24 hours after the expiration of the deadline.

A correspondent of NAN reports that the Skye Bank ATM at the National Theatre complex was still functioning on Thursday.

Customers were seen waiting patiently at another ATM at the National Theatre while the machine was being loaded.

Sources told NAN that the Skye Bank ATM at the premises of Tazee fast food on the Marina was dispensing cash on Thursday before the machine went out of service around 1.00 p.m.

The ATM operated by Spring Bank at the City Mall at Onikan was, however, out of service while another at the same location but without any identification was also not operational.

Some banks have, however, said that they had complied with the CBN directive and had handed their machines to Interswitch, which they said, would provide the ATM services in public places.

Mr. Moshood Isamotu, Head of Corporate Affairs at Afribank, confirmed that the bank had fully complied with the directive and had handed seven machines to Interswitch.

He said that the bank did not have many off-site machines, a reason for the low number of machines released to Interswitch.

"There are no complications because customers can still collect money at the same locations

"The only difference is that it is now Interswitch that will be solely responsible for the management of these ATMs.

"The new system will reduce the cost of management formally borne by the banks in charge," he said.

Sources at the Corporate Affairs Department of United Bank for Africa (UBA) said that the bank had handed over 700 machines nationwide to Interswitch.

Mr Francis Barde, Head of Corporate Affairs at Union Bank, also confirmed that the bank had stopped operating 250 of such machines but said that the cost of moving these machines would be high.

Some bank customers have condemned the CBN directive and called for more public enlightenment on it.



Nigerians groan under ATM fraud

By Idris Ahmed

MORE Nigerians are losing money every day to fraud perpetuated through the Automated Teller Machine (ATM).

"I was duped N200,000 through the ATM last month and when I reported to the bank, they told me to write them and up till now I am still waiting for their response", Chidi Nwogu said.

According to him, he went to an ATM machine to withdraw some money and his ATM card got trapped and by the time it came out his account was debited even though no money came out of the machine.

Chidi is not alone. Aishat Isah is a house wife residing in Zuba, an outskirt of Abuja and she is yet to reclaim the money she lost through the ATM last week.

She lost N15, 000 through ATM fraud and when she complained to the bank, she was told that someone else who had access to her PIN number used the card to withdraw the money. "And it is only me that know my PIN number", the frustrated housewife

said. A bank who did not want his name in print said the banks is worried about the ATM mal-performance and that they working towards resolving it.

Another bank customer said he discovered that N400, 000 was missing from his account and it was traced to the ATM machine.

A female customer also said she discovered that N100, 000 was missing from her account early last month.

Complaints about ATM fraud related cases have become a normal occurrence in the banking sector and every device so far used by the relevant authorities to curtail the practice are yet to work properly.

ATM is relatively new in Nigeria. It was introduced about two years ago by the Central Bank of Nigeria to ease payment. It was believed that the introduction of it will safe people the headache of carrying huge sum of monies about which are in some cases lost to armed robbers.

Since its introduction, series of complaints have trailed the system.

A consortium of ATM providers was supposed to provide the machines but banks went into the provision of the machine themselves, a situation which CBN is trying to control by asking banks to stop providing of ATM service.

A banker who preferred anonymity said Nigerians have carried the ATM fraud beyond the shore of the country.

Efforts by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to correct the system have not yielded the desired result.

Individual bank's efforts to solve the growing complaints by the customers and the general public on ATM transactions within a reasonable time frame have become ineffective.

CBN asked banks to respond to all complaints on card transactions within 72 hours of receipt of the complaints in order to sustain public confidence in the Nigerian Payment System. This is still lacking.

CBN has also directed all banks to set up help desks for handling ATM and other card-related complaints and the banks were

asked to publish names, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of the help desk staff to be contacted when the need arises. This is also not very effective.

The CBN has equally set up a help desk for receiving public complaints on electronic card transactions with a view to fast tracking resolutions by the affected banks, and the customers are encouraged to make use of these channels in resolving complaints on electronic card transactions.

Despite these measures, complaint on ATM fraud continues to mount and this complains cut across all the 24 banks in the country.

An expert on the ATM provider said part of the reasons responsible for the faults encountered in the use of ATM is due to the way Nigerians mutilate currency notes, and the issue of power failure.

"ATM is not designed for areas that have epileptic power supply and there is no where you have stable power supply in Nigeria", he expert said.

Business/Aviation

Airlines want FG to probe car incident at airport

From Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

FOLLOWING the shock created by a car which almost hit the engine of a Boeing 737 operated by Arik Airline on the tarmac of the Margaret Ekpo Airport Calabar on Wednesday, Airline Operators of Nigeria (AON) has called on the Federal Government to carry out a thorough investigation into the matter to forestall such incidents in the future.

The Secretary General of AON, Alhaji Muhammad Tukur, while speaking with aviation journalists at the presidential lounge of the Murtala Muhammad Airport, Ikeja Lagos after a meeting with the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) over issue, described the incident as a great breach of aviation security.

According to him, AON is taken the matter with all seriousness because the body cannot allow such to continue.

He called on the Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) and other security operatives attached to the airport to ensure adequate security at the country's airports to protect peoples' investment.

He explained that the body is addressing the issue professionally and has written to the National Security Adviser, Alhaji Alliyu Gusau, to commence serious investigation of the case, cautioning that the issue must not be treated with kid gloves.

He said: "Attack on Arik Air is an attack on all of us and FAAN should provide more security at the nation's airports. Attempt by some people to threaten business and investment at GAT also calls for investigation.

Tukur stated further that such lapses in the aviation security can take the country's aviation sector backward because the matter is a major breach of security.

Angolan airline to renew fleet after EU eases ban

ANGOLAN state-run airline Taag said on Thursday it was ready to renew its fleet after the European Union (EU) eased a safety ban on flying into the 27-nation bloc.

Taag spokesman Rui Carreira said the government was still studying the fleet renewal and would soon provide more details into the matter. He added that Taag was also looking to increase its routes but did not elaborate.

The European Union eased a ban on Taag -- imposed in 2007 due to safety concerns -- earlier this week, saying the airline had improved and could bring specific aircraft into the whole of the EU under strict conditions. (Reuters/NAN).



THE car that crashed into an aircraft at the Calabar airport on Wednesday

Airline to buy 105 new Boeing planes

AUSTRALIAN airline Virgin Blue says it will buy up to 105 new aircraft from manufacturer Boeing in its biggest single order.

The deal signals that the Australian market is recovering, with delivery scheduled from June 2011 to 2017.

The airline would not reveal the price, although its chief

executive, Brett Godfrey said that it was "attractive".

"Virgin Blue was fortunate to take advantage of the downturn in the market," he said.

The price achieved was lower than 2001 levels and the group expects to finalise the fund arrangements for the aircraft shortly, according to Mr Godfrey.

Virgin Blue is Australia's second largest airline, behind Qantas.

The deal includes 50 Boeing 737-800NG aircraft, with 25 additional firm delivery positions secured as options and 30 future purchase rights.

A significant number of the aircraft is to replace its exist-

ing fleet, while the remainder is intended for new routes and to boost frequency if needed.

"Securing this agreement now places Virgin Blue in a strong position to prepare for steady future growth as domestic and short-haul markets recover," says Mr Godfrey.

BBC.

Borno earmarks N200m for airline, to open cargo station

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

THE Borno state government will this year spend two hundred million naira for a commercial airline; a breakdown of the state's 2010 budget has shown.

A booklet with 'explanatory details' of the state's 2010 budget, produced by the budget office in the state's ministry of finance which was obtained by our correspondent yesterday showed that the amount was budgeted under sub-head 10832 for

capital expenditures in the transport sector.

The outfit is tagged "Borno state Airline" as reflected in the budget document. It was not clear if more moneys will be spent in future. Governor Ali Modu Sheriff had during a courtesy call after his second coming in 2007 declared that the state was going into the aviation sector as part of measures to expand avenues for internal revenue to accrue to the state.

Also in the budget booklet, the

state has also budgeted another seventy million naira for the establishment of container freight station in Maiduguri.

The state has earmarked one hundred million naira for the registration and establishment of a stock brokerage firm and purchase of shares for the state under the Borno Investment Company Limited under sub-head 10723. Part of the money is also to be used for the re-capitalization of the Investment

Company and construction of its head office in the state.

The 2010 budget breakdown also showed that five hundred million naira has been set aside for small scale industries credit scheme while sixty million naira has been earmarked for export production villages in the state.

All the expenditures were captured under commerce, finance, cooperatives and tourism according to the budget booklet.

Sudan Airways resumes operations in Kano

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

AFTER two years of absence in the country, Sudan Airways Wednesday resumed operation from Malam Aminu Kano International Airport in Kano State, with a promise for improved service delivery.

Speaking during the launching of the operation in Kano, the General Manager of Sudan Airways,

Mr Al Obaid Fadl AlMoula, said the airways resumed operation because of the diplomatic relations existing between Nigeria and Sudan.

He said the airways bowed out of the country sequel to some diplomatic frictions between the two countries, noting that the two countries have now settled their differences, and so the airline would start operation.

While thanking Nigerian authorities and Skye Bank for their continued support, the manager revealed that the airways would render services to passengers at affordable rates.

According to him, they have provided 265-seater Airbus 300-600 that would be taking passengers to their various destinations. "Kano passengers will now travel

to Jeddah, Khartoum, Dubai, Far East, among other destinations at affordable rates," AlMoula.

In his remark, the Business Development Manager of Skye Bank, Badru Muntaka Ahmed, said Skye Bank had been the partner of the airways and would continue to give support to their operations in the country.

Star Feature

Storm over arming the NSCDC

Mixed reactions have begun to trail the recent government policy aimed at arming the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps, NSCDC. While some comments exude indifference, others are uncomplimentary, even as the corps management says they remain unmoved by public outbursts.

corps that they would soon be allowed to carry weapons like other security agencies. To give credence to the information, a member of the House of Representatives Committee on Interior, Austin Nwachukwu, had earlier while addressing a group of reporters and the NSCDC, stated that the issue of arms for the NSCDC was already captured in the 2010 Budget and weapons would soon be made available to the corps. "In the 2010 Budget, arms for the agency was captured and is already provided for, and you will soon have it", he said, noting that other demands of organization were being considered and would be adequately addressed.

NSCDC, a para-military agency of the Federal Government was established to provide measures against threat and any form of attack or disaster on the nation and its citizenry. It is statutorily empowered by Act No. 2 of 2003 and amended by Act 6 of June, 2007. It received a lot of attention during the Olusegun Obasanjo administration when the administration strove to make it live up to par with other security organizations in the nation. Historically, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps was first introduced in May 1967 during the Nigerian Civil War within the then Federal Capital Territory of Lagos, for the purpose of sensitization and protection of the civil populace. It was then known as "Lagos Civil Defence Committee". It later metamorphosed into the present day Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps in 1970. On inception, the Corps had the objective of carrying out some educational and enlightenment campaigns in and around the Federal

Capital of Lagos to sensitize members of the civil populace on enemy attacks, and how to save themselves from danger, as most Nigerians living in and around Lagos territory then, had little or no knowledge about war and its implications. Members of the Committee deemed it important to educate through electronic and print media on how to guide themselves during air raids; bomb attacks and how to identify bombs; and dive into trenches during a bomb blast. In 1984, the Corps was transformed into a National security outfit and in 1988, there was a major re-structuring of the Corps that led to the establishment of Commands throughout the Federation, including Abuja, and the addition of special functions by the Federal Government. On 28th June 2003, an Act to give statutory backing to the NSCDC passed by the National Assembly was signed into law by Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, albeit controversially. The enactment of Civil Defence Act 2003 automatically changed the status of the Corps in the International Civil Defence Organization, ICDO from the previous observer status to full membership status. The Federal Government also in appreciation of the efforts of the corps and recognition of



'MANY prefer to fall into the hands of the police at times, rather than the NSCDC.'

By Tosin Omoniye

THE expression on his face was that of a mixture of half repressed anger and irritability. It was certainly not a pleasant one. As he spoke, sparks of ire appear to fly from his youthful eyes. Idowu Dasilva, a senior officer in the Anti Vandals department of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps, NSCDC is a man of few words. He explodes: 'why is it that most of us Nigerians do not bother to delve deep into an issue before we make decisions concerning such matters. We get too emotional over things that we do not have any iota of knowledge about. To compound matters many others simply queue up behind popular public opinion, without making independent observations which would enable them express enlightened opinions. It is

very unfortunate. Just a few weeks ago we escaped death by the whiskers when we came across two different groups of armed bandits in one of our operations. We had no weapons with us. But miraculously when they saw us, they abandoned their vehicles and ran into the bush, obviously thinking we were armed. Many of our officers in other operations have not been that lucky. Though we have not lost any on the field, many have been seriously injured during such operations, where they have to face fully armed criminals. If God has not been on our side, we would be having tales of sorrow to tell today, going by the various dangers we face out there on the field, and which most critics have no knowledge of...'

The security officer was reacting to assertions made that a sizeable section of the Nigerian public was not very comfortable with the recent procla-

mation by the authorities that the NSCDC would henceforth be allowed to carry arms and ammunition, in the discharge of their duties. The battle for the arming of the defense corps many would recall has been on for several years, with many in government and the citizenry expressing diverse opinions over the desirability of allowing the agency to be armed just like their sister organizations. During the World Civil Defense Day which held on the 3rd of February, the erstwhile minister of the interior, Alhaji Shettima Mustapha, through a representative, had stated that the government was desirous of the corps carrying out its duties effectively and fluidly, and would ensure that anything capable of derailing their activities was removed, including the issue of their need to adequately arm themselves during operations.

He had tacitly informed the members of the

ing



In the eye of the storm: Headquarters of NSCDC in Abuja.

The roles of the International body considered subscribing for membership of the ICDO in Geneva Switzerland for the year 2005 and became the 66th member state in the world. The promulgation of the Act known as NSCDC Act no. 2 of 2003 makes the Corps a fully fledged para-military outfit of the government under the then Federal Ministry of internal affairs, now known as Ministry of interior.

The battle to allow the corps carry weapons has been on for quite a while and while some Nigerians express indifference over the issue of allowing this, not a few express stiff opposition to the notion and are calling for the government to stop the process forthwith, citing inherent dangers in the proposition.

Chris Ogbunike, a legal practitioner based in Abuja, is one of such people who feel the time is not ripe for allowing the corps carry arms and ammunition. According to him, the temperament of most members of the organization tends to be violence prone, and allowing them at this stage to carry weapons may portend immense dangers for members of the public. 'Have you ever seen the way suspects are handled by corps members at times?' he queries. He adds: 'many prefer to fall into the hands of the police at times, rather than the NSCDC. The corps members are prone to violence at times when they seek to effect the arrests of suspects or criminals. It is a common sight to see them violently dragging their victims on the ground, at times into waiting vehicles. I have seen them on a couple of times battering such suspects, especially the stubborn ones. I am not saying they are all like that but a substantial portion of them are really not trained in handling difficult suspects and so they equally react violently to threat instead of doing so professionally. Arming them now may not be the right decisions by the authorities.'

For another respondent, Ismael Adedayo, arming the corps is a potential landmine that ought to be handled with most care. He advises that those who took the decision, ought to have looked critically at the merits and demerits before going public with the decision. He however concedes the fact that the members face dangers on a daily basis,

an issue that ought not to be treated with levity. He notes 'they face dangers daily in their duties, and this is a known fact, but are they really mature enough to carry weapons? We all know the recruitment process into the corps and how it is done. Many of us have gone for such employment processes and seen the caliber of people that come forward for recruitment. Most are really people that are looking for opportunities to have any means of livelihood whatsoever, and have no previous experience in security matters. These, I believe, are still the same set of people that the authorities are aiming at arming. I think things have to be put in place first, before they are given weapons. You do not put the cart before the horse in sensitive security matters that affect the safety and preservation of the lives of members of the public. Adequate training is key and I do not feel that this has been put in place yet.'

An ex service man, Musa Dangwari who now plies the Port Harcourt-Abuja route as a tanker driver, says that if the corps members are to be given arms, there is really no problem with that. But he believes that only the senior members of the corps should be armed, and of course only after rigorous training. To him the arming of the police on its own is already a crisis with the increasing rates of accidental and intentional discharge by the police, which has claimed numerous lives. Arming all the corps may portend grave danger for the public. 'If they are thinking of giving arms to the senior and trained personnel, then that is not a problem. But to arm all of them is suicidal! We know the daily battles we face with the police, when we transport petrol from one part of the country to another. Most of them are ill trained and are trigger happy. But their actions are still a little bit controlled. But I do not think arming fully the corps is 100 percent okay now, as the authorities have not yet put in place measures to check the incessant shooting of innocent members of the public by trigger happy security operatives,' he opines. Garba Deen, a columnist, says he is unapologetic over his vehement opposition to the issue of arming of the corps. He concludes that there are too many weapons in circulation already, many illegally. To him, the corps should not be armed. He gives reasons: 'Nigerians already have more than enough problems with an armed police force, as it is. Poor salary, poor welfare packages have combined to make the Nigerian policeman a foe rather than a

friend, in the perception of many Nigerians. A very high percentage of the weaponry used by armed robbers has been confirmed by many arrested robbers themselves to have come from their contacts in the police force, and to a lesser extent from military sources. Some police sources also say that officers of the customs service also provide another fertile source of weaponry for armed robbers, Niger Delta militants and other criminals.' He concludes inter alia that: 'the cumulative effect of this is that there are already too many weapons in the wrong hands in circulation in Nigerian. In a volatile situation like this, the last thing we need is the release of additional weapons into the society, through an ill-trained, inexperienced and green organization like the NSCDC. At the very least, this is likely to double the chances of being shot for every Nigerian.'

I sa Kawu, a top security operative of the OYI Securities Ltd, Jabi, Abuja however says that the hue and cry generated by the contentious issue is not needed, going by the dangers the corps members face in the discharge of their duties. 'They sincerely need to be protected. They carry out a dangerous job and their lives are constantly in danger, when they go for operations. We need to empathize with them rather than vilify them. What we should be concerned about is not whether they need these weapons or not, but how they can use it effectively in the course of their work and in discharging their constitutional duties of protecting lives of the citizenry, and safeguarding national properties. We know the issue of training is key, but I want to believe that those that clamoured for the legislations and ensured its success, have equally put into perspective the need to train the officers and men of the corps. Really there is no need for all the emotional outbursts being exchanged in the public domain right now over the issue,' he enthuses.

The Head, Public Relations Unit, of the NSCDC, national headquarters, Okeh Emmanuel(CSC) however says lack of adequate knowledge of the internal workings of national security, may account for the stiff opposition the issue is generating.

'What people do not understand is that it is not the NSCDC management that has been at the forefront of the campaign for its men to be armed. It is the same members of the public and concerned government officials who understand the ordeals we face in the course of our duties, that have been asking the national assembly to enact the enabling law that would serve as a legal basis for us to use arms. It is only unfortunate that the public that should express support for us are the ones actively maligning us today, and this is the same public that we daily sacrifice our lives for. It is sad,' he notes.

He adds: 'just now as you came in I received a report that our men have been attacked in two different parts of the country as we speak, Ikorodu and Shagamu. They were opened fire upon them, and some of them were attacked with other dangerous weapons. Many of them are lying critically injured now. That is what we experience on a daily basis. Oil bunkerers and their allies in security agencies are not relenting in their war on people like us, who try to stop their illegal trade. How long will we continue to suffer such attacks when we are unable to defend ourselves during operations? I can comfortably say that a great percentage of those that are against us using weapons, do not have family members amongst the corps, who are exposed to the dangers and ordeal we face during operations.'

He quickly makes attempt to put the minds of worried members of the public at rest: 'the issue of training is paramount here at the NSCDC and it is a constant process. We train and retrain our men on a constant basis. Many go for foreign sponsored courses on arms use and public interaction. I can assure you that the management would not put a gun in the hands of those that are not trained specifically to handle it. For those who get such weapons, they have to account for every single bullet they get or use in the course of operations. Also it is a known fact in every security outfit that not every agent is allowed to carry guns, only specialized units who go constantly for operations. This is the same with us. You cannot expect to see every one of our agents carrying guns around in the midst of the public. It is only those assigned and trained adequately to do so that will be allowed to use the weapons and only during operations. No member of the public has anything to fear in the hands of the personnel, as many of them are trained in civil relations, and more training and in house sensitization programs, are still going on. The weapons are only to help them stand on equal footing with men of the underworld, many of which have in their possession more sophisticated weaponry than we can ever hope to get...'

Business/Finance

Intercontinental outsources 3,400 staff

From kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

INTERCONTINENTAL Bank has announced the outsourcing of 3,400 staff to support staff cadre as part of the repositioning exercise embarked upon by the Bank. The outsourcing exercise is one of the key elements of the bank's project Transformation initiative.

According to a statement from the Bank, the exercise was finally carried out after due

consultation with the National Union of Banks, Insurance and Financial Institutions Employees (NUBIFIE) and the local chapter of NUBIFIE where the terms of outsourcing were agreed upon.

The exercise, the bank said, was done based on clearly defined criteria agreed by the Union and the Bank, and would see the affected staff enjoying the same remuneration and allowances they were enjoying while in direct employ of the bank.

This, it is said was in addition to free medical care under the existing Health Insurance Scheme (HIS).

All affected staff received immediate severance package as well as immediate employment through the outsourcing agency.

It will be recalled that the Bank last year launched a three-phased "Project Transformation" strategy aimed at stabilising, rebuilding and consolidating the bank for greater efficiency and profitability.

CITN tells Nigerians to resist new taxes

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

NIGERIANS should resist illegal charges and inappropriate taxes by government authorities, the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria (CITN) has said.

The Institute's president Prince Kunle Quadri who was briefing journalists in Lagos on their 12th annual tax conference also noted

that most of the charges introduced by government authorities are levies or extortions and not necessarily taxations.

He urged Nigerians to resist all forms of extortions, demand service for levies paid to government authorities and pay only taxes approved by law.

"I don't believe the taxes are too high because taxes are based

on income. However, you need to distinguish between taxes and levies. Most of the charges being complained of are levies. And levies are charged for accessing a facility and the money is supposed to be used to improve that facility. So those who pay for such levies should also demand service on the facilities. We should hold our leaders accountable for

CBN not happy with micro banks

By Sunday Williams

MICRO finance practitioners in Nigeria have actually shown over the last few years that they do not exist to eradicate poverty rather, they operate like mini-commercial banks pretending to be Micro Finance Banks, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has said.

CBN Director of Development Finance, Mr. Joe Alegieuno, made the remarks in Abuja at National Poverty Eradication Program (NAPEP) meeting with state Coordinators and Chief Executives of Micro Finance Banks (MFBs).

He said Micro Finance and poverty go hand-in-hand with the expectation that it will eradicate poverty but it is not the case currently in Nigeria.

He said the CBN has observed the defects in the practice of MFBs and is looking at the policy that established it in the country.

He said: "Very shortly at least before the end of the second quarter, we are going to come up with a revised policy that will actually determine whether we are going



SANUSI Lamido Sanusi, CBN Governor

to have real MFBs or continue to have mini-commercial banks as they presently constitute."

The CBN is also going to

develop a template which is going to serve as a guide on how MFBs should actually operate in the country.

ICAN membership now simplified, says President

From Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

CHARTERED Accountants would soon emerge to ensure prudence in governance, and the sustainability of professional excellence, because the entry requirements and syllabus have now been simplified, the President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), Mrs. Elizabeth Adegbite has said. She said this in Maiduguri during the institute's presidential visit to the Maiduguri-Damaturu District Council to interact with members, accountancy students and community leaders.

The visit, according to Mrs. Adegbite, who is also the Chairperson of the West African Association of Accountants, was part of routine activities to update knowledge of members and host communities about development in the profession, nationally and internationally; and to meet employers of chartered accountants to get on-the-spot assessment about their challenges.

The Registrar of the Institute, Mr. Olutoyin Adepte added that as chartered accountants, whose responsibility borders on accountability, the visit to the district would in addition to creating more chartered accountants, serve as a reminder to leaders at different levels about the need for accountable leadership that would push for positive development.

The team, which comprised members of the governing council also visited the Borno State Government House, the palace of the Shehu of Borno, the University of Maiduguri and Ramat Polytechnic.

Group warns against 'terrorist financing'

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

THE Director General, Inter-Governmental Action against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA), Dr. Abdullahi Shehu, has urged member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to step up fight against money laundering and "terrorist financing", in their respective jurisdictions because of the negative impacts on the economy and governance.

Shehu, at a one-day interactive session with media executives in Lagos observed that money laundering and terrorist financing undermine the integrity of any nation, stressing that if allowed to flourish, the criminal activities could undermine the system, rule of law, weaken the criminal justice system and eventually affect development of democracy, peace and security in such country.

Shehu however, lauded Nigeria's pioneering role in enacting relevant legislations to fight the various crimes, urging the government to put measures in place, to sustain the standard for the betterment of the sub-region.

On corruption, the GIABA boss said it is a global problem and was wrong to describe Nigeria as the bastion in the sub-region, stressing that, with the current legislations, institutions and support of the civil societies in place, corruption would soon become a thing of the past.

"Corruption is a global problem. We cannot solve it one day. What Nigeria has done is to demonstrate a way to fight it. What is required is the commitment of the government to empower the necessary agencies fighting it.

Look at Hong Kong in the 60s and 70s, the level of corruption prevalent in the country was high but because of the commitment of the political leaders, it is now one of the most economically developed and least corrupt nation in the world," he stated.

Skye Bank unveils Visa Card promo

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

SKYE Bank Plc has unveiled a Visa card promo for its existing and prospective customers alike which is expected to produce 10 winners who will have the opportunity of going to South Africa for the FIFA 2010 World Cup.

The lucky winners will also have the opportunity of going to South Africa with their spouses or partners to watch at least one match at the biggest soccer fiesta.

A statement issued by the bank said existing customers must increase their card balance by \$2000 to qualify for the draw that will produce the winners.

Similarly, prospective customers must get a Skye Visa card with an initial opening minimum balance of \$2000 maintained for a period of 60 days.

Alternatively, the statement said customers could spend up to \$5000 on their cards in lieu of maintaining a minimum of \$2000 for 60 days to qualify for the draw.

Business International

Rwanda unveils first bio-diesel bus

RWANDA'S first bio-diesel bus has begun its inaugural trip from the capital Kigali to the town of Akanyuru on the border with Burundi.

The Rwanda Biodiesel Express runs entirely on oil plants, animal fats and even used cooking oil from restaurants.

The BBC's Geoffrey Mutagoma, who attended the inauguration, says that it took three years to develop the bus. The Rwandan government hopes that bio-diesel will help reduce the country's dependence on fossil fuels.

"Using 100% bio-diesel reduces carbon monoxide emissions by 48%," says Jean Baptiste Nduwayezu, head of the Institute of Scientific and Technological Research (IRST).

But researchers estimate that 225,000 hectares of oil plants - such as avocado, moringa and jatropha - would be needed to supply the whole of Rwanda with bio-diesel. This represents about 8.5% of the country's total area and has led some to doubt whether Rwanda is big enough to make bio-diesel a viable alternative to fossil fuels.

But Rwanda's Minister of Forestry and Mines Christopher Bazivamo dismissed such fears.

"We could plant moringa trees along all the roads. That way there would be no land shortage problem," he told the BBC.



RWANDAN president Paul Kagame

Blackberry profits increase 37%

RESEARCH In Motion (RIM), the maker of Blackberry mobile phones, has reported a 37% rise in quarterly profit thanks to higher sales.

The Canadian company made a net profit of \$710m (£468m) in the three months from December to February, up from \$518m a year earlier. Its revenues for the quarter, its fiscal fourth, added 18% to \$4bn.

Despite both profits and revenues rising, they were at the lower end of market expectations.

Analysts said that RIM was having to get used to living with the big growth in rival smart phones, such as Apple's iPhone. BBC.



ETHIOPIAN electric car on display.

Ethiopia launches electric car despite power shortages

ETHIOPIA has launched an electric car, despite suffering from power shortages. It is only the second African country to do so, after South Africa.

Two versions of the Solaris Elettra will be manufactured in Addis Ababa, costing around \$12,000 and \$15,000.

The cars will be sold in Ethiopia and exported to Africa and Europe.

But some doubt if Africa, where erratic power supplies, low levels of personal wealth and poor infrastructure are common, is ready for electric cars.

Carlo Pironti, general manager of Freestyle PLC, the company producing the Solaris, told the BBC's Uduak Amimo in Addis Ababa that Ethiopia's electricity shortages were not a major obstacle to operating an electric car.

"Ethiopia in future will have lots of power supply," he said.

"In any case, the car can be recharged by generator and by solar power"

Taxes on cars in Ethiopia can be more than 100% and many Ethiopians with low incomes will struggle to afford an electric car.

To overcome this problem, Mr Pironti says his company will develop a credit system for less affluent customers.

Six Solaris Elettras will be produced every week for the next three months, rising to 30 per week when Freestyle's factory in Addis Ababa is fully operational, he says.

Mr Pironti says he wants to take the Solaris "from a green country to a green world," referring to the company's plans to export the car from Ethiopia to Africa and beyond.

But Wayne Batty, senior writer at South Africa's Topcar magazine, believes only a small percentage of Africa has the necessary infrastructure to support an electric car.

Mr Batty told the BBC's Focus on Africa programme that electric cars are fine for short trips of 40 to 50 km (25 to 31 miles), but African countries lack the recharging points for longer journeys.

Ethiopia's electric car comes after Rwanda launched its first bio-diesel bus last week.

It is currently building a huge hydro-electric dam on the Omo river and hopes to become a major exporter of energy when that is completed. BBC.

German banks to pay 'protection fund'

THE German government has approved plans to make banks pay into a fund to cover the costs of future financial bail-outs. The so-called "stability levy", which is expected to raise about 1.2bn euros (£1bn), will be closely watched by other countries considering such moves. Germany's finance minister, Wolfgang Schäuble, expects to draw up the legislation by the summer.

Critics dismissed the levy as a bid to win favour ahead of regional elections. The government in France is considering a similar levy, while in the UK, the Conservative opposition says it will introduce a fund if it wins the forthcoming general election.

Britain's Labour government imposed a one-off tax on bonuses in financial sector, but has stopped short of imposing a levy on banks. Mr Schäuble said the German fund would raise enough money to limit future risks without doing "damage to banks' ability to encourage the process of economic recovery or restructuring".

Germany's opposition parties say the fund will bring in too little money and have dismissed the plan as a political gambit ahead of an important regional election in May. France's Finance Minister, Christine Lagarde, said that the German plans "will be very useful to us" in considering French responses to the financial crisis.

"We are fundamentally in agreement on the objective - making [banks] responsible.... to prevent systemic risks," she said. BBC.



GERMAN Chancellor Angela Merkel

Business/Finance

Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Thursday, April 1, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
2ND-TIER SECURITIES				
CAPITAL OIL PLC	14	0.53	735,000	397,880.00
SECTOR Totals	14		735,000	397,880.00
AGRICULTURE				
FTN COCOA PROCES. PLC	48	1.07	5,541,237	6,022,736.10
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	16	0.70	374,260	266,781.55
OKOMU OIL PALM COY PLC	1	21.62	920	19,890.40
PRESKO PLC	16	6.50	1,057,515	6,725,840.84
SECTOR Totals	81		6,973,932	13,035,248.89
AIR SERVICES				
AIRL/SERVICES & LOG. PLC	12	2.73	315,751	869,848.23
NIG. AV. HANDLING COY PLC	138	11.03	1,789,112	19,689,392.68
SECTOR Totals	150		2,104,863	20,559,240.91
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	196	11.14	10,228,835	112,821,252.70
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	64	2.56	2,252,508	5,776,722.09
DIAMOND BANK PLC	80	9.55	5,087,236	48,546,984.32
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	53	6.90	482,211	3,317,045.87
FIRST CITY MON. BANK PLC	72	9.10	2,050,900	18,517,821.10
FIDELITY BANK PLC	240	3.49	19,029,104	63,791,495.01
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	681	16.70	9,175,370	151,034,487.87
FINBANK PLC	103	0.64	6,861,507	4,411,973.33
GTBANK PLC	449	21.60	8,400,547	181,133,859.75
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	54	11.11	1,937,661	21,433,202.10
INTERCONT. BANK PLC.	73	2.18	1,750,772	3,713,412.81
OCEANIC BANK INT. PLC	141	1.95	7,417,288	14,458,045.69
BANK PHB PLC	105	1.61	4,384,161	7,130,024.55
SKYE BANK PLC.	126	8.20	4,527,925	36,181,960.59
SPRING BANK PLC	12	1.03	190,479	196,071.49
STERLING BANK PLC	109	2.80	7,854,580	21,326,072.59
UNT. BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	293	14.80	13,629,008	199,700,222.23
UNION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	170	5.97	3,723,456	21,626,567.76
UNITYBANK PLC	13	1.00	263,942	264,705.00
WEMA BANK PLC	53	1.00	1,826,313	1,841,991.70
ZENITH BANK PLC	375	19.30	13,297,163	253,841,753.92
SECTOR Totals	3,462		124,370,966	1,171,065,672.43
CEMENT & LIME				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	101	21.50	2,705,317	55,704,473.54
BENUE CEMENT COY PLC	37	61.00	168,984	10,425,534.16
CEM. CO. OF N/NIGERIA PLC	109	23.00	2,722,684	61,049,147.81
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	59	35.50	1,252,946	44,072,728.90
SECTOR Totals	306		6,849,931	171,251,884.41
CHEMICALS & PETROLEUM				
BERGER PAINTS NIGERIA PLC	3	5.67	22,000	124,740.00
CHEM. & ALLIED PROD. PLC	2	29.67	1,764	52,717.08
DN MEYER PLC	7	3.23	104,866	338,717.18
NIG.-GERM. CHEM. PLC	2	14.29	341	4,630.78
SECTOR Totals	14		128,971	520,805.04
COMP. & OFFICE EQUIP				
NCR (NIGERIA) PLC.	3	8.13	10,498	85,408.74
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	18	0.58	798,432	447,377.60
TRIPPLE GEE AND COY PLC	3	4.37	10,296	42,831.36
SECTOR Totals	24		819,226	575,617.70
CONGLOMERATES				
A.G. EVENTS (NIG) PLC				
PZ CUSSONS NIGERIA PLC	45	30.42	385,909	11,676,095.78
SCOA NIGERIA PLC	1	8.71	416	3,444.48
SECTOR Totals	46		386,325	11,679,540.26
TRANS. CORP OF NIG. PLC				
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	94	50.50	2,302,027	116,045,482.95
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	147	31.29	3,931,532	118,107,085.50
SECTOR Totals	335		10,726,722	248,452,052.91
CONSTRUCTION				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	162	6.50	4,380,896	28,037,210.18
JULIUS BERGER NIG. PLC	48	36.44	704,218	25,542,169.83
SECTOR Totals	214		7,091,114	54,582,380.01
ENGINEERING TECH.				
CUTIX PLC				
NIGERIAN WIRE & CABLE PLC	14	0.56	1,648,641	912,718.96
SECTOR Totals	16		1,751,143	1,244,924.96
FOOD/BEV. & TOBACCO				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	15	33.73	87,791	3,098,586.37
BIG TREAT PLC	58	1.02	2,974,321	2,955,757.33
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	70	18.20	669,415	12,156,290.28
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	244	19.00	6,155,202	116,294,583.75
DANGOTE SUGAR REF. PLC	121	19.00	5,583,473	104,567,096.21
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	87	64.00	938,179	58,018,351.25
H/WELL FLOUR MILL PLC	34	9.00	154,365	1,383,047.20
NATIONAL SALT COY NIG. PLC	139	8.80	6,932,322	59,884,078.24
NIG. BOTTLING COY PLC	20	32.60	36,645	1,163,771.10
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	43	270.00	581,750	151,324,422.36
N/NIGERIA FLOUR MILLS PLC	7	32.32	111,000	3,579,870.00
TANTALIZERS PLC	94	1.38	5,766,480	7,859,155.13
SECTOR Totals	942		10,237,893	522,470,221.72
UTE NIGERIA PLC				
SECTOR Totals	942		10,237,893	522,470,221.72
HEALTHCARE				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	4	1.38	56,000	77,280.00
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	59	3.58	3,587,913	12,782,750.31
GLAXOSM. CONS. NIG. PLC	18	27.56	92,356	2,597,308.56

MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.	25	5.83	225,550	1,344,981.50
NEIMETH INT. PHARM. PLC	12	1.85	40,296	78,174.24
UN/DIAGN. & CLIN. SERV. PLC	61	0.76	5,984,886	4,513,931.66
SECTOR Totals	179		9,987,001	21,394,426.27
HOTEL & TOURISM				
CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	2	3.53	53,566	183,149.40
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	6	2.27	144,600	328,242.00
SECTOR Totals	8		198,166	511,391.40
IND./DOMESTIC PROD.				
B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	2	9.35	4,700	43,987.00
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIG. PLC	6	0.53	70,550	38,802.50
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC	8	5.87	50,000	281,060.00
VONO PRODUCTS PLC	2	0.58	47,500	26,600.00
SECTOR Totals	18		172,750	390,449.50
INF. & COMM. TECHNOLOGY				
CHAMS PLC	67	0.78	5,539,505	4,130,746.94
MASS TEL. INNOV. NIG. PLC	2	0.50	3,338,334	1,669,167.00
STARCOMMS PLC	30	2.65	585,075	1,494,319.85
SECTOR Totals	99		9,462,914	7,294,233.79
INSURANCE				
AFR. ALLIANCE INS. PLC	2	0.50	200,000	100,000.00
AIICO INSURANCE PLC.	113	1.30	11,291,498	14,869,501.26
CONTINENTAL REINS. PLC	17	0.94	4,533,360	4,328,692.20
CORNERSTONE INS. CO. PLC	31	0.59	7,112,086	4,164,791.30
CUST. AND ALL. INS. PLC	17	3.95	774,611	3,056,519.29
GREAT NIG. INS. COY PLC	1	0.50	3,000,000	1,500,000.00
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	72	0.82	25,213,465	20,401,992.57
GUAR. TRUST ASSUR. PLC	57	3.40	18,725,767	63,588,899.07
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC.	1	0.50	50,000	25,000.00
CONS. HALLM. INS. PLC	3	0.50	82,500	41,250.00
INT. ENERGY INS. COY PLC	42	0.57	2,865,842	1,626,831.39
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	35	0.50	3,266,229	1,661,106.29
L/UNION & ROCK INS. PLC.	24	0.52	6,070,857	3,247,445.64
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	2	0.50	184,000	92,000.00
MUTUAL BENEFITS ASS. PLC	68	0.60	10,159,913	5,932,013.00
N.E.M. INS. CO. (NIG.) PLC.	70	0.61	11,798,506	7,111,560.78
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	9	0.81	334,976	265,281.28
OASIS INSURANCE PLC	1	0.97	100,000	97,000.00
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC.	6	3.42	29,299	99,140.76
REG. ALLIANCE INS. COY PLC	1	0.50	290,000	145,000.00
SOV. TRUST INSURANCE PLC	4	0.50	294,500	147,250.00
STACO INSURANCE PLC	14	0.50	561,700	280,850.00
STAND. ALL. INSUR. PLC	20	0.50	1,192,204	596,102.00
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	19	0.78	11,810,650	9,534,556.10
UNITY KAPITAL ASSUR. PLC	1	0.56	10,000,000	5,600,000.00
UNIV. INSURANCE COY PLC	2	0.50	220,000	110,000.00
INTERC. WAPIC INSUR. PLC	7	0.93	112,000	104,160.00
SECTOR Totals	639		130,273,963	148,726,942.93
LEASING				
C&I LEASING PLC	55	3.50	7,088,491	24,819,340.23
SECTOR Totals	55		7,088,491	24,819,340.23
MARITIME				
JAP/OIL & MARIT. SERV. PLC	385	1.62	22,840,580	38,326,620.66
SECTOR Totals	385		22,840,580	38,326,620.66
MEDIA				
DAAR COMMUNIC. PLC	80	1.20	1,334,917	1,601,510.40
SECTOR Totals	80		1,334,917	1,601,510.40
MORTGAGE COMPANIES				
ASO SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	22	0.65	2,808,864	1,857,465.00
RES. SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	7	0.50	1,150,000	575,000.00
UN/HOMES SAV. & LOANS PLC	52	0.90	9,567,398	8,708,208.97
SECTOR Totals	81		13,526,262	11,140,673.97
PACKAGING				
NIG. BAG MANUF.G COY PLC	2,557	3.83	10,932,314	39,492,760.35
BETA GLASS CO. PLC	12	14.33	208,919	2,967,705.85
SECTOR Totals	2,569		11,141,233	42,460,466.20
PETROLEUM (MARKETING)				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	39	40.98	55,031	2,142,907.14
BECO PETROL. PROD. PLC	19	1.98	617,948	1,144,631.00
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	8	69.79	3,602	254,515.58
CONOIL PLC	14	44.00	13,322	562,964.63
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	33	9.06	212,088	1,913,220.34
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	7	107.64	4,775	488,291.50
OANDO PLC	59	85.00	521,647	44,551,141.01
SECTOR Totals	186		1,475,339	58,429,745.80
PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC	3	8.22	23,893	205,683.19
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	18	7.32	785,415	5,485,200.62
SECTOR Totals	21		809,308	5,690,883.81
REAL ESTATE				
UACN PROP. DEV. CO. PLC	9	23.80	32,153	736,246.65
SECTOR Totals	9		32,153	736,246.65
ROAD TRANSPORTATION				
ASSOCIATED BUS COY PLC	11	0.99	123,044	122,545.86
SECTOR Totals	11		123,044	122,545.86
THE FOREIGN LISTINGS				
ECOBANK TRANS. INCORP.	23	18.55	865,449	16,189,150.98
SECTOR Totals	23		865,449	16,189,150.98
OVERALL Totals	10,252		408,781,638	2,754,413,169.09

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

FLOURMILL	2.94
JBERGER	1.71
NNFM	1.53
UNILEVER	1.49

LOSERS

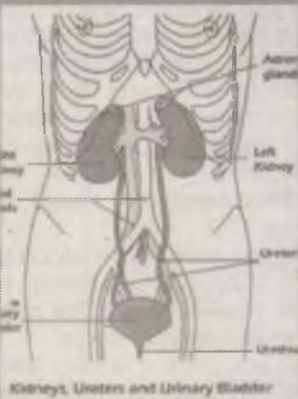
PZ	0.93
CADBURY	0.57
NAHCO	0.49
UBA	0.40

THE HOME FRONT

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Relief for hot flashes

Ogechi Ohalee and Akor Ojoma

A hot flash is a feeling of warmth that spreads over the body, but is often most strongly felt in the head and neck regions. Hot flashes may be accompanied by perspiration or flushing. They occur when the blood vessels near the skin's surface dilate to cool. This produces the red, flushed look to the face. A woman may also experience a rapid heart rate or chills. Hot flashes accompanied with sweating can also occur at night. These are called night sweats and may interfere with sleep.

According to Dr. Omoye Akhigbe a gynecologist at Wuse General Hospital, Abuja, "hot flashes can happen at any time, leaving you sweaty and uncomfortable. Hot flashes are due to menopause and it is common. As many as 9 out of 10 women experience hot flashes as they go through menopause. Some women experience an uneasy feeling just before the hot flash. The flash is followed by a flush, leaving you reddened and perspiring. The most common time of onset is between six and eight in the morning, then between six to ten at night."

Symptoms

Dr. Omoye Akhigbe said hot flashes vary in frequency, "You may have several in one day or just a few each week. You could experience persistent sweating throughout the day and night, or you may just occasionally feel warmer than you used to. Hot flashes can last as long as 30 minutes, but most subside within a couple of minutes. Nighttime hot flashes can wake you from a sound sleep. Sometimes hot flashes are accompanied by night sweats. This may lead to awakening and difficulty falling asleep again, resulting in unrefreshing sleep and daytime tiredness."

She said the woman may also experience, a feeling of mild warmth to intense heat spreading through the upper body and face, rapid heartbeat, a chilled feeling as the hot flash subsides, perspiration, mostly on the upper body, a flushed appearance with red, blotchy skin on the face, neck and upper chest and a feeling of a kind of dizziness or pressure in the head.

Causes

The doctor said the exact cause of hot flashes is not fully understood, but the signs and symptoms point to factors affecting the function of your body's thermostat — the hypothalamus. "This area at the base of your



brain regulates body temperature and other basic processes. The estrogen reduction you experience during menopause may disrupt hypothalamic function, leading to hot flashes. Hot flashes are thought to be due to a combination of hormonal and biochemical fluctuations brought on by declining estrogen levels" She said

Hot flashes occur in regularly menstruating women in their forties, so they often begin before the menstrual irregularities characteristic of menopause even begin. About 80% of women will be finished having hot flashes after five years. Sometimes (in about 10% of women), hot flashes can last as long as 10 years.

Prevention

While it may be impossible to completely avoid hot flashes during menopause, there are certain triggers that may bring them on more frequently or cause them to be more severe. If your hot flashes are mild, you may be able to manage them with lifestyle adjustment alone. To prevent hot flashes, avoid these triggers:

- Wear cotton pajamas or a nightgown. If you perspire a lot at night, your nightclothes are easier to change than the sheets.
- Use cotton sheets only, not synthetics.

- Get a bigger bed if you and your partner are on different heat planets but you still want to stay in close orbit.

- Take a cool shower before bed.

- Arrive at meetings early so that you can get the coolest seat.

- Use your freezer liberally. A number of women talked about opening the freezer at home (or in the supermarket) and sticking their head in when a hot flash hits.

- Exercise daily. Walking, swimming, dancing, and bicycling are all good choices.

- Chill pillows; cooler pillows to lay head on at night might be helpful.

- Keep cool. Slight increases in your body's core temperature can trigger hot flashes. Dress in layers so that you can remove outer clothing when you feel too warm. Open a window or use a fan or air conditioner to keep air flowing.

- Watch what you eat and drink. Hot and spicy foods, caffeinated beverages and alcohol can trigger hot flashes. Avoid foods or drinks that bring on hot flashes.

- Relax. Some women find relief from mild hot flashes through yoga, meditation, relaxation or other stress-reducing activities.

- Don't smoke. Smoking is linked to increased hot flashes. By not smoking, you may reduce hot flashes, as well as your risk of many serious health conditions such as heart disease, stroke and cancer.

Treatment

Dr. Omoye Akhigbe said if your hot flashes become particularly bothersome, treatment options are available. For moderate to severe hot flashes, your doctor may recommend hormone therapy. Estrogen therapy is the most effective treatment for hot flashes, but in some instances, doctors might prescribe progesterone therapy instead.

In addition, it can help other symptoms of menopause, including vaginal dryness and mood disorders. However, even short-term hormone therapy carries some risks, including blood clots and gallbladder inflammation. If HRT is not right for you, there are other treatments that may offer relief.

These include both over-the-counter such as vitamin B complex, vitamin E and Ibuprofen and other prescription therapies. It is important to clear any new drugs including over-the-counter or supplements with your doctor before taking.

Health interactive

Write in confidence to healthinteractive@hotmail.com; www.healthinteractive.wordpress.com or send a text message to 080-89972539 or P.O.Box 14807, Kano, Nigeria

Advice by Dr Aminu Magashi

I am suffering from hematuria

Lately I noticed blood in my urine and at times it comes with pain and discomfort. I want to know the causes of blood in urine and its remedy.

Bala H

Blood in the urine is a relatively common problem. The medical term for red blood cells in the urine is Hematuria, where sometimes the appearance of blood in the urine can be a sign of a more serious problem in the urinary tract. Other times it may not be too serious.

As you aware, Urinary tract consists primarily of the kidneys. There are two kidneys, located closer to your back than your front at about waist level. The kidneys filter water and waste out of the blood and produce urine from that.

Ureters are the second part of your urinary tract. These narrow, hollow tubes carry urine from the kidneys to your bladder. The bladder is a balloon-like organ that holds urine until it is convenient for you to empty it in a process called urination.

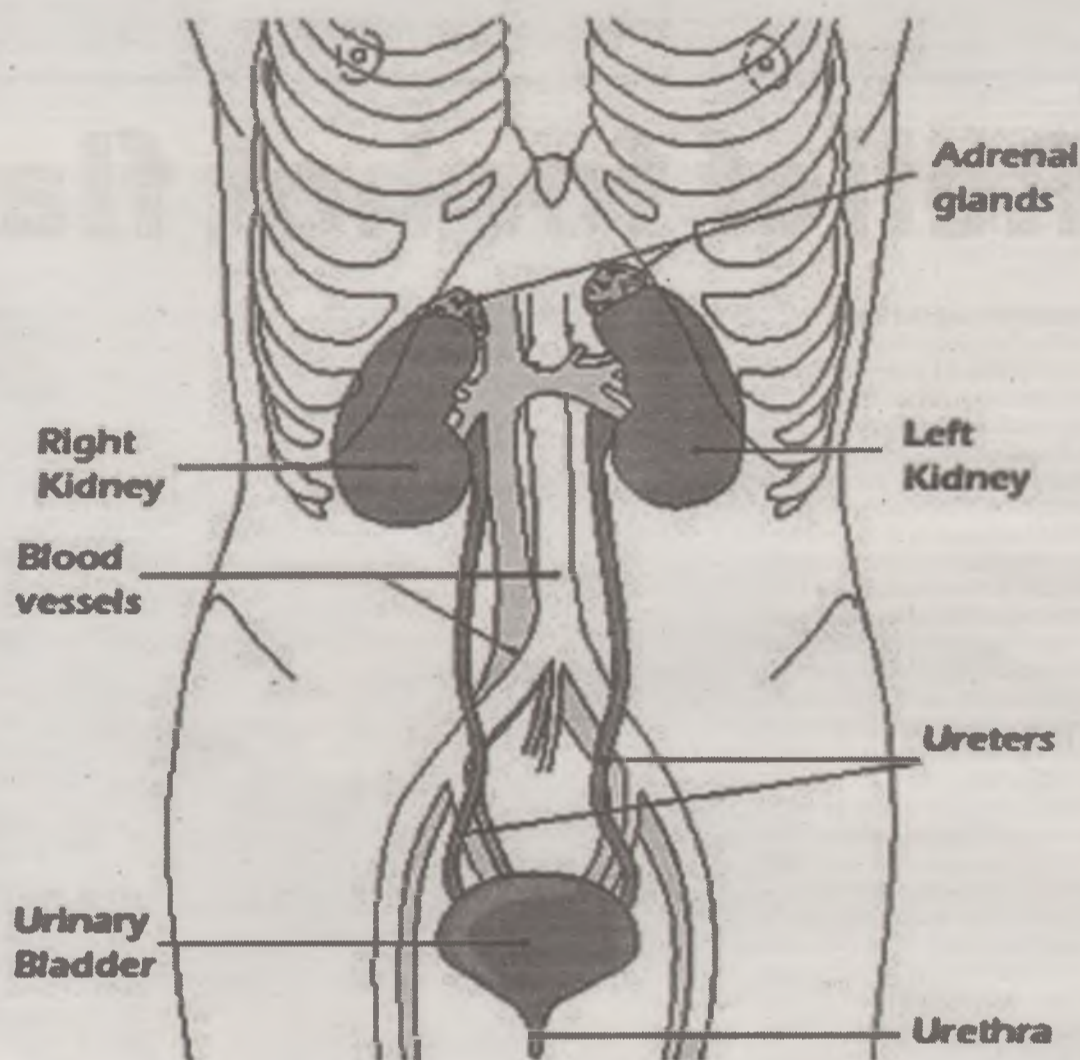
The urethra is a narrow, hollow tube that carries urine from the bladder and outside of the body. The flow of urine is controlled by internal and external sphincter muscles. These muscles tighten or relax around the urethra, holding or releasing urine. In men, the genitals and prostate are considered part of the urinary system, the prostate surrounding the urethra. It is made up of glands which secrete a fluid that is part of semen; the prostate often becomes enlarged in older men.

Blood in urine is not always visible, and if the amount of blood is small, the urine appears normal. This is called a microscopic occurrence, because the blood cells are visible only under a microscope. Typically, this is discovered when you have a urine test for another reason (not because you have noticed the blood).

When there is enough blood to be visible, the urine may look pinkish, red, or smoky brown, like tea or cola, which is called gross or frank hematuria. It takes very small amount of blood to become visible in urine.

A trace amount of blood in urine is normal, and an average person with a healthy urinary tract excretes about one million red blood cells via urine each day. This amount of blood is not visible, and not considered hematuria.

An abnormal amount of blood in the urine can be acute, which means it is new, occurring suddenly. It could also occur as chronically, which means it is an ongoing or long-term bleeding. Acute hematuria can occur once, or it can occur many times in human life. Women



Kidneys, Ureters and Urinary Bladder

develop hematuria more than men because women are more likely to suffer from urinary tract infections. Older adults, especially men, have hematuria more often than younger people. This is because they are more likely to take medications that can irritate the urinary tract, or to have prostate enlargement or cancer.

Causes of blood in urine

Hematuria has many different causes, and blood in the urine can come from any condition that results in infection, inflammation, or injury to the urinary system. Typically, microscopic hematuria indicates damage to the upper urinary tract (kidneys), while visible blood indicates damage to the lower tract (ureters, bladder, or urethra). However, this is not always the case. The most common causes in people younger than 40 years are kidney or ureter stones. A common cause is also urinary tract infection. These infections may cause hematuria in older people, but cancers of the kidney, bladder, and prostate become a more common concern with people over 40 years of age.

Several conditions causing hematuria may exist at the same time. Some of these causes are serious, while others are not.

Well-known causes of blood in the urine also include urinary tract blockage, usually the urethra by a stone, a tumor, a nar-

rowing of the opening, or a compression from surrounding structures.

Blood clotting disorders and some medications could provoke blood in the urine. Antibiotics (such as Rifampin), analgesics (Aspirin), and anticoagulants (Warfarin, Phenytoin, and Quinine) commonly cause blood in urine.

Benign or non-cancerous enlargement of the prostate, known as benign prostatic hypertrophy is a common condition in older men that lead to blood in urine.

Chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and sickle cell anemia and viral infections could also be the cause for blood in the urine.

In some cases, strenuous exercise, especially running, could cause repeated jarring of the bladder and thus lead to blood in the urine.

On the other hand, sometimes no cause is found for blood in the urine. If serious conditions such as cancer, kidney disease, and other chronic diseases that cause kidney damage or bleeding are ruled out, the cause for blood in urine is almost certainly not serious. The hematuria will probably go away by itself.

Urine can be colored pink, red, or brown for reasons that have nothing to do with bleeding in the urinary tract, for example because of large amounts

of certain foods (beets, berries). Food coloring, medications, menstrual blood and liver diseases could also lead to blood in urine.

Symptoms of blood in urine

Blood in the urine is itself a symptom rather than a disease, so the appearance of the urine is usually not a clue as to the cause.

In gross hematuria, the urine appears pinkish, red, or smoky brown, and there may be small blood clots. It is interesting that the amount of blood in the urine does not indicate the seriousness of the condition. In microscopic hematuria, the urine appears normal and is not visible without a microscope.

Many people with hematuria have no other symptoms related to the underlying cause of the bleeding. Pain in the flank, back, lower belly or groin is commonly associated with blood in urine and especially kidney stones.

Moreover, patients will commonly experience a burning sensation or pain when urinating, fever, nausea or vomiting, weight loss, and decreased appetite. Not all people with kidney stones have all of these symptoms.

Symptoms of urinary tract infection may be similar to those of kidney stones, and these are pain in lower back, flank, lower abdomen, or groin, which may be severe but not enough to cause writhing.

When to seek medical care

Any time you notice blood in the urine or another symptom of a urinary tract disease, you should visit your doctor or visit the emergency unit of the hospital. Any time you have a combination of blood in the urine, fever, and flank pain, you should seek emergency medical care because this may represent a severe kidney infection.

Exams and tests for blood in urine

Regardless of whether you have microscopic or gross hematuria, your doctor will ask questions to try to discover the cause of your blood in urine. You will be asked about your medical condition and history, particularly whether you have ever had blood in the urine before, and also which medications you take or have taken in the past, including over-the-counter drugs, herbs, supplements, and other alternative products. You will also be asked whether you have had any recent illnesses, accidents, surgeries, or medical procedures or tests. After this initial examination, laboratory and imaging studies may be performed.

Treatment for blood in urine

If you have visible blood in your urine, do not attempt to treat yourself with home remedies, but see your doctor.

If you have a urinary tract infection, antibiotics will be prescribed depending on which part of the urinary tract is infected. If you have kidney stones, be sure to drink plenty of liquids to help pass the stones and prevent other stones from forming; you may need to take pain relievers. In certain instances, more extensive measures may be required for this condition.

If the cause is urinary tract infection, treatment seeks to get rid of the bacterium responsible for the infection, which is the second most common cause of hematuria.

In some cases, benign prostate enlargement could cause blood in urine. Sometimes eliminating certain foods and medications that irritate the prostate can help shrink the prostate, while sometimes medication is necessary. If a medication is causing hematuria, the medication should be stopped immediately. However, you should not stop using that medication without talking it over with your doctor.

Urinary tract blockage is also common reason for blood in urine. A blockage usually requires surgery or other procedure to correct or remove that block.

Injury as the main cause is not such a problem, because these usually heal over time. If that does not happen, you may need surgery or another procedure to repair the injury or remove the damaged tissue.

Why are so many moms dying?

Akor Ojoma with Agency reports

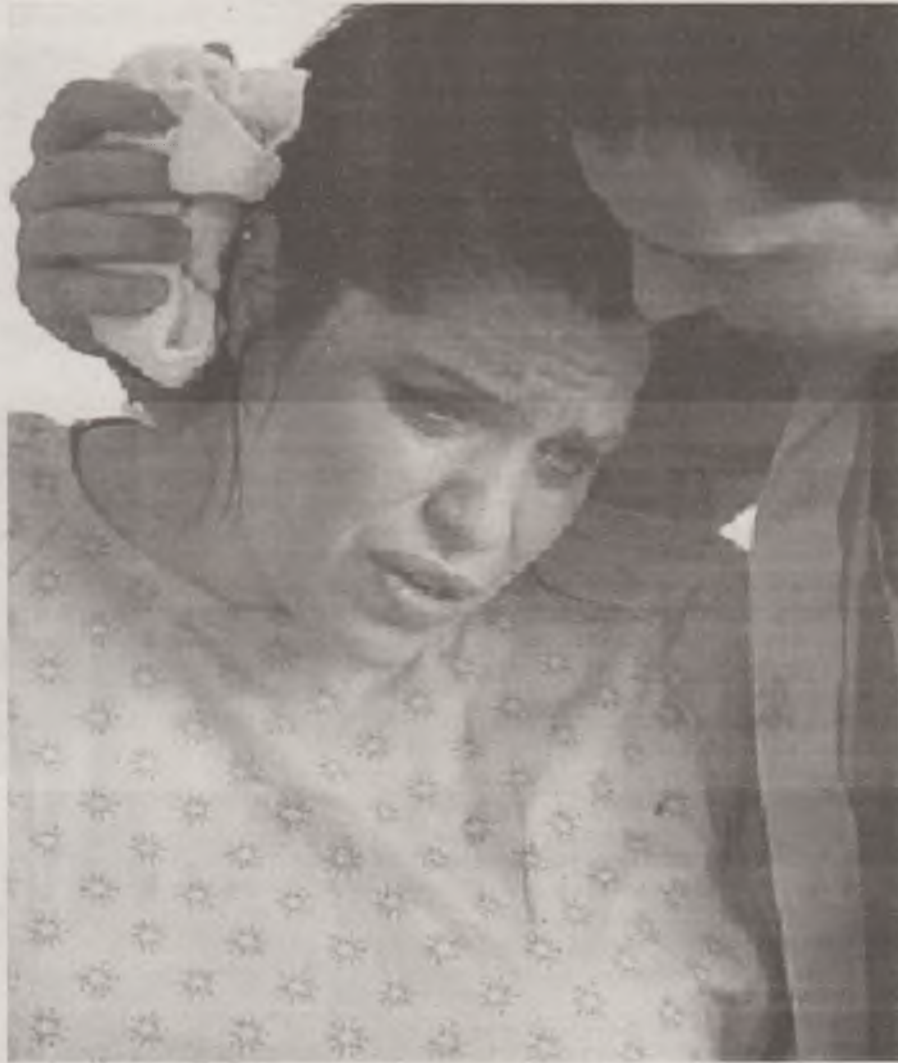
MATERNAL mortality is often regarded a problem of developing countries. In Nigeria for instance, the maternal mortality rate is so alarming that it has become one of the major concerns of the government. But why are so many mothers now dying in the industrialized countries like the United States of America despite better medical services than ours? What is causing the problem?

New reports in New York, reveals an alarming rise in the number of mothers dying during childbirth. From C-sections to the obesity epidemic. Over the past decade, the U.S. maternal mortality rate has nearly doubled, with about 500 women dying of pregnancy-related complications each year. That's a tiny percentage of the 4 million American women who give birth annually. But what's shocking is that among industrialized countries, the U.S. ranks an abysmal 41st on the World Health Organization's list of maternal death rates, behind South Korea and Bosnia—yet they spend more money on maternity care than any other nation.

Danielle Friedman nonfiction book editor for Hudson Street Press and Plume and writer for the Miami Herald, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer and on CNN.com, gave an example of a vibrant and fit 37-year-old woman, Karen Sclafani who after more than a decade leading outdoor expeditions across the mountains of Montana and Utah, prepared to face a new challenge: pregnancy and parenthood. She had originally planned for a natural delivery. A few days before her due date however, she was diagnosed with preeclampsia—a type of pregnancy-induced hypertension—and checked into a hospital near her home in southwest Montana, where nurses gave her medicine to control her blood pressure and induce delivery.

After only four hours of labour, Sclafani delivered a healthy baby girl. Over the next day, however, her condition took a horrific turn. When she didn't deliver her placenta, her doctors performed surgery to remove it; shortly after, her heart stopped beating. Doctors realized she had suffered a hemorrhage, and despite their efforts to save her, two days later Sclafani was dead. What began as the happiest week of her husband's life quickly deteriorated into the worst, as he became a widower and a new parent all at once. "I went into survival mode," Brian Maffly told *The Daily Beast*. "I tried to pull as much joy as I could out of parenting this tiny baby, this amazing child," he said, all the while grieving his wife and grappling with his belief that, if doctors had paid closer attention to her condition, she might have been saved. "There are guys like me all over the place who become these widowed fathers of infants, who are too grief-stricken to raise a big stink," Maffly said. "I just wanted to get on with life. But I think a lot of these deaths are avoidable."

Sclafani's story is part of a troubling trend: Over the past three months, alarms have begun to sound: On Jan. 26, the Joint Commission, the country's top health-care standards group, issued a "Sentinel Event Alert" to hospitals about the trend. Amnesty International has designated the U.S. maternal mortality rate a human-rights concern. This month, the organization called on President Barack Obama to address the crisis, noting that two to three women die of pregnancy-related complications in the country every day, as it moves further away from the government's goal of 3.3 deaths per 100,000 live births. The health-care reform bill signed into law by Obama Tuesday could help, as it requires insurance companies, for the first



time, to cover prenatal care and some childbirth costs.

Skeptics attribute the rise in the maternal mortality rate to better reporting of maternal deaths and it is true that over the past decade, states have revised death certificates to better flag pregnancy-related mortalities. Yet review committees estimate that better reporting only accounts for about 30 to 40 percent of the rise. More likely, the maternal death rate is going up due to a complex cocktail of factors—causes that reflect a changing population, disparities in poor women's access to health care, and even Americans' reliance on cutting-edge medicine. As the public health and medical fields mobilize to reverse the trend, *The Daily Beast* looks at seven explanations for the unsettling rise.

A Skyrocketing Caesarean Rate

“When you see that C-section rates have increased, you have to consider the correlation to the maternal death rate”

Before C-sections became as safe and standard as they are today, pregnant women had few options if they found themselves in an emergency situation; aside from metal forceps, doctors lacked tools to get babies out quickly, which often led to tragedy.

Yet as lifesaving as C-sections can be, an astounding one in three American women now give birth surgically, up from one in five a decade ago. The World Health Organization says that the country's rate shouldn't be above 15 percent, which suggests that more than half of U.S. C-sections are medically unnecessary.

"When you see that C-section rates have increased, you have to consider [the correlation to the maternal death rate]," Maureen Corry, president of the advocacy group

Childbirth Connection, told *The Daily Beast*. "There are good indicators that there's some connection between the two."

That's because C-sections are major surgery. Healthy women who give birth surgically are 80 percent more likely to be re-hospitalized than healthy women who give birth vaginally; they're also four times more likely to die. Hemorrhage, infection, and pulmonary embolism are all more common following a surgical birth.

More Obese Moms

As the obesity epidemic swept the country, more overweight women have gotten pregnant and given birth, despite serious risks. One in five women in the U.S. are now obese at the beginning of their pregnancy, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Obese women are more likely to develop

hypertension, high blood pressure, and diabetes during pregnancy, which can lead to preeclampsia and other fatal conditions. Preeclampsia is responsible for about 18 percent of maternal deaths in the U.S., and over the past decade, the incidence of the condition rose by 40 percent.

Labor can also be more difficult for obese women, as soft tissue can impede delivery. Obese women are also at greater risk for delivering bigger babies, needing C-sections, and developing postpartum infections and heart problems.

Disparities in Access to Care

As economic disparities in the U.S. health-care system grew wider over the past several decades, fewer women got the family planning, prenatal, and postpartum care

they needed. Currently, one in five women of childbearing age are uninsured, Amnesty International reports. In most states, poor women do qualify for Medicaid once they become pregnant; the problem is, six weeks after giving birth, most of these women are dropped. "Medicaid's job is to deliver a baby," said Gene Declercq, a maternal-health expert at Boston University's School of Public Health. "These women are just vessels for delivering babies." From there, a dangerous cycle can begin: If a woman has risk factors going into her first pregnancy—say, diabetes or hypertension—the conditions often get worse through the process. She can't afford the medical care to treat her conditions. Nor can she afford contraceptives, so she often ends up getting pregnant again, this time facing even greater risks. By the time she's back on Medicaid for her next pregnancy, she's in big trouble. The good news is that the new health-care reform legislation will expand access to Medicaid for about 15 million people, and will include prenatal and maternal care in the basic package of services private insurers must cover.

Unnecessary Medical Interventions

Like C-sections, medical innovations such as drugs to induce labor and devices to monitor fetal heart rates can be lifesaving, but they can also lead to complications in healthy women. When an intervention is unnecessary—performed out of convenience or protocol—the harms can outweigh the benefits. "We're doing more and accomplishing less," Corry said. In many developed countries, induction is used as a last resort, but in the U.S., hospitals induce or accelerate roughly 40 percent of labors. These drugs, in turn, can create more aggressive contractions, which increase the risk of uterine rupture. A woman who is induced is also more likely to end up needing a C-section.

Older Moms

As the rate of childbearing women over 40 has risen, so has the maternal mortality rate. Moms over 35 are more likely to develop gestational diabetes and other complications; they're also more likely to have twins or other multiples, thanks both to biology and the wonders of fertility treatment—and multiple births are far riskier than single births, for both mother and babies.

But Elliott Main, a San Francisco-based OB/GYN and principal investigator of the California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative, warned against pegging the rising maternal mortality rate solely to changing demographics: Mothers over 40 have a higher death rate than younger mothers, he told *The Daily Beast*, but most American women who die in childbirth are in their twenties or thirties.

Complacency

Despite the rising maternal mortality rate, pregnancy-related deaths in this country are still rare. Most doctors and nurses will go their entire career without encountering one. Yet as a result, many hospitals have become "complacent that mothers just don't die anymore," said OB/GYN Main. "There's been a little relaxation," and women's lives are sometimes lost as a result.

Most pregnant women are healthy, Main explained. But "rather than saying, we can get away with a lot because women are basically young and healthy and can withstand a lot before they get into trouble," hospitals need to act proactively, paying closer attention to changes in women's vital signs.

Although Karen Sclafani was deemed high-risk because of her preeclampsia, her widower believes that because she appeared fit and healthy, physicians did not heed potential warning signs as they should have.

Fashion fetishes

By Boco Edet

A fetish is an object, idea, or activity that somebody is irrationally obsessed. With aside it's well known meaning of something, especially an inanimate object, that is revered or worshiped because it is believed to have magical powers or be animated by a spirit.

Everyone has a 'fashion fetish' even those who are least bothered about accessories. I personally do not dare leave the house without a wrist watch even if it is not ticking. Granted, you wear a wrist watch to know the time but it transcends that singular purpose. It adds an extra sparkle to my outfit, it makes my hand look prettier and it keeps my wrist busy. Does that sound lame? Well, that is why it is a fetish! Clad in a black and white outfit, dark in complexion Bridget says she can't leave home without makeup. She is wearing a golden eye shadow and her lips are carefully lined. It is obvious she spends time on her craft when she says, "I can't leave the house without my make-up because I know that it makes me look prettier. When I do not wear any make up, I feel like I have not had a bath. Then usually people ask me if I am sick."

For Uju, earrings are a must wear. She says the day when she would start her day without her earrings is yet to come. It doesn't matter the type of earrings, as long as she is wearing one. Presently she is sporting a stud and round big earrings. On each ear she has pierced two ear holes betraying her love for this fashion accessory. "I can't leave the house without my earrings. This is because it brings out the beauty in me; it defines my face. There has never been a day when I left the house without my earrings. If I do, I will certainly come back to pick it. If I do not wear earrings my face would look dull. I am not particular about the type of earrings really."

Ikechukwu is a business man with a feminine touch. His one fashion fetish is his silver necklace. This is quite odd but he is quick to say he doesn't care whether people notice him or not. It is just what he likes. This smartly dressed man says, "I don't leave the house without my necklace. I value it. The day I went out without it I felt like I was not wearing anything I had to go back home to pick it. I don't care whether people notice me; it is just what I like."

What can't an ICT expert do without? Your guess might just be right, a phone. Bidoun who is a young software expert parallels his mobile phone to his life. In his words, "I can't forget my phone because if I leave my phone in the house I would be sad throughout the day. It means a lot to me, it is just like my life. I can receive calls from anywhere at any time that I should come and pick something which is very important to me. There has never been a day that I left home without my phone". Some people just don't place any value on material things. Biba, a student falls in that category. The bookish looking lady would only make an exception for her medicated glasses. "I can live without anything except my glasses because I have to see with it. I like being myself. I don't like getting attached to things," she says.

There was also Obiageli who would feel incomplete without her handbag except when she goes to a dinner. She says going out without her handbag makes her feel like she didn't dress well.

Even in an emergency, Nnenna would not forget to dab powder on her face before darting for the door. "I must apply makeup before leaving the house. It makes me look beautiful, I think. There is no day I have left without it at least I must apply powder and a little lip gloss no matter the emergency."



OBIAGELI



IKECHUKWU



BRIDGET

How cordial should wife vs inlaw relationship be?

By Maureen Onochie

FOR most married women, establishing and maintaining a cordial relationship with their in-laws seem to be a huge problem, for the few who enjoy such close relationships on the other hand, they displease themselves in most cases just to make their in-laws happy.

While some have an honest and open relationship with their in-laws, others do so for some reasons best known to them; in a few cases, some women go any length to please their husbands' relatives with the hope of getting something in return.

Mrs. Winifred Okeke chose to be close to her husbands' friends and relatives so that she could win their hearts and at the same time get favors from them, she never knew that the people she was dealing with were not what she thought they were.

As far as she was concerned, her in laws were the best. She did all sorts of things to please them. From Christmas gifts to clothes and jewelries and sometimes money; these she did all in the name of winning their hearts. But was she wrong to have done so? Maybe she was and maybe not.

One day, as she sorted out the laundry she found a letter in the pocket of her husband's suit; like most curious wives would do, she read it. It was from a lady. She had written a letter with her account number enclosed in it. She was pregnant for her husband and wanted to undergo an abortion since he wouldn't take responsibility for the pregnancy. She kept the letter and waited for her husband to come home from work that evening.

When she confronted him, she was shocked he didn't even deny it. She felt he had no respect for her by accepting his infidelity. She demanded to know why he did such a thing, but he told her that she had no right to ask him such questions because he has always given her everything she wanted and never for once did he bring the lady to their matrimonial home.

At first she was confused, but when she thought of the possible support she might get from her in-laws she consoled herself. She invited them for a meeting, and typical of in-laws, they called to know what the invitation was all about, but she resisted saying anything. She insisted their presence was needed.

The attendees at the meeting included her mother in-law, her husband's elder brother, younger sister and younger cousin. After laying the issue before them, there were arguments and debates. Until the mother in-law spoke.

To Mrs. Okeke's utmost surprise, her mother in-law said, the most hideous thing anyone could ever say to a daughter in-law who has been nice to her and members of her family. She said "Do you think you are the only one I gave birth to my son for?" She had expected so much from her mother in-law she even thought she was going to speak to her son about it but she was disappointed. At the end, she had to heed to the words of his siblings who advised her to ignore his actions and try to tolerate him.

For this woman, getting close to your in-laws isn't advisable. She has had a terrible experience and does not wish such for any woman. Most ladies think it is



not worth it getting close to their in-laws because they might be degraded. Some in-laws are seen as thorns in the flesh because they are either fighting their brother's wife on his behalf or they even go spiritual with the sole aim of destroying their sister in-law.

According to Mrs. Angela Idoko, there is always a way out when dealing with in-laws. She has remained married for 21 years, notwithstanding the numerous problems she had in the marriage. "My in-laws were very difficult at the outset but I found my way out. My husband is from a different ethnic background, he is Idoma and I am Epira.

My in-laws, especially my husband's siblings were thorns in my flesh. They would always come to Kaduna to visit us and make my home unbearable for me. They will go out and come back very late

in the night and ring the bell endlessly until I wake up and open the door; and when my husband complains, they come back accusing me. This kept going on and on but in return I kept showing them love and respect and with time they reciprocated," she said.

Various people are of the view that it is important for the woman to establish a close relationship with her in-laws because it is one of the easiest ways to get her husbands' heart. The in-laws are his relatives and they are in the position to always advise him to love or respect her.

Mr. Henry Igwe blames women who have problems with their in-laws. He said most women are rude and don't know how to treat their in-laws properly. "You find some ladies treat their mother in-laws without respect, what does she expect from her husband or his siblings?

Of course, hatred," he said.

He condemned the fact that ladies try to incite their husbands against their relatives. "A lady should know that once she is married to a man she is now a member of his family.

She is supposed to bring peace into the family not to disunite them." Any woman who really wants to have a good relationship with her in-law must learn to respect them no matter how they hurt her even if she feels they do not deserve it. She should avoid criticizing them even when her husband does same; it is his family after all so the most she can do is advise him positively.

There are times when a woman can no longer tolerate unpleasant attitude from her in-laws, but she shouldn't fight back. She should discuss it with her husband and he may find a way out.

DIGEST

Fried breakfast is healthiest start to day, say scientists

A breakfast of bacon, sausages, eggs, and beans could be the healthiest start to the day, according to new research.

Carbohydrate rich foods in contrast appear mainly to prepare the body to break down only carbohydrates, the International Journal of Obesity reports.

Dr Martin Young, of the University of Alabama at Birmingham, said: "The first meal you have appears to programme your metabolism for the rest of the day.

"This study suggests that if you ate a carbohydrate-rich breakfast it would promote carbohydrate utilisation throughout the rest of the day, whereas if you have a fat-rich breakfast, you (can) transfer your energy utilisation between carbohydrate and fat."

The team of researchers found there may be some truth in the old saying "eat breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince and dinner like a pauper" - may be the key to a healthy body and mind."

Their study looked at the effects of eating different types of food - and of eating them at different times in the day, according to the Daily Mail.

Mice fed a high fat meal after waking remained healthy, but those given a carb-rich breakfast, followed by a fatty dinner, did not fare as well.

Co-researcher Professor Molly Bray added: "Our study seems to show that if you really want to be able to efficiently respond to mixed meals across a day, a meal in higher fat content in the morning is a good thing."



PA Scientists believe that breakfast programmes the metabolism for the rest of the day, and a fatty meal will help the body break down fat later on.

Drinking too much cola could lower men's sperm count



THE Danish study found soft drinks did appear to affect male reproductive health

MEN who drink around a litre of cola every day could be harming their sperm, according to a new Danish study.

On average, these men's sperm counts were almost 30 per cent lower than in men who didn't drink cola.

While most of the sperm counts would still be considered normal by the World Health Organization, men with fewer sperm generally have a higher risk of being infertile.

The link is unlikely to be due to caffeine, the researchers say, because coffee did not have the

same effect, even though its caffeine content is higher. Instead, other ingredients in the beverage or an unhealthy lifestyle could be involved.

Kold Jensen, who led the new research, said only a few studies have looked at caffeine's impact on

reproductive health in men. The participants have generally been a very select group, such as infertile men, and the results have been conflicting.

Because Danish youth has been upping their consumption of caffeine-containing soft drinks over the last decades, the researchers decided to study how this might affect their reproductive health.

More than 2,500 young men were included in their study.

Those who didn't drink cola had better sperm quality - averaging 50 million sperm per millilitre semen - and tended to have a healthier lifestyle.

In contrast, the 93 men who drank more than one litre a day had only 35 million sperm per millilitre.

However, they also ate more fast foods, and less fruit and vegetables.

When looking at caffeine from other sources, such as coffee and tea, the decrease in sperm quality was much less pronounced.

It is still not clear if the cola or the unhealthy lifestyle, or both, is to blame and the scientists said further research was needed.

The study was published in the American Journal of Epidemiology.

Common toads can detect earthquakes in advance

TOADS are able to detect earthquakes up to five days in advance, scientists have discovered.

Researchers at The Open University made the discovery after studying a population of common toads just outside L'Aquila in central Italy before last year's earthquake hit.

They noticed that even though it was the creature's important breeding season, 96 per cent of the male toads abandoned the area five days before the earthquake struck in April.

The number of paired toads at the breeding site also dropped to zero three days before the earthquake. No fresh spawn was found at the site from the date that the earthquake struck to the date of the last significant aftershock.

"Our study is one of the first to document animal behaviour before, during and after an earthquake," said lead author Dr Rachel Grant.

"Our findings suggest that toads are able to detect pre-seismic cues such as the release of gases and charged particles, and use these as a form of earthquake early warning system."

Culled from Telegraph.co.uk

Sign Language

IF A BEAR ATTACKS

Brown bear: Play dead unless it starts to eat you, then fight back.
Black bear: Fight back.

Just pray not to have an encounter.

Photo location: Seward, Alaska, by Gerek Woolfall

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

EASY CROSSWORDS

23

ACROSS

- King
- On --
- Fluke fish
- Baseball "brothers" surname
- Laundry device
- Writer Alexander
- Sector
- C.P. Snow novel: 3 wds.
- Card game
- "Vintner"
- Naldi of silents
- City maps
- Electrical part at times
- Personal go-together
- Disparaging remarks
- Protein
- Lainn bear
- Hardy heroine
- Low insignificant
- Northern highway
- Frontier
- Proverbial phrase called The Snowshoe
- Start of a rustic TV show title
- Articulated
- South African of Dutch descent
- Kurt's cry
- Office find
- Wine Spanish
- Shopping by
- Woods on a Snowy Evening poet: 2 wds.
- Postpone
- Showy display
- Grand finish
- Bets (see)
- 1945 candidate
- Nuisance: slang
- Body of lava
- Just drummer
- Parsonage
- Without seriousness
- Rural shelter
- Snow White's name: 2 wds.
- Affliction
- Sports giant
- Enthusiast
- Asian beans
- Monard's house
- August arrival
- "Snowbird" singer: 2 wds.
- More kittenish
- Defected
- Show slightly
- Designing Christian
- Painters' subjects
- Pindar, e.g.
- Overdue debts
- More in need of a rubdown
- Herbal antibiotic remedy
- See's test?
- Leaf out
- Patrol
- Bank name: 4 wds.
- Behave rudely
- Revision attempt
- Gossip
- Catch: ruminating
- Unite fully
- "Chicago" headline
- Library signs
- Let it out
- Hebrew prophet
- Amp adjunct
- Expert bunch
- Forfeit
- Book intro?
- Archery slats
- Milky way?
- Cosmopolitan activity
- Examine
- Gurney pusher
- Bring into the 21st century
- Psychiatry: Wilhelm
- Pool
- Banal
- Unintended
- Leon Shick's
- Worth and Cara
- Certain: man-made
- Vegetate
- Put on again
- Won by a lot
- Admit frankly
- Openwork: brass
- Attitude
- Majesty: speller
- Flute away
- Sylvan boast
- "The Road World" network: abbr.

DOWN

- Easa's twin
- Kana: syllable
- Nonmetallic element
- Big --
- Word on a door
- May of "Wild Hg"
- Norwegian town
- "Hardy"
- Ten's amount
- Tyros
- Handle: rarely
- Compass point
- Money for service
- Leading
- He penned "The Snows of Kilimanjaro": 2 wds.
- Big name in Welsh history
- Pre-trial: important
- Uncrowded
- Bury
- Abundant
- Bad friend?
- Sliding jump
- Ford's Best
- Aesop's locale
- Causus chills
- Flat 40-Dues
- On
- Veg out
- Handleader who wrote "Snowfall": 2 wds.
- Changes
- Ancestry
- Troop of comic, maybe
- Links fest
- Head
- Can't swim?
- "Lady Love" singer

Solution to Easy Crosswords

22

S	W	A	T	H	E		A	S	P	E	R	S	E	S		
C	I	T	I	E	S		N	E	E	D	I	E	S	T		
E	N	T	E	R	S		I	R	R	I	G	I	A	T		
N	E	A	R	S		S	M	A	R	T		L	I	E		
E	R	I	E		S	O	A	P			H	E	M	P		
S	Y	N	D	I	C	A	T	E		R	I	V	A	L		
						R	A	K	E		D	E	L	E	T	E
P	A	S	T	O	R	S		S	E	T	T	L	E	S		
O	N	L	I	N	E		P	I	E	R						
S	N	A	P	S		T	E	D	D	Y	B	E	A	R		
T	E	N	S		B	O	D	E	S		L	I	V	E		
H	A	T		P	O	N	D	S		L	A	D	E	S		
O	L	I	V	E	O	I	L		P	A	R	E	N	T		
L	E	N	I	E	N	C	E		E	M	E	R	G	E		
E	D	G	E	L	E	S	S		P	A	S	S	E	D		

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.

119

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

Solution to Sudoku 118

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

News Extra

Deportation of Nigerian disabled athlete who won gold for Britain runs into a farce

...After officials forget his wheelchair



INSIDE Colnbrook Immigration Centre, near Heathrow, where Mr Onwubiko has been waiting to be deported



DAVID Weir of Great Britain celebrates after winning gold at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games. Vincent Onwubiko got five gold for Britain in 1995.

'Then they had this discussion about whether it was going to be safe for them to lift me on to the plane and escort me back to Lagos where I would have to fend for myself without a wheelchair.

'One of them was a medic and they said it wouldn't be right to send me back without a wheelchair – so they drove me all the way back to Colnbrook.

'I was very relieved because the idea of having to make my way out of Lagos without a wheelchair was very frightening,' he said.

Onwubiko was arrested at the end of his sentence and has been held at various detention centres ever since.

He claims that sending him back to Nigeria is 'a death sentence.'

He competed for Britain at the Stoke Mandeville Games in 1995 and at the World Champion of Champions competition in 1996.

'The Government has given me three months of painkillers for my return to Nigeria and told me to get on with it. But I need proper care. Sending me back is a death sentence,' he told the Inde-

The deportation of a disabled asylum-seeker had to be abandoned after immigration officials forgot to bring his wheelchair to the airport.

Vincent Onwubiko, who won five gold medals for Britain at a paraplegic event in 1995, says he will die within weeks if he is deported to Nigeria because he will not receive adequate care.

The power lifter is confined to a wheelchair after suffering from polio as a child.

He faces deportation because he was sentenced to five months' jail in 2007 for driving while disqualified. Onwubiko also has two convictions for careless driving in his specially adapted car.

Under UK law, an immigrant who commits a serious criminal offence faces automatic deportation.

But his planned deportation on Monday night collapsed amid farcical scenes after immigration officials took him from Colnbrook Immigration Removal Centre to Heathrow airport but forgot to bring his wheelchair.

Onwubiko, who came to the UK in 1994 and has an 11-year-old daughter here, said: 'When we got to the airport, they realised that they didn't have my wheelchair.

He competed for Britain at the Stoke Mandeville Games in 1995 and at the World Champion of Champions competition in 1996.

pendent last week.

His case is still being considered by the High Court where he has lodged an appeal on his immigration status and a full hearing is expected in the summer.

But a spokesman for the UK Border Agency said Mr Onwubiko's judicial review claim was found to be 'totally without merit.'

'The UK Border Agency has not been presented with a European Court of Human Rights injunction preventing his removal and there are therefore no legal barriers to his removal from the UK,' he added.

News Extra

He may be too busy to go to church as often as he would like. But President Obama can always find time to check his Blackberry.

So when he needs a little inspiration in the mornings, Mr Obama revealed yesterday that all he has to do is read the daily prayer emailed to him from pastors around America.

'It's a wonderful thing,' the president said of his hi-tech devotionals.

Mr Obama is the first president to carry a Blackberry and the first to use email, although only a handful of aides, family and close friends have his address for the handheld device.

He said that White House faith

When Mr Obama first got into office, aides initially tried to take his Blackberry away, arguing his emails would one day be made public. But the tech-savvy president resisted and instead got a specially designed one-of-a-kind custom Blackberry with top security features to allow him to speak on a protected line

director Joshua DuBois forwards him a morning prayer every day from a selection sent in by some of the churchmen he met during his cross-country travels on the presidential campaign.

He added that he started getting the prayer alerts on the campaign trail and has carried on receiving them ever since

When Mr Obama first got into office, aides initially tried to take his Blackberry away, arguing his emails would one day be made public.

But the tech-savvy president resisted and instead got a specially designed one-of-a-kind custom Blackberry with top security features to allow him to speak on a protected line.

The embrace of technology



MR Obama shows the Blackberry phone that is sent daily prayers from various pastors in the U.S.

How Barack Obama worships with prayers sent to his trusty phone

was widely credited with helping Mr Obama build up grass roots support that helped propel him to the White House and has been a continuing trend of the Obama administration.

The president has repeatedly rejected gossip that he is a Muslim – based largely on the fact that his middle name is Hussein – and emphasised that he is a devout Christian.

French govt picks new words to replace English

France has begun another attempt to prevent the invasion of English words in its language by creating new words to replace common Anglicisms.

A government agency announced the results of a competition among schoolchildren and students to identify French-sounding terms for 21st-century phenomena.

A report in The Independent said the task was to come up with French replacements for "chat", "talk" and "newsletter" as well as terms for "tuning" – where young motorists 'pimp up' their cars and "buzz" to describe an internet craze.

The suggestions were considered a by a panel of members of

usually replaced in our language by baladeur and logiciel."

The report said the suggested replacements included "ramdam" instead of "buzz", – proposed by Elodie Dufour-Merle, a student at the University of Aix-Marseille.

"Tuning" should be "bolidage", invented by a journalism student from Lyons, Charles Fontaine, while "Talk" might become "débat" – not a new word, but considered the best option – and "Chat", current used in the context of online conversations, might become "éblabla" or "tchatte".

For "newsletter", the judges considered "niouzlettre", "plinfo",



THE suggestions were considered by a panel of members of the Académie Française as well as French politicians and a rap musician

the Académie Française as well as French politicians and a rap musician, called MC Solaar. The final list will now be considered for entry in the French dictionary.

The exercise has become an annual event and a symbol of the determination of the French government to avoid the encroachment of English buzzwords.

Alain Joyandet, the minister responsible for promoting the French language, said: "Ten years ago everyone was talking about the walkman or software," he said. "These words have now been nat-

"inforiel", "jourriel" and "journaliel" but chose "infolettre".

However, some Anglicisms remain. Most common is "le weekend" but there are also "post-its" in the office and safety devices fitted to cars are still "les air bags".

The jury of experts agreed on the following current Anglicisms and their replacements:

buzz – ramdam
tuning – bolidage
chat – éblabla
newsletter – infolettre
talk – débat

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

News Extra

Top April fool stories

Left-handed Whopper



BURGER King took out a full page advert in *USA Today* in 1998 announcing the introduction to its menu of the left-handed Whopper, designed for the USA's left-handed minority (of a lucrative 32 million). The ad stated that the new burger contained basically the same ingredients as the original but that all the condiments had been rotated 180 degrees for the benefit of their left-handed customers. Needless to say, thousands attempted to order them before it was revealed as a hoax.

Dogs to be painted white

PIC: ALAMY/P. AUSTRING



IT was 1965 and the Danish newspaper *Politiken* reported that parliament had passed a new law requiring all dogs to be painted white. This, it explained, would increase road safety by allowing dogs to be seen more easily.

Colour TV

PICE: REX FEATURES



ON April 1 1962 Kjell Stenson, Swedish television's technical expert, told the nation that, thanks to a new technology, it would be possible for viewers to convert their TV sets for colour reception. All they need do was pull a nylon stocking over the screen - and he proceeded to demonstrate for them, looking suitably pleased with the result for the benefit of a nation watching him on their black and white sets. Since Swedish television didn't start broadcasting in colour until 1970 one can only assume that optimistic Swedes spent eight years pulling a stocking on and off their TV.



Down like a bomb

IN 1915, with the First World War in full swing, a French pilot flew over a German camp and dropped what appeared to be a huge bomb. Everyone scattered and it was some time before they crept back, unnerved by the lack of an explosion, to find a football where they had expected to find a bomb, with a note attached reading "April Fool!"

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513
email: citynews@dailytrust.com

Polls: Abaji voters ask INEC to publish register

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

RESIDENTS of Abaji Area Council yesterday complained that the FCT Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) is delaying the publication of a fresh voters' register as promised by the Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) recently.

The FCT REC, Dr. Stephen Bawa Manyu had told electorates during a stakeholders meeting on the council election that

clean voters' list would be displayed in order not to disenfranchise voters.

He said the fresh register will allow the electorates check as well as ascertain their particulars, adding that he wouldn't like a situation where somebody will come on Election Day to claim he couldn't vote.

A resident, Malam Suleiman Yakubu, said residents have been checking at INEC office in the council and are yet to see a display of the fresh voters' list.

"We have not seen fresh lists and are afraid of being disenfranchised," he stated.

The resident however warned that if INEC fails to past their list by April 5, electorates will stage a peaceful protest to draw the attention of the all concerned to their plights.

Another resident, Hajiya Bilkisu Shu'aibu said after hearing the commissioner's pronouncement, she visited designated places but found no fresh list.

Reacting to the claims, INEC

FCT Head of Public Affairs, Okezie Nwankwo, said there are many polling units that have not been served with the complete voters' lists, stressing that before the election date every eligible voter would see his name on the list.

He explained that the REC and all those concerned with the councils' election have been working round the clock to ensure free and credible elections are conducted under transparent processes.

AYA junction flyover to open April

By Nasir Imam

RESPITE would soon come the way of motorists going towards the Nyanya - Karu axis as the flyover bridge at AYA junction will be opened in April to curtail traffic jams.

This was disclosed by the Director of FCDA Engineering Services, Engr. Sylvester Ugonabor, during an inspection tour by FCDA board members to assess projects undertaken by the authority in the FCT.

The director explained that the contract which was awarded in 2008 with a completion period of 18 months had attained 95 percent completion, adding that the only thing left before the opening of the flyover bridge was the provision of street lights which he hopes would be completed by April.

Ugonabor added further that the entire project would be completed by September 2010, after which there would be a one year maintenance period by the contractor at their expense before final handover to the FCT Administration.

When the FCDA board members arrived at Guzape district, the contractor handling the provision of infrastructure for the district explained that the project had attained 60 percent completion with asphalt on most of the roads.

Reacting, the board's Chairman on infrastructure, Chief Olisah Metu expressed satisfaction with what was had seen on ground and assured the contractors that the board would work tirelessly to ensure that budgetary allocation for the projects is not tampered with.



PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE

DIRECTOR General, National Agency for Foods and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) Dr. Paul Orhii (left) addressing members of the Institute of Security Studies, during visit to the institute in Abuja yesterday. With him is the Director of the institute Mr. Linus Asiogbu.

Artist jailed for cheating AIT staff

By Usman A. Bello

A 25-year-old artist, Joy Ohimai, was yesterday sentenced to four months imprisonment for cheating one Faruk Ashu Brown of Ray Power/AIT, Kano.

The accused was arraigned on a two-count charge of breach of trust and cheating, offences punishable under Section 312 and 322 of the Penal Code Law.

Prosecutor Adamu Abdullahi told the court that Faruk reported to the police that sometimes in January, he paid the sum N150,000 into Ijeoma Joseph's account in favour of one Terry U, who was to perform at his show in Kano State.

The prosecutor stated further that the accused went and withdrew the money without the complainant's consent and converted the said money to her personal use, adding that during investigations, the accused confessed to the offence.

The accused pleaded guilty and begged for leniency, asking for one week time to enable her refund the money to the complainant.

After the confession, the prosecutor urged the court to try the accused summarily and Magistrate Fatima U. Murktar sentenced her to two months imprisonment on each count or to pay N5,000 as fine options for each count charge.

The magistrate also ordered the accused to pay N150,000 as compensation to the complainant.

World Bank build's N52m Abaji health centre

By Abubakar Yakubu

THE World Bank assisted FCT Health Systems Development Project II Wednesday commissioned a primary health care centre that it constructed and fully equipped at the cost of N51.624 million.

In his speech at the event, FCT Permanent Secretary, Dr Goke Adegoye, said the FCT Administration's desire to provide basic health care services within the reach of the rural dwellers is anchored on the need to decongest secondary health care facilities because most of the common illnesses attended to at the secondary health care institutions can be handled in the primary health care centres effectively.

"Therefore the desire of the FCT Administration to greatly alleviate the numerous health care challenges at the grass root prompted the conception as well as development of these prototype health facilities in all the six area councils of the territory," he stated.

The permanent secretary disclosed that the centre is stocked with essential drugs required to treat common ailments as well as a functional laboratory for prompted diagnosis and a theatre that is capable of handling minor surgical needs.

He listed other amenities in the centre to include, an ambulance, a 27 KVA standby generator, a borehole and a fully furnished staff quarters.

Dr Adegoye called on the community leaders to team up with the area council to ensure the successful utilization and management of the centre.

He commended the Project Manager, Dr Jamilu Isa Yankwashi as well as the entire management of FCT Health Systems Development Project II for a good job.

Also speaking, FCT Health and Human Services Secretary, Dr Precious K. Gbeneol said six of such health centres have been constructed and equipped in the six area council by the World Bank assisted FCT Health Systems Development Project II.

She urged the indigenes of Abaji to use the health care facility to cater for their health care

needs, adding that no responsible government would want to see or hear about women dying during pregnancy, labour or childbirth.

"Therefore, I will not mind to practically beg the people of Abaji Area Council to henceforth embrace the practice of utilizing the centre's facility for ante natal care, post natal care and all manner of minor health-care challenges," she added.

In his address, the Project Manager, Dr Yankwashi, said all the components of the FCT Health Systems Development Project II mandates have been satisfactorily executed and thanked the FCT Administration as well as World Bank for their support.

Osunde Foundation to host disabled persons

By Akor Ojoma

ABOUT 3000 disabled persons are expected in Abuja today for a five-day annual special Easter celebration programme organised by Sir David Osunde Foundation for persons with disabilities in Nigeria.

Speaking yesterday, Sir David Osunde, president of the foundation, urged government at all levels to extra efforts to improve the lives of Persons Living With Disabilities (PWDs) in the country.

He said the government should fast-track efforts in establishing a ministry for persons with disabilities so that by having their own minister and budget, their needs can be easily met and they will contribute their own quota meaningfully to the growth of the country.

Sir Osunde disclosed that the programme organised in Abuja is designed to cater for the disabled in all interests, irrespective of their educational, psychological, socio-political and economic situations.

According to him, there will also be talents displays, presentation of awards and exhibition of products by persons with disabilities.

"The highlights of the programme will be the distribution of gifts, wheel chairs, Braille, books, crutches, cane-guides and other disabilities aids to PWDs," he said.

Council disburses relief materials to rainstorm victims

By Ogechi Ohalee

ABAJI Area Council Wednesday distributed relief materials to victims of last month's rain storm in the council that left hundreds of residents homeless.

Permanent Secretary of FCT Administration, Mr Goke Adegoroye, sympathised with the residents on the deaths recorded during the incidents as well as prayed against a reoccurrence of such tragedy.

He advised the victims to make judicious use of the relief materials given them and thanked the council chairman for providing the materials at the right time.

Earlier in his speech, the council Chairman, Alhaji Yahaya Musa Mohammed said bags of cement, cartons of nails as well as bundles of zincs among others were purchased to ensure that the victims rebuild their homes that were destroyed by the storm.

He said a day after the incident, the former FCT minister of state visited the affected areas and an emergency committee from the council was inaugurated to take inventory of the affected houses with the view of ascertaining the actual number of household and houses that were affected by the storm.

"The committee immediately swung into action and the council as a matter of urgency



FCT Permanent Secretary, Mr Goke Adegoroye, presenting relief materials to victims of last month's rain storm in Abaji.

purchased the need items for distribution to the affected persons," he added.

The chairman appealed to the FCT Administration, Federal Ministry of Environment and National Emergency Management Agency to come to the aid of the affected

people in Abaji in order to alleviate their sufferings.

Responding on behalf of the victims, Alhaji Adamu Kyara thanked the council for the gesture and said the materials will be used judiciously.

ANPP chairmanship candidate visits rural areas

By Hussein Yahaya

THE All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) chairmanship flag bearer in the Bwari Area Council elections recently concluded his tour to the rural communities in the council area, where he interacted with the indigenes.

Alhaji Yahaya Isah after the tour said his visit was to assess what government have done in such places and lamented that government policies at all levels tend to neglect the plights of the rural dwellers thereby making nonsense of the concept of modern democratic governance.

He disclosed that his visit to Pezer, Kungabuko, Byazihi, Panunuke and other communities in the area council clearly showed that they never benefitted from the dividends of democracy.

"Most of the residents in the communities visited were not aware of the area council government, adding that they lack good network of roads, potable water and functional health facilities," he stated.

According to him, the era of primitive life that is supposed to be a thing of the past, still exists in the FCT, inly because of the insensitivity of those in position of



ANPP Chairmanship flag bearer, Alhaji Yahaya Isah consoling a sick woman at Pezer-Kungabuko village in Byazihi ward at Bwari on Saturday.

authorities," he said.

The part flag bearer assured the rural dwellers that if he is elected, rural development will be given the desired attention, adding that soft loan will be given to the rural farmers and tractors provided

in all the wards to boost agricultural production.

The flag bearer also observed that in satellite towns, government's insensitivity to public schools have further widened the gap between the children of the

poor and those of the rich.

He appealed to the people in the area to vote for ANPP in order to effect the necessary changes that will bring true democracy to the door steps of both the rural and urban dwellers.

CLEEN urges residents to visit police stations

By Nathaniel Jonah

THE Executive Director of CLEEN Foundation, Mr. Innocent Chukwuma, recently told residents of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to visit police stations regularly.

He described such stations as welcoming places where local residents can feel comfortable to report a crime, seek assistance for law enforcement, or visit someone who have been arrested and detained.

According to Chukwuma, the Police Station Visitor's Week (PSVW) is created in order to have real access to local law enforcement and also as a platform for citizens to express their views about how well or bad that the stations are serving their community.

Also speaking, FCT Police Commissioner, Mr John Haruna, who represented the inspector-general at the at the conference organized by Altus Global Alliance in collaboration with CLEEN Foundation, assured that spending time in a police station, even for an hour will give people the impression about whether the station is well run and provides good services.

"Police organizations, NGOs, and community groups can all learn from these impressions, provided they can be captured through a common protocol and expressed in a standard form that is easy to understand" he added.

Altus Global Alliance Chairman, Mr. Michael Jacobson said through the partnerships with other NGOs and the support of literally hundreds of community-based organization the police station visitor's week has brought a diverse array of individuals into their local stations.

PROPERTY

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Surveyors under-utilised, president says

By Mustapha Suleiman

NIGERIAN Quantity Surveyors are not fully engaged in various government projects execution which has reduced the quality of executed projects in the country.

This was the comment of the President Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (NIQS), Chief Felix Okereke-Onyeri in an interview with Daily Trust in Abuja yesterday.

He lamented that government at all levels have been busy given the roles of Quantity Surveyors to other professions, especially engineers, which according to him, is improper and contradicts the rule of the game in building profession. Okereke added that the institute has made efforts to reach out to government on the importance of engaging quantity surveyors in costing and projects evaluation, but much has not been done in that regard.

"How can a job meant for Quantity Surveyors be given

to another professional, who is not well equipped to do so? Everybody has his own area of specialization and should be given roles in what they are trained in. Without adhering to specialization, projects will not be properly executed and the cases of building collapse will persist," he said.

He said that the Institute has put measures in place to ensure that surveyors work in strict compliance to the ethics of the profession and to curb the menace of quackery bedeviling building profession.

The world's smallest house

AT just over seven feet wide and 47 feet long, this tiny building is one of the smallest functioning homes in the world.

The 312-square foot 'Little House' of Toronto, Canada, has developed a cult following and even has its own website.

Back on the property market for £110,000, the comfortable home surprisingly comes with three rooms, including a normal sized bathtub.

With a front drive that parks two family sized cars - even though the house itself is barely big enough to swing a cat round - it still comes with all amenities.

Sitting on Day Ave in Toronto's Little Italy, the home has been viewed almost 40 times since it went on the market.

It is described in the estate agents guide as a 'unique home in good condition overall and has been well maintained'.



THE infamous 'Little House', squashed between two other grown up house on a Toronto street in Canada

even though the house itself is barely big enough to swing a cat round - it still comes with all amenities.

FCTA to provide rural health care centers

By Nasir Imam

THE FCT Permanent Secretary, Dr. Goke Adegoye, has assured that the FCT Administration will provide basic health care services within the reach of the rural dwellers.

The Permanent Secretary who gave this assurance on Tuesday while commissioning the Ayaura Comprehensive Primary Health Care Centre in Abaji Area Council of FCT said that desire is anchored on the need to decongest the secondary health care institu-

tions in the Abuja metropolis.

Dr. Adegoye reiterated that the FCT secondary health care facilities would be decongested because most of the common illnesses being attended to at the secondary health care institutions can be handled in the primary health care centre effectively.

According to him, "it is the desire of the FCT Administration to greatly alleviate the numerous health care challenges at the grass root which prompted the conception and development of this prototype health facility in all the six Area Councils of the Territory.

The Permanent Secretary revealed that the Ayaura Comprehensive Primary Health Care Centre was constructed and fully equipped at the total cost of N51,624,384.78 only.

Speaking earlier, the Chairman of the Abaji Area Council appreciated the uncommon gesture and promised to make enough budgetary provision to maintain the Centre.

He disclosed that the services of a qualified medical doctor had already been sought to manage the centre to the glory of God and service to humanity.

Coy invests \$100m on Lagos shopping mall

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

ACTIS, a private equity investor in emerging markets, on Monday entered into a partnership with Paragon Holdings Limited and Rand Merchant Bank of South Africa to build a world class shopping mall in Ikeja, Lagos.

Actis and local partner Paragon Holdings, who first sourced the development site, have been working for two years to make this idea a reality. Actis will

become the 60 percent majority owner; Paragon Holdings and Rand Merchant Bank Investments & Advisory ('RMBIA') will each take 20 percent equity stakes in the project a statement from their media consultant said.

The commitment builds on Actis's successful investments in Nigeria's first modern style shopping mall, The Palms; as well as Junction Mall in Nairobi, and Accra Mall in Ghana.

The mall in Ikeja will be an

international standard leisure and shopping centre with restaurants, a cinema and retail outlets. It has been designed to service the Lagos mainland and return Ikeja to its status as the traditional retail hub of the city. The project will initially develop 28,500m² of leisure and retail shopping space; anchor tenants already secured include Shoppers and Silverbird Cinemas.

David Morley, Head of Real Estate at Actis said: "We are pleased to be the core investor

in this project. The Palms Shopping Mall has become a benchmark for retail developments in West Africa and we want to replicate its success in Ikeja, in partnership with Paragon and RMBIA." Actis West Africa Managing Director Ngozi Edozien said: "By providing world class retail and commercial space in the area we hope to help revitalise the mainland of Lagos as we seek to grow our real estate portfolio across West Africa."

Mr. Afolabi Toyo of Paragon

Holdings said: "The Mall will bring social and economic development to the Ikeja area. There will be significant employment opportunities during the construction and operation phases, and we look forward to bringing this world class real estate project to fruition."

The project will be financed by a mixture of debt and equity, with a debt facility of US\$48.6m secured from Stanbic IBTC Bank Plc and Standard Bank South Africa Limited.

Property



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FCT opens printing press, music room

By Ben Atonko

THE Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) on Wednesday officially put to use its newly acquired mini-printing press, a firing kiln, music room and flex banner machine.

The facilities are located on the premises of the Education Resource Centre (ERC), Area 7 Abuja.

The mini-printing press comprises of Direct Image Printing Machine (Gestetner MP C6000), GTO Printing Machine, Plate

Maker Machine, Washing Compartment Machine, Maxim Adast (Guilutine Cutting Machine) and perforator.

While the music room which is equipped with piano, guitar, band set, organ and microphones will serve students and teachers of music, the flex banner machine is an improvement over the manual method of producing banners. The firing kiln is a large oven meant for baking clay or bricks. All this is expected to yield revenue and be self-sustaining.

Shortly before cutting the tape, the Per-

manent Secretary FCTA, Dr Goke Adegoroye, said the facilities would contribute to educational development of FCT saying, "Considering the volume of printing jobs being handled by the ERC in particular and the FCT community at large, the establishment of a printing press is timely."

He stressed, "The mini-printing press will take over handling of confidential documents. Printing of question papers and other examination materials which demand a high level of confidentiality will now be domiciled within the premises and handled by profes-

sionals who are also insiders. The stress of going outside the ERC and sometimes the FCT to handle such matters will by this laudable venture become a thing of the past."

Also speaking, FCT Secretary for Education, Alhaji Hussaini Halilu Pai maintained that government had set up the facilities so as to conserve funds, as well as provide needed security for documents and examination materials.

He advised private organisations especially schools to patronise the facilities adding that charges are minimal.

Niger teachers to share N2.5bn housing loans

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

TO stimulate performance of teachers in the state towards academic excellence in schools, Governor Muazu Babangida Aliyu, has announced N2.5 billion interest free loans would be given to teachers in the state.

The move, according to the governor, is to provide relief to teachers, adding that a good percentage of them are not opportune to stay in staff quarters which he said is bad for performance especially at a time education is dwindling

in the country.

Aliyu, who made this known at an interactive session of education stakeholders in Minna yesterday, stated that he had earlier sent all elected public officers and appointees to their local government to scale up the standard of education to stimulate productivity in the sector.

He lamented the abysmal performance by Senior Secondary Students across the federation in the recent West African School Certificate Examination (WAEC) and the National Examination Council (NECO) result, and

declared that all hands must me on the plough to revamp the sector.

The Commissioner of Education, Hajiya Asmau Usman Yusuf, in her remark at the forum said it was a positive move by the state government to indulge itself in the monitoring of schools to enhance performance in the quality of results at SSCE level.

She also said deplorable infrastructure must be tackled to provide a conducive learning environment for students towards enhancing academic excellence.

ONSLAUGHT AGAINST RULE OF LAW IN ZAMFARA STATE:

THE CASE OF ALH. SULEIMAN GYALANGE CHAIRMAN GUMMI LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL.

On the 19th day of March, 2010, pursuant to the dismissal of the appeal by the Court of Appeal Sokoto of Zamfara state Governor against the judgment of the Zamfara State High Court of Justice, Alhaji Suleiman Gyalange was reinstated into office by the Sheriff of the Zamfara State Judiciary aided by a detachment of the Nigeria Police at the instance of Zamfara State Command.

On the 21st day of March, 2010, at a meeting with the Commissioner of Police, Zamfara State, the Hon A.G. and Commissioner of Justice, Alhaji Armaya'u Iliyasu Bukkuyum solicited the Commissioner of Police to arrest the Counsel to the reinstated Chairman and abort the execution because to him the execution was illegal. He was reminded that the Police on its own cannot set aside any lawful execution but was properly advised to approach the Court for such prayers and to arrest the Counsel to the reinstated Chairman for performing purely his professional duty will be unconstitutional.

On the 23rd day of March, 2010 the Hon. Attorney General devised an ingenious means to have the execution set aside. He approached the Higher Sharia Court, Gummi to review, set aside the execution of the judgment of the High Court of Justice and Court of Appeal. The Judge, in case No CR/028/10 assumed jurisdiction and ordered that the reinstated Chairman Alhaji Suleiman Gyalange be remanded in Prison

Custody till the 6th day of April, 2010 for unlawfully breaking into the Chairman's office of Gummi Local Government Council. It is only in Aramayau's Zamfara State that Execution of Court Order becomes a criminal offence. It is pertinent to point that the reinstated Chairman was abducted at gunpoint in his office by mobile policemen from Government House led by the Director of Civil Litigation after which he subsequently procured a detention warrant.

The Attorney General acting in concert with his Director of Civil litigation ensured that the reinstated Chairman was refused bail by the Judge. An "innocuous application to have Certified True Copy of the 'charge' filed by the State had to receive clearance from the Director of Civil Litigation before the Judge could oblige same to the Counsel. In Zamfara State now; any dissenting view will land you in detention without bail courtesy of the Attorney General and his man Friday the DCI (Aliyu Abdullahi).

In the leadership News Paper and Daily Trust of 25th March, 2010, the Attorney General gave reasons for his abuse of the obvious judicial process. That they were not served with orders of the Court of Appeal, Sokoto.

We have confirmed proof of service on his office which was duly signed by Emmanuel Baba his Personal Assistant on the 14th day of January, 2010; on the Governor's office was signed by

Bilyaminu who is P.A to the D.G, the Zamfara State House of Assembly was received by Abdullahi Ladan P.A to the Clerk of the House.

Assuming without conceding that the process was flawed, will a legal Practitioner occupying an exalted office like the Attorney General of a State resort to the Higher Sharia Court Judge to review any process emanating from the Court of Appeal and the State High Court of Justice? It is shameful enough but more shameful is that the Attorney General is gloating over this subversion of the judicial process. The Attorney General and his Director Civil Litigation deserve a date with the Legal Practitioner Disciplinary Committee for this conduct.

We call on the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), the Nigeria labor Congress (NIC), Civil Societies Organization (CSO), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and well meaning Nigerians to prevail on Zamfara State Government to respect the rule of law by releasing the reinstated Chairman of Gummi local Government Council Alhaji Suleiman Gyalange from prison and accord him all the paraphernalia of his office by obeying the positive injunctions restraining them from interfering or preventing them from functioning in office.

Alhaji Umar Abbas.

Pp: Good Governance Monitors.

Trust Islamic Forum

In the name of Allah the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful. All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds. We testify that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, and that Muhammed (peace be upon him) is His prophet and messenger. May the benediction and blessings of Allah be on Prophet Muhammed who is the noblest of mankind, his household, his companions and those who follow their foot steps till the day of resurrection.

Believing in al-Qadar

BELIEF in al-qadar (the Divine decree) is the sixth pillar of faith, and no one's faith is complete without it. In Saheeh Muslim (8) it is narrated that Ibn 'Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) heard that some people were denying al-qadar. He said: "If I meet these people I will tell them that I have nothing to do with them and they have nothing to do with me. By the One by Whom 'Abd-Allah ibn 'Umar swore, if one of them had gold equivalent to Mount Uhud and he spent it, Allah would not accept it from him unless he believed in al-qadar."

You should also note that belief in al-qadar is not valid unless you believe in the four aspects of al-qadar, which are as follows:

1 - Belief that Allah knows all things, in general terms and in detail, from eternity to eternity. Not a single atom is unknown to Him in the heavens or on earth.

2 - Belief that Allah has decreed all things in al-Lawh al-Mahfooz, fifty thousand years before He created the heavens and the earth.

3 - Belief that the will of Allah is irresistible and His decree is comprehensive, so nothing happens in this universe, good or bad, but by His will.

4 - Belief that all that exists was created by Allah. He is the Creator of all beings and the Creator of their attributes and actions, as He says (interpretation of the meaning): "Such is Allah, your Lord! Laa Ilaaha illa Huwa (none has the right to be worshipped but He), the Creator of all things" [al-An'aam 6:102]

Correct belief in al-qadar also involves believing in the following: That the individual has free will by means of which he acts, as Allah says (interpretation of the meaning): "To whomsoever among you who wills to walk straight [al-Takweer 81:28] "Allaah burdens not a person beyond his scope" [al-Baqarah 2:286]

That a person's will and ability do not operate outside the will and decree of All|||ah, Who is the One Who has given him that ability and made him able to distinguish (between good and evil) and make his choice, as He says (interpretation of the meaning): "And you cannot will unless (it be) that Allah wills the Lord of the 'Aalameen (mankind, jinn and all that exists)" [al-Takweer 81:29]

That al-qadar is Allah's plan for His creation. What He has shown us of it, we know and believe in, and what He has hidden from us, we accept and believe in. We do not dispute with Allah concerning His actions and rulings with our limited minds and comprehension, rather we believe in Allah's complete justice and wisdom, and that He is not to be asked about what He does, may He be glorified and praised.

Qadar means Allah's decree of all things from eternity, and His knowledge that they will come to pass at the times that are known to Him and in the specific manner that He has decreed and willed. They will happen the way they are meant to and the way they are created.

Belief in al-qadar is one of the six pillars of faith which were mentioned in the words of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) when Jibreel (peace be upon him) asked him about faith (eemaan). He said: "(It is) to believe in Allah, His angels, His Books, His Messengers, the Last Day, and to believe in the Divine will and decree (al-qadar) both good and bad." Narrated by Muslim.

Note that belief in al-qadar cannot be complete until you believe in the following four aspects of this doctrine:

(a) Knowledge: this is the belief that the knowledge of Allah encompasses all things and not a single atom in the heavens or on earth falls outside of His knowledge.

Allah knew all of His creation before He created them. He knew what they would do by means of His ancient and eternal knowledge. There is a great deal of evidence that points to this such as the verses in which Allah says (interpretation of the meaning):

"He is Allah, beside Whom Laa ilaaha illa Huwa (none has the right to be worshipped but He) the All-Knower of the unseen and the seen. He is the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful" [al-Hashr 59:22]

"and that Allah surrounds all things in (His) Knowledge" [al-Talaaq 65:12]

(b) Writing: this is the belief that Allah has written the decrees concerning all created beings in al-Lawh al-Mahfooz. The evidence for that is the verse in which He says (interpretation of the meaning):

"Know you not that Allah knows all that is in the heaven and on the earth? Verily, it is (all) in the Book (al-Lawh al-Mahfooz). Verily, that is easy for Allah" [al-Hajj 22:16] And the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "Allah wrote the decrees concerning all created beings fifty thousand years before He created the heavens and the earth." Narrated by Muslim, 2653.

(c) Will: this is the belief that everything that happens in this universe happens by the will of Allah. Whatever Allah wills happens and whatever He does not will does not happen. Nothing exists outside of His will. The evidence for that is in the verses where Allah says (interpretation of the meaning):

"And never say of anything, 'I shall do such and such thing tomorrow.'

24. Except (with the saying), 'If Allah wills!'" [al-Kahf 18:23, 24]

"And you cannot will unless (it be) that Allah wills the Lord of the 'Aalameen (mankind, jinn and all that exists)"

[al-Takweer 81:29]

(d) Creation: this is the belief that Allah is the Creator of all things, including people's actions. Nothing happens in this universe but He is its Creator, because He says (interpretation of the meaning): "Allaah is the Creator of all things" [al-Zumar 39:62] "While Allah has created you and what you make" [al-Saaffaat 37:96] And the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "Allah has made every doer and what he does." Narrated by al-Bukhaari in Khalq Af'aal al-'Ibaad (25) and by Ibn Abi 'Aasim in al-Sunnah (257 and 358); classed as saheeh by al-Albaani in al-Saheehah, 1637.

Shaykh Ibn Sa'di (may Allah have mercy on him) said: Just as Allah is the One Who created them - meaning people - He has also created that by means of which they act, namely their abilities and will, then they do various actions of obedience and sin, by the abilities and will which Allah has created. (al-Durrah al-Bahiyyah Sharh al-Qaseedah al-Taa'iyah, p. 18).

Belief in al-qadar is the real test of the extent of a person's belief in Allah. It is the true test of how much a person really knows about his Lord and what results from this knowledge of certain and sincere faith in Allah, and His attributes of majesty and perfection. That is because al-qadar raises many questions for the one who gives free rein to his reasoning to try to fully comprehend it. There have been many disputes concerning the issue of al-qadar and many people have engaged in debates and misinterpreted the verses of the Qur'aan that mention it. Indeed, the enemies of Islam in all eras have provoked confusion in the Muslims' beliefs by discussing the issue of al-qadar and stirring up doubts about it. So no one can have true and certain faith except the one who knows Allah by His beautiful names and sublime attributes, submitting to His commands with peace of mind and trusting in His Lord. In that case no doubts or specious arguments can find a way into his heart. Undoubtedly this is the greatest proof that belief in al-qadar is more important than belief in the other pillars of faith, and that the human mind cannot independently come to understand al-qadar, because al-qadar is one of the mysteries of Allah in His creation; whatever Allah has disclosed to us in His Book or on the lips of His Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) we know, accept and believe in, and whatever our Lord has not told us, we believe in and we believe in His perfect justice and wisdom, and that He is not to be questioned about what He does, but they will be questioned.

And Allah knows best. May Allah send blessings and peace upon His slave and Prophet Muhammad and upon his family and companions.

Correct belief in al-qadar also involves believing in the following: That the individual has free will by means of which he acts, as Allah says (interpretation of the meaning): "To whomsoever among you who wills to walk straight [al-Takweer 81:28] "Allaah burdens not a person beyond his scope" [al-Baqarah 2:286]

That a person's will and ability do not operate outside the will and decree of All|||ah, Who is the One Who has given him that ability and made him able to distinguish (between good and evil) and make his choice, as He says (interpretation of the meaning): "And you cannot will unless (it be) that Allah wills the Lord of the 'Aalameen (mankind, jinn and all that exists)" [al-Takweer 81:29]

Anwar-ur-Islam celebrates 94th anniversary

Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

THE Anwar-ur-Islam Movement of Nigeria will begin the celebration of its 94th anniversary in Lagos today.

Briefing the media on the activities lined up to mark

the anniversary, the National President of the movement, Barrister Mubashir Ojelade said it would begin with the organisation's annual conference which holds at Anwar-ur-Islam Model College in Agege area of Lagos.

He said the conference with the theme "Jihad, Terror-

ism & Martyrdom: the position of Islam" was chosen to create put the concepts in the right perspective

According to him, the topic was deliberately chosen by the group to sensitize people both Muslims and non Muslims on the true positions of Islami on the three concepts.

Inside Politics

South-south AC leaders open talks on party's future

MEMBERS of the Action Congress in the South-South zone have begun consultations on the party's future as the 2011 election approaches.

Leader of the party in Rivers State, Prince Tonye Princewill, said in Port Harcourt yesterday that former Vice President Atiku Abubakar had told stakeholders to consult with their people on the party's future.

He said that after a meeting with Atiku in Abuja, some leaders were told to go home and get the opinions of the people on what should be done and directions to take.

Princewill said the consultation would be in form of bottom-top approach to feel the opinion of the people at the grass roots and thereafter report to the enlarged body on the outcome of their interactions.

"We are going to convene again in Abuja in a few days time and we will get feedback from all the states."

The intention, of course, is to go from bottom up rather than from top down to capture the opinions of the people at the grass roots level as to what should be done.

"Of course in the process, selfishly, some of us will also be speaking to our people about our own prospects and what direction we should take. We have operated in

Rivers State under different banners.

"We have the women's wing. The women's wing runs almost independently and of course we are going to consult the women's wing. We have the youth wing."

"The youth wing is also running independently in 23 local governments, youth leaders, all converge in a central point and meeting regularly to discuss issues," he said.

Princewill said that chairmen of the party in the 23 local governments of the state, elders of the party, former candidates and stakeholders would all be consulted as the party planned for its future and next line of action.

He said the South-South caucus of the party would meet in Port Harcourt for detailed discussions and the way forward and that state chairmen had also met with their members on same issue.

"With these new developments, these constituencies will need to be re-oriented and updated as to what is currently in place. The final constituency is the executives in the state who will also need to be briefed on developments," he said.

He said at the end of the consultations, the outcome would be collated and sent back to an enlarged body of the party in Abuja "and



ATIKU Abubakar

by the time we are through, we will have a fairly good opinion as to what Atiku Abubakar intends to do". (NAN)

Easter: PDP urges Nigerians to remain steadfast

By Muideen Olaniyi

NATIONAL Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Prince Vincent Ogbulafor yesterday appealed to Nigerians to remain steadfast, peaceful, united, focused and prayerful in the face of the challenges facing the country.

Ogbulafor, in an Easter goodwill message, said the period which signified the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ offered Christians opportunity to reflect on the love that the Almighty God has for His creatures as 'He sent His only begotten son to die in order to redeem us'.

He said: "As a nation and as a people, we have had our own share of ups and downs but because of our grim determination to succeed in the face of temptations and trials and, above all, our abiding faith in the will of the Almighty God who in His wisdom made us to live together as a people and as a nation, we have always triumphed and will always come out from every setback in our journey to nationhood."

AC asks electorate to defend their votes

By Muideen Olaniyi

CHAIRMAN of the Action Congress (AC) in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Sunny Moniedafe yesterday asked those who are to vote during April 10 chairmanship elections in the FCT to defend their votes against rigging.

Moniedafe, who was speaking at the rally organized by AC candidate in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) Princess Vivian Anazodo appealed against voting apathy amongst men, saying they should join women in exercising their franchise.

While calling on the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to give all parties a level playing field, the FCT AC boss further appealed to the commission to use the chairmanship election to redeem its image.

Speaking during the rally, AC's candidate for the election, Anazodo, promised to pursue policies that will empower youths if elected.

FCT polls: INEC assures of early distribution of materials

By Misbahu Bashir

OFFICIALS of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in Abuja yesterday said that they would despatch electoral materials to polling units on time for the April 10 2010 Area Councils election.

INEC's Head of Operations in Abuja Ahmadu Umar who represented the Resident Electoral Commissioner, Stephen Manyu, said at a meeting with the police that electoral materials will be provided in all polling stations a day before the commencement of the election to ensure that voting goes on

smoothly.

"The materials would get to the polling units on Friday, a day before the election on Saturday, April 10," he said adding that INEC will ensure a free and fair exercise.

The Chairman of Kuje Area Council Danladi Etsu Zhin advised the police and other security agents to be vigilant and prevent intimidation of electorate. He said political parties must not be allowed to hire thugs during the electoral process.

The Commissioner of Police in Abuja Haruna John said the police will safeguard electoral materials and officials and will ensure free and fair election.

Pro-Iwu group seeks to register 15m supporters

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

IN a swift reaction to Wednesday's anti-Iwu protest by the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), hundreds of youths thronged the National Assembly yesterday insisting that chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Professor Maurice Iwu should be allowed to conduct the 2011 general elections.

The youths under the auspices of Alliance for Defence of Democracy (ADD) led by Ikenga Imo

Ugochinyere chanted pro-Iwu slogans as they were blocked from entering the vicinity of the assembly. The group said it has commenced registering 15 million supporters for the embattled INEC boss.

Delivering the groups' message in front of the Legislature, Ikenga said "the call for the untimely sack of Iwu by civil society groups and the NLC... is illegally sponsored, manipulated and aimed at overheating the polity as well as stampering the ongoing electoral process to pave way

for anarchy..."

Ikenga said Iwu is not the problem of elections in the country. He blamed desperate politicians who perpetrate acts of ballot box snatching and use political thugs as the main cause of electoral fraud in the country.

"It must be said that election rigging has never been faulted on Iwu as an individual, neither was the irregularities in INEC register. This is even when the commission has had to fire several of its staff adjudged to have compromised," he said.

Adamawa CPC plans organised action against INEC if...

From Ibrahim Muhammad, Yola

THE newly registered Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) has pledged to mobilize all it takes to prevent the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) from con-

ducting incredible election in the country.

At a press conference in Yola shortly after a meeting of CPC leaders yesterday, National Publicity of the party Mr. David Aghanya said INEC needs to be compelled through organized

actions to act lawfully, giving its actions and inactions that discredited previous elections.

"The CPC will mobilize against INEC; it will compel it to do what Nigerians want. We shall not allow PDP to use the INEC the

way it feels," the spokesman said.

The party also condemned the Senate for jettisoning much of the important recommendations of the Justice Muhammed Uwais electoral reform report and advised the

House of Representatives to fill the gaps left by the Senate.

He said that the CPC will continue work with a determination to uproot not only the ANPP but the PDP which has been identified as the enemy of democracy.

Inside Politics

Adamawa PDP crisis deepens

CHAIRMAN of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in Adamawa State, Alhaji Umaru Kugama, yesterday reaffirmed that the state party executive was intact.

Speaking in Yola at the end of the party's stakeholders' emergency meeting, Kugama said that the executive had not been dissolved as was being specu-

lated.

"The state PDP executive of which I am the chairman will remain in power until 2012 when a new congress is expected to hold," Kugama said.

He added that the dissolution of a state executive council could be done by only the national secretariat of the party and not any group or individual.

The chairman said the party's structure from the ward, local government to the state level is intact, and that the purported dissolution was aimed at creating confusion in the party at the state level.

On the reported plan by former Vice President Atiku Abubakar to return to the party, Kugama said he read about it in

the media but had yet to receive any correspondence on the matter from the national secretariat.

He said the party had embarked on the issuance of new party membership cards and not registration of its members in the state.

A PDP factional leader in the state, Princess Medan Teneke, had on Wednesday told private

radio station Radio Gotel that the national working committee of the PDP had announced the dissolution of the state executive.

Teneke also told the radio that Atiku's return to the PDP would be a plus for the party as the founding fathers of the party were needed in the fold for effectiveness. (NAN)

Councillors to honour govs, others

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

COUNCILLORS—BEING the political office holders closest to the people—are more qualified to judge the performance of every political office holder in the country, the National Councillors' Forum of Nigeria said yesterday. A statement by Mr Agber Terseer, the north central zonal chairman of the forum, said his members were not only elected from within the masses but they continue to live among the people even while in office.

For this reason, councillors have their "ears on the ground and they also monitor achievements of other public officers on issues and programmes that affect the masses," he said.

Terseer also said it is to underscore the importance of councillors that constitutions of political parties require people willing to join their parties to do so at the ward level. Suspension or expulsion of any member is also done at the ward level, he said, pointing out that the councillor is both the people's executive and representative at the ward level.

He said the forum has planned to honour some state governors and local government chairmen in the north central zone with awards, at a ceremony scheduled for April 15 in Makurdi, Benue State.



FROM left: Governor Adebayo Adesin of Oyo State, Chief Adigun Irawo and Chief Richard Akinjide, all PDP chieftains in Oyo State at a peace meeting in Ibadan recently.

Not everybody will follow Atiku to PDP – Kwande

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

NOT all leaders of the Action Congress (AC) would rejoin the People's Democratic Party (PDP) along with former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, AC chieftain Yahaya Kwande has said.

Kwande, former Nigerian Ambassador to Swit-

zerland, said only friends and political associates of Abubakar may decamp to the PDP with him.

He told *Daily Trust* in Jos by telephone that among those who attended the Abuja meeting earlier in the week to consider rejoining the PDP were members of AC and other parties.

He said even after the

former vice president moved to PDP, the AC would remain as a political party as not all the people in AC would decamp.

"The major issues discussed were to look into the future and problems of Nigeria as a country and find a solution to these problems in order to build strong democ-

racy in the country," Kwande said.

"No serious person can dream of joining PDP in order to take the party but rather he will only join them to contribute his quota and bring out the desired change that will help the country and strengthen our democracy," he added.

2011: PDP yet to zone Kogi governorship

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

THE Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Kogi State says it has not zoned the governorship to any of the three senatorial districts in the state for the 2011 election.

The state party chairman Hassan Salau yesterday disclosed this to our correspondent.

"We have not yet zoned the governorship to any of the three senatorial districts in the state because unlike what happened during the last general elections, this time around, we don't want the coming elections to be marred by violence and thuggery.

"We just want to have a common understanding among the three districts and we are working towards achieving this," he said.

The party chieftain also said that power shift would only come to reality through dialogue among the three senatorial districts.

"The question of power shift is even beyond the PDP because winning primaries is different from winning elections. You don't ignore dialogue while canvassing for power shift. Otherwise, the other disenfranchised groups may decide to go and pick candidates from another political party," he said.

Kogi youths seek power shift

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

YOUTHS in Kogi State, under the umbrella of Kogi Youth Leaders Forum and the Youth for Good Governance, have called on stakeholders to facilitate a power shift in the next political dispensation in the state.

A statement jointly signed by the leaders of the two groups said: "We recommend to the leaders of all parties and stakeholders to adopt the National Association of Kogi State Students' policy of power rotation within the three zones which has achieved the peaceful co-existence of students."

The youths, who urged the Inspector

General of Police to appoint a substantive commissioner of police for the state, also called on acting President Goodluck Jonathan to order security agencies to investigate incidents of politically motivated violence in some parts of the state.

"We also want the politics of majority rule ideology to be shelved in order give room for the emergence of genuine credible leadership in our state irrespective of tribe, religion or sex so that the state would develop rapidly. We therefore appeal to all our leaders to embrace whoever is best placed to lead us to the desired promise land", they said.

Ministers: Pro-Doma group hails Jonathan

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

A group canvassing for the re-election of Nasarawa State Governor Aliyu Doma in 2011 has commended acting President Goodluck Jonathan for appointing Mr. Labaran Maku as a minister.

A statement by the Vote Akwe Doma Agair

(VADA), signed by director-general Isa Muhammad Danlafia, said the nomination showed that Jonathan was desirable of forming a success-driven team.

"Maku's experience as a journalist, commissioner and deputy governor no doubt will impact positively on the Federal Executive Council which we believe

is the better for Nigeria. We are optimistic that Maku will make Nasarawa State proud and indeed Nigeria will be better off with his service," he said.

The group also urged newly sworn in commissioners in the state to focus their experience, energy and expertise to the development of the state.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

CHRISTIAN YOUTHS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

This is to inform the general public that the above named organization has applied to CAC for registration under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Mr. Oludare Bamisile
2. Mrs Bukola Oso
3. Mrs Halima Bamisile
4. Mr. Olatunbosun Ekundayo
5. Mr. Alfred Omojola

Objective(s):

- A. To carry out special youths empowerment training programs.
 - B. To provide career counseling for youths
 - C. To carry out Christian youths community cleaning exercises
 - D. To conduct lunch hour and believer's meetings
- Any objection to this registration should be furnished to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
Yejide Adeyeoluwa
Solicitor

ASSOCIATION OF SOCIOLOGISTS OF EDUCATION OF NIGERIA

The general public is hereby notified that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja for registration under part C of the companies and Allied matters Act of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Prof. (Mrs) Uche Azikiwe - President (UNN)
2. Dr. Mathew N. Sule - Secretary (University of Jos)
3. Dr. Noah Adewale - PRO (LASU)
4. Chief James O. Balogun - Treasurer (FCE Pankshin)
5. Dr. Muhammed G. Mahuta - Auditor (Usman Dan Fodio University Sokoto)
6. Prof. Cladius O. Daramola - Founder (University of Ilorin)
7. Dr. Samuel O. Dosunmu - Financial Secretary (LASU)

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. To promote the discipline of education in a non-profit and non-government spirit in Nigeria.
 2. To foster research in education with a sociological bias dissemination of same for general utilization.
 3. To vigorously promote the study of sociology of education without bias for any perspective, school of thought or theory.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
Secretary

RE: ISLAMIC SCHOOLS REJECT INTRODUCTION OF ENGLISH SYLLABUS

Our earlier stand on the issues raised in a press statement issued after a meeting of secretaries of Directorate of Education of JIBWIS chaired by the principal school for Higher Islamic Studies, Sarkin Mangu, Jos, Ustaz Muhammad Nasir AbdulMuhyi has generated a lot of concerns especially from the management of ABU Zaria and the Institute of Education, in view of such concerns; we retract the said press statement and offer our unconditional apology for the ripples generated by such misleading statement. We promise to consult widely in future on issues that are paramount to both of us. We wish you all the best and Allah's guidance.

Signed:
Ustaz Muh'd Nasir AbdulMuhyi
Thursday, March 25, 2010

JESUS CRUSADERS OUTREACH MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL

This is to inform the general public that the above named ministry has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part "C" of companies and allied matters 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Pastor Robert Musa Ekhaletuo - President / G.O
2. Sis. Mercy Robert - V.President (Women leader)
3. Bro. Tanko Kumi - Men leader (Treasurer)
4. Evan. Jonathan Gwarza - Evangelist (member)
5. Sis. Eunice Robert - Secretary (member)

Objectives:

1. Salvation of souls.
2. Discippling of Believers.
3. Youth and Prison outreaches.
4. Inspire people to be honest.
5. Make people develop high integrity.
6. Give hope for people to live a meaningful life now and for life after.

Any objection to the above registration should be forwarded to the Registrar - General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, PMB 198 Maitama Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

S. S. Olorunponle Esq.
S. S. Olorunponle Law firm.
19, Offa Road G.R.A
Boris, Kwara State.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NEW REALM BAPTIST CHURCH, OJO-LAGOS

This is to inform the general public that the above named church has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission:

"To alter some of the provisions of her constitution in line with the objects of the Church".

Any objection to this application should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, P.M.B 198 Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: Obafemi Ogundare Esq.
29, Iga-Iduanganran Street, Lagos

In the Light of Truth The Grail Message

"Therefore strive to free yourselves from all ties arising from base feelings; for it is high time! The hour approaches when the period allotted for this will have expired! Awake in yourselves the longing for the pure, the true and the noble!"

Abd-ru-shin
Grail Centre Madalla, Madalla Suleja Road 08054183304

NEW WORLD FOR MOTHER & CHILD FOUNDATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Florence Aina
2. Sunday Obaoye
3. Kayode Aina-Ba
4. Otunba Dare Akin-Adetifa

Aims and objectives:

1. To help orphans and woman from abusive relationship.
 2. To engage street children on reformatory activities.
 3. To help children appreciate work of Arts.
 4. To assist children on Management in general.
 5. To assist the aged in all ramifications of life.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:
Yemi Adetiba & Co.,
(Solicitors)
24, Olowu Street, Beside First Bank, Ikeja-Lagos.

FRIENDS OF MAKKAH EYE HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

The general public is hereby notified that the above named foundation has applied to Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990 Part C. of the company and allied matter act, 1990 (as amended), Cap C20 LFN 2004.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Maj. Gen. Garba Ali Mohammed (rtd)
2. Sulaiman Ilu
3. Aminu Inuwa Mohammed
4. Adamu Ismail Garki
5. Gen. Haliru Akilu (Rtd)
6. Dr. Muhammadu Sani Ado
7. Bilyaminu Shitu Aminu

AIMS AND OBJECTIVE

1. Promoting the care of the sick.
 2. Assisting less privileged patients
 3. Furtherance of overall health and welfare of member of the society through support to the hospital.
- Any objection to this registration should be forward to the registrar general, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama P.M.B 198 Garki, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

SIGNED. MARYAM BELLO

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of the Original Offer of Statutory Right of Occupancy with New File No. OG20140 dated 25/3/2006 in respect of Plot No. 19 of about 1000.00sqm located in Cadastral Zone AO1 of Garki 1 belonging to OLUWAFUNKE OBIHELE OBASANJO. All efforts made to trace it proved abortive. If found please return to the nearest police station.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to notify the general public of the loss of the Original right of Occupancy in respect of a Plot situated at C2 Gwarimpa District Abuja, measuring about 1597.227 square meters with reference No. MFCT/LA192/KT/754 belonging to Hon. Justice Amiru Sanusi which was issued to him on the 8th of September 1995. All efforts made to trace it proved abortive. If found please return to the nearest police station.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

Members of the public are hereby notified that the Document in respect of Plot of Land situated at Tudun Bojuwa in Fagge Local Government issued by Fagge LGC, belonging to Alhaji Shatima Bukar of Kurna T/Bojuwa Quarters is declared missing.

All effort to trace it proved abortive. Fagge Local Government Land Office and relevant authority should take note.
Any objection to the issuance of another copy should be forwarded to Fagge LGC before 21 days of this publication.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly MISS SARAH DOSHIA BAKO BAKUT. Now wish to be known as MRS. SARAH MUSA. All former documents remain valid. Ministry of Health, Kaduna State and the general public to please note.

I formerly known as Miss PATI BULUS, PARMATA, now wish to be known as Mrs. PATI DAVID LAZARUS. All former documents remain valid and general public should take note.

I formerly known as MUINAT BUKOLA YUSUF, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. MUINAT BUKOLA SALAWU. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly known as SHARON DIDEOLU FALADE, now wish to be called SHARON DIDEOLU KENAZ. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AS AUWALU ABUBAKAR NOW WISH TO BE CALLED AMINU GARBA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. RINGIM L.G, JIGAWA STATE L.G SERVICE COMMISSION AND GENERAL PUBLIC TO NOTE.

I, formerly MISS ADEDOKUN - ABDUL SAFRIAT YEMISI BOLANLE now wish to be known as MRS. UGBAJA SAFRIAT YEMISI BOLANLE, Federal Character Commission and general public to take note.

I formerly known as AKIBOH EVELYN OLUFUNMILOLA now wish to known as MRS. EVELYN OLUFUNMILOLA DOSE former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS HADEEZAH HARUNA, now wish to be called MRS HADEEZAH HARUNA USIE. All former documents remain valid. WRAPA and the general public to take note.

I, formerly known as JAMES AKOJI, now to be addressed as JAMES AKOJI ABRAHAM. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to notify the general public of loss of original certificate of offer for Plot No. 705 Cadastral Zone 07-04 Bwari Area Council Abuja, belonging to **AHMAD SADIQ ISMAILA** of Niger Insurance Plc Abuja. All efforts made to trace the missing document proved abortive. The Bwari Area Council, AGIS and the general public should take note.

EFFIAT PEOPLE COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

This is to inform the General Public that the above named Organisation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part "C" of the companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

- THE TRUSTEES ARE:**
1. Chief (Barrister) Asuquo Asuquo Okpo
 2. Inam Effiong Okon
 3. Hon. Godwin Okon Bassey
 4. Bassey Asuquo Effiong

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. To foster unity among members and help to encourage and develop one's another's potentials in the Effiat Community.
 2. To promote activities that will ensure the general well being of Effiat Community people.
 3. To promote peace, unity and brotherhood in the Community.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama Abuja, Within 28 days of this publication.

SIGNED: BARR. ASUQUO ASUQUO OKPO

APOSTLE ALLIANCE FELLOWSHIP

This is to inform the General Public that the above named Fellowship has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part "C" of the companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Prophet Rev. Fabunmi James Olubunmi
2. Rev. Ekpe Josiah Happy
3. Dr. Abhulimen Kingsley

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. To preach the Gospel of our lord Jesus Christ to the nations of the world.
 2. To organise fellowship, crusades and conferences to meet the spiritual needs of the people for church growth.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama Abuja, Within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: PROPHET REV. FABUNMI JAMES O.

LILIES OF DIVINE CARE FOUNDATION

The general public is hereby notified that the above named foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under Part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Mrs. Henrietta Nneka Ezeoke
2. Mr. Alphonsus Ofor Ezeoke
3. Winifred Njideka Okafor
4. Mr. Eric Chukwuemeka Okeke

Aims and Objectives:

- (a) To provide educational and material support to orphans and the less privileged children.
 - (b) To promote integration and a positive image of orphans and less privileged children through development education.
 - (c) To raise public awareness and influence government policy in matters affecting orphans and less privileged children's right.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
CHIMA HENRY EBERE ESQ
(Solicitor)

PHILARCH EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE

This is to inform the general public that the above named Organisation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja, for registration under part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990 (as amended) Cap 20 LFN 2004.

THE NAMES OF THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Arch. Phillip Ephraim
2. Mr. Samson Phillip Adamu
3. Mrs. Jummai Ayedime Okoriko
4. Barr. Ezra Yakusak

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. To empower widows, and the less privileged through skill acquisition
 2. To help them fulfill and achieve their purpose and destiny in life.
- Any objectives to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B. 198, Maitama, Abuja within Twenty-Eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed:
Barr. Ezra Yakusak
solicitor

AUCTION! AUCTION!! AUCTION!!!

This is to inform the general public that there will be public Auction Sales of Vehicles forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

The vehicle includes:

1. IVECO TRUCK
2. DAF TRUCK
3. MAN TRUCK
4. BADGES
5. COTONOU BOATS and alot of others

Venue: Warri- Delta State, Yanagoo-Bayelsa State, Port-Harcourt - Rivers State

Date: 7th April, 2010

Time: 10.00am

Signed:

On behalf of all the appointed Auctioneers
King Alfred Spiff (OFR) Alh. Bashiru Musa LL.B. (Hons)
08033099228 08037924884

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as **MISS COMFORT I. VICTOR**, now wish to be known as **MRS COMFORT BABATUNDE ABIDEMI**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS EKAETTE MOSES ROBERT**, now wish to be known as **MRS EKAETTE OKON**. All former documents remain valid. General public and Nursing and Midwifery Council take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS MABEL IFOEMA NWANKWO**, now wish to be known as **MRS MABEL IFEOMA NWANKWUDO**. All former documents remain valid. General public and NYSC take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as **MISS TALATU MAMMAN**, wish to be known and addressed as **MRS. TALATU M. SADOH**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MARYAM UMAR** now wish to be known as **MARYAM ALIYU**. Ministry of Education Katsina, Teachers Service Board Katsina, Katsina Civil Service Commission, Institute of Arabic Teachers and Islamic Studies Olodo, Ibadan and general public to take note. All former documents remain valid.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as **AMAKA PEACE ONWUMERE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **NWAMAKA PEACE PROMISE-CHUKWU**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS BOYE OMODUNNI OLAJUMOKE**, wish to be addressed as **MRS ADIGUN OMODUNNI OLAJUMOKE**. All former documents remain valid. NSCDC and general public should take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS. AMOS ABAYI REBECCA**, wish to be known as **MRS. BELLO ABAYI REBECCA**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, **OLUWAKEMI MARIAM Y. AKANBI**, now wish to be addressed as **OLUWAKEMI MARIAM AKANBI SODIQUE**. Note all former documents remain valid.

I, formerly known as **MISS EDITH ATTAMA CHIAJU**, now wish to be called **MRS UGWUOKE EDITH CHIAJU**. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I, formerly known as **UGOCHI EUCHARIA ONYEBULA**, now wish to be known as **UGOCHI EUCHARIA ROLAND-NGBOR**. All former documents remain valid. NICO and general public take note.

I, **MISS PATIENCE IFEOMA O. AMAKEME**, now wish to be called **MISS DELIGHT IFEOMA AMAKEME**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **JOHN NGOZI ANOSIKE**, now wish to be known as **JOHN KITSON ANOSIKE**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS ROSELINE NGOZI OKONKWO**, now wish to be known as **MRS ROSELINE NGOZI ANUNOBI**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

SPORT

Fabregas
may miss
World Cup

Page 54



PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE

By Ismaila Lere

AFTER a day of mixed fortunes at the Warm Up matches of the International Tennis Federation (ITF) Junior Circuit in Abuja yesterday, national tennis coach, Ubale Mohammed has said there is no cause for alarm.

Before yesterday's Warm Up events, Nigeria had six players in the quarterfinals of U-14 and U-16 categories, but at the end of competition only two players managed to scale through.

Edward Christopher booked his place in the semi finals after beating his Algerian counterpart 7-5, 6-0.

Edwards came from behind to win the crucial U-14 quarter final clash.

Nonso Madueke also made it to the last four in the U-16 category beating his Egyptian opponent in straight sets.

The duo are the only remaining players in the singles category.

Reacting to the losses incurred by Nigerian players in the warm-up events Coach Ubale said it will not count against the team in the championships proper which begins on April 4.

Coach Ubale said that the losses would rather help the players when the African Junior Championship (AJC) proper begins on Sunday.

"The losses are nothing to worry about at all, because they have no implications on the championships and are individual events on the part of the players concerned," he said.

On Tuesday, when the Nigerian players began action in the warm-up events, Nigeria's best-ranked junior Samuel Omoile, who is ranked 608 by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) lost 2-6 3-6 in the first round.

He lost to Morocco's Ismail Lahlou, who is ranked 1524, while the 938th place ranked Biola Akewula lost 3-6 2-6 to Great Britain's Laura Deigman who is seeded seventh and ranked 255.

While both Omoile and Akewula lost in the boys and girls singles respectively, Anthony Leo lost to Morocco's Hamid Derbanin in the under-16 boys singles.

Coach Ubale, however, allayed fears, saying the situation was not as bad as the losses had portrayed.

He said: "The losses are minimal and everybody is okay so far. This is a game of win-some-lose-some, and there are no implications on the championships proper.

"The good thing about these warm-up events is that they serve to prepare the players for the championships and at times you can be lucky or it may not be your day."

The coach said Omoile would not have lost if he had not lost his rhythm during his game and

would still do better in the championships.

"Omoile, for example, can be said to have been unlucky and if he had not lost his rhythm he would have done better.

"But he has the prospects of doing better, and that's why this is a warm-up event. I am sure he has

learnt lessons and I am confident that if he meets the player again, he will beat him," he said.

Coach Ubale, however, expressed satisfaction with the way the warm-up events had gone so far as well as the reaction of the visiting players.

"We have had it good so far and I

am impressed with the impression this championships is creating on the visiting players and tennis officials.

"Most of them had not expected what they have seen so far in terms of the courts provided for the competition and the hotels provided for them to stay in.

"They have been commending the Nigeria Tennis Federation (NTF), especially its President, Alhaji Sani Ndanusa, for the efforts put into this smooth organisation.

"It has been like a new world to them, especially the young players who had not expected Abuja to be what they are seeing now," he said.

Day of mixed fortunes at AJC

■ No cause for alarm – Ubale



NIGERIA'S Lolade Ogungbesan goes for a backhand return in one of her warm up matches at the ongoing International Tennis Federation (ITF) Junior Circuit Warm Up event in Abuja.



KOBE Bryant of Los Angeles Lakers, middle, drives between Josh Smith and Marvin Williams of the Atlanta Hawks during their NBA basketball match at Philips Arena on Wednesday in Georgia, Atlanta.

NPL ELECTIONS

NFF, Clubs fix April 7 for congress

AN extra-ordinary congress of the Nigeria Premier League (NPL) is now to hold on April 7 in Abuja to address critical matters on its suspended electoral process.

This was the major decision reached at the meeting between the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) leadership and the 20 Premier League Clubs on Wednesday in Abuja.

The meeting was part of the NFF leadership's efforts at using dialogue to resolve the knotty issues that had since stalled the NPL board elections.

The elections earlier slated for March 3 and March 4, and later March 10 and March 11, had been stalled because of court injunctions obtained by two disqualified candidates.

The candidates, Ray Nnaji and Sam Jaja, had sought the courts' intervention in determining the eligibility and neutrality of the Electoral Committee as well as the NPL itself.

But following the intervention by both the National Sports Commission (NSC) and the NFF and after threats of suspension had failed to deter the litigants, NFF decided on the dialogue option.

The meeting was a step forward in the logjam

The NFF refused to brief the media on the outcome of the meeting, which ended late on Wednesday, as its Chief Media Officer, Ademola Olajire, said the meeting's agenda was not an issue for the media.

"The meeting and its agenda are no issues for the media and we do not feel we need to brief the media on that," he said.

However, NPL's Executive Secretary, Malam Alhassan Yakmut, said the meeting was a step forward in the logjam, which had seen the league secretariat placed in charge of the league body.

"The meeting was at the instance of the leadership of the NFF to take a cursory look at the suspended electoral process in the NPL.

"It looked particularly at the provisions of the statutes, unconventional litigations and the management of the league under the secretariat.

"It is in this regard that a formal Extra-ordinary Congress of the NPL to address critical matters on the transition to another Board shall hold on Wednesday, April 7," he said.

The NPL congress, which is made up of the 20 Premier League Clubs, had on March 15 in Abuja dissolved the NPL board led by Oyuki Obaseki.

This was to go in line with the dictates of the NPL Statutes which stipulates a four-year tenure for the board, from March 16, 2006 to March 15, 2010.

Court throws out Nnaji's case

THE Nigeria Football Federation has doffed its hat for the Nigeria Judiciary for once more rising to the occasion, after a Federal High Court in Enugu struck out a case on football matter brought before it by a former Board Member of Nigeria Premier League, Barrister Ray Nnaji.

Justice Kafarati minced no words in declaring that the case brought before his was purely football mat-

ter and therefore should not have come before him at all, as the litigant ought to have employed internal dispute resolution mechanisms of the Nigeria Football Federation and the Nigeria Premier League.

It took a Judge of a Federal High Court to explain to Nnaji, a football Match Commissioner, that disputes arising from football matter are usually not to be brought before

an ordinary court of law.

Nnaji had gone to court challenging his disqualification from the election of the Nigeria Premier League. Eventually, he was found to have submitted his form late and also failed to get a second endorsement for his candidature, which was prescribed in the electoral guidelines.

There are strict regulations in

FIFA, CAF, WAFU, NFF and other football Statutes that disputes within the football family are to be resolved using internal dispute resolution mechanism, and not to be taken to ordinary court of law.

The Nigeria Football Federation was represented at the court by Barristers A. U. Mustapha and Okey Obi while Ray Nnaji represented himself.

...NFF slams him with suspension

The Nigeria Football Federation yesterday got its axe swinging on the head of failed litigant, Barrister Ray Nnaji, who had taken football matters to ordinary court of law.

General Secretary, Dr. Bolaji Ojo-Oba said: "Ray Nnaji is suspended from all football matters in this country indefinitely.

"He will have to appear before the NFF Disciplinary Committee on Tuesday, April 6, 2010".

Ojo-Oba explained that the Disciplinary Committee could

decide on further actions against the former NPL Board Member.

A letter from world football governing body, FIFA's letter, titled 'Court cases over football matters', dated April 1, 2010 and signed by FIFA General Secretary, Mr. Jerome Valcke, was received by the NFF yesterday. It read: "We acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 23 March 2010 with regard to the submission of two claims to Federal courts by candidates for the Nigeria Premier League election.

"As you are aware, according to the FIFA Statutes any recourse to ordinary courts of law is prohibited (art 64, par. 2 of the FIFA Statutes) and that FIFA member associations must ensure that their own members comply with the Statutes (art. 13, par. 1 (d) of the FIFA Statutes). As a consequence, we request the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) to ask for an immediate withdrawal of the claims and, in case of non compliance by the claimants, to take sanction against them.

"We remind you that if the NFF

does not comply, FIFA could have to act according to art. 13 par. 2 of the FIFA Statutes which states that violation of obligations by any member may lead to sanctions.

"We hope that the NFF will be able to solve the problem rapidly and we thank you to keep us informed about the development of the situation".

Article 13 Par. 2 of FIFA Statutes says: "Violation of the above-mentioned obligations by any Member may lead to sanctions provided for in these Statutes".

THEFT ALLEGATIONS

Ndanusa to critics: Come up with proof

ERSTWHILE Sports Minister, Engr. Sani Ndanusa has broken his silence over recent media publications alleging that he is in possession of some government properties.

Speaking through his close aide, Umar T. Shua, Ndanusa branded such reports as handiwork of mischief makers.

"My attention has been

drawn to some media reports aimed at tarnishing my image. I will advise those embarking on this campaign of calumny to desist as I won't take this lightly any further", he said.

Ndanusa challenged those peddling these allegations to come up with proofs or subsequently face his lawyers.

"They said I am in posses-

sion of 17 vehicles and two power generating sets belonging to Nigeria 2009 LOC. Whoever has proofs of these should come up or be ready to do so in court if they don't stop. I have detailed my lawyers on what to do. I have an integrity to protect and will leave no stone unturned in this regard", he concluded.



NDANUSA

Fabregas may miss World Cup

ARSENAL captain Cesc Fabregas may struggle to make Spain's World Cup after he was ruled out for the remainder of the Premier League season on Thursday with a cracked right fibula.

Arsenal said the 22-year-old midfielder is out for at least six weeks with the injury he sustained in the closing stages of Wednesday's 2-2 Champions League quarterfinal, first leg draw against Barcelona.

Everyone at the club wishes Cesc a full and speedy recovery.

Arsenal has six more Premier League matches before the English season finishes on May 9. The deadline for national teams to register their provisional 30-man World Cup squad is two days later.

The squads must be trimmed to a final 23 by June 1 and, with Fabregas an infrequent starter, coach Vicente Del Bosque might decide to leave out a man who may not have played for 11 weeks when Spain opens its World Cup campaign.

European champion Spain, which has friendlies against South Korea on June 3 and against Poland on June 8, plays its first World Cup match against Swit-

zerland on June 16 in Durban.

There is a slim chance Fabregas could return in time for the May 22 Champions League final if Arsenal gets there.

"Everyone at the club wishes Cesc a full and speedy recovery," Arsenal said in a statement.

Arsenal's leading scorer with a remarkable 19 goals in 36 matches from central midfield, Fabregas seemed to have justified coach Arsene Wenger's decision to include him Wednesday despite a knee injury sustained in the Premier League over the weekend.

But he left Emirates Stadium on crutches after being fouled by Carles Puyol for the 85th-minute penalty he converted to earn the draw.

Fabregas was already suspended for next week's return match at Camp Nou but will now sit out the semifinals should Arsenal advance as well as Premier League matches against Wolverhampton Wanderers, Tottenham, Wigan, Manchester City, Blackburn and Fulham.

Arsenal is in third place, four points behind defending champion Manchester United and three behind Chelsea. The Gunners have not won a trophy in five years and are without a Premier League title since 2004.

Defender William Gallas and forward Andrey Arshavin are also out after sustaining calf injuries Wednesday.

"I won't be able to come out on the pitch for another two or three weeks," Arshavin said on his Web site yesterday.



A leg fracture will force Arsenal captain Cesc Fabregas to miss the rest of the Premier League campaign and the World Cup.

Rooney sustained minor ligament damage

WAYNE Rooney sustained minor ligament damage and did not break a bone in Manchester United's Champions League loss at Bayern Munich on Tuesday, the English champions said yesterday.

While Rooney will miss United's match against Chelsea on Saturday, the Premier League leaders haven't given a timeframe for Rooney's return to action.

The England international hurt his ankle in the final minute of Tuesday's 2-1 loss in Germany.

"We're pleased to report that Wayne has not suffered a fracture. The scan revealed only minor ligament damage," United's Web site said Thursday. "For now, the club is not commenting on how many games Wayne is likely to miss."

Manager Alex Ferguson will provide an update at his weekly Friday media conference.

The fact there is no fracture should boost Rooney's hopes of being fit for England's World Cup

opener against the United States on June 12 in South Africa.

Rooney was England's top scorer during World Cup qualifying with nine goals.

But his injury couldn't have come at a worse time as United chases a record fourth straight Premier League title and a third Champions League final appearance in a row.

Having already scored 34 goals this season, Rooney looked on course to surpass Cristiano Ronaldo's 42-goal haul two seasons ago.

With Michael Owen also out injured, manager Alex Ferguson is likely to deploy Dimitar Berbatov up front when Chelsea, which is a point behind United in the title race, visits Old Trafford on Saturday.

"Everyone knows how Wayne Rooney is important for this team," Chelsea manager Carlo Ancelotti said. "He has had a fantastic season but his injury could be an advantage for us."



ROONEY... He sustained a minor ligament rupture.

Pato: Milan believe in winning the scudetto

THE thought of winning the Scudetto has bought injured Milan striker Alexandre Pato to his feet as he encourages the squad not to give up on the title.

Pato is continuing his recovery from a hamstring injury that has kept him out for over a month, but for a nine-minute return against Napoli that ended in a recurring injury 10 days ago.

However, rather than worry about his own return to action, Pato has told the players not to unclench their Scudetto-fighting fists, and show broad shoulders from now until the end of term.

"The Scudetto? All the team believes in it and I am sure that Milan are doing their best to win the league," he told 7 Gold.

"I hope I can give my own contribution towards the end of the season, but for now I just want to recover and play without any pain."

Rich enthusiasm from the Brazilian, but he was not so keen on spelling out where the axe would fall in relation to his return.

"I am well. I have read many things about my state of fitness, but I am working well and I hope to recover so I can come back on the pitch," he concluded.



ITF Junior Circuit Warm Up

PICS: AFOLABI SOTUNDE



ENRICO Creighero of Italy showing his stuff against David Ayeni of Nigeria.



STEPHANIE N'tcha of Benin Republic serves against Sohinee Ghosh of Mauritius.



SOHINEE Ghosh of Mauritius returns serve against Benin's Stephanie N'tcha



NIGERIA'S Lolade Ogungbesan goes for a forehand shot.



DAVID Ayeni of Nigeria in action during his warm up match against Enrico Creighero of Italy.

THE FRIDAY COLUMN

Adamu Adamu

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Gaddafi: A gadfly's gift of the gaffe (II)

Or perhaps he knew only too well. But whoever would speak of and treat the basic ordinances of Islam with such blasphemous levity would be liable to say anything about any matter anyhow.

First of all, he ought to have known that it was impossible to divide Nigeria into two neat confessional fiefdoms as he suggested; and even if it somehow became possible it would be to nobody's good. In fact, many of those who thought they needed Nigeria least are likely to end up suffering the most from its breakup.

Second, perhaps with the possible exception of the breakup of Czechoslovakia, there has never been and there will probably never again be a case of a negotiated, peaceful disintegration of any country in the world.

Third, when it breaks out, a partition war in Nigeria may consist of no less than 30 battles in which the major tribal groups will simultaneously be fighting the minorities and each other; before the internal battles, in which Ifes will resume killing Modakekes, forest Igbos will be butchered by village Igbos and Hausas start killing Fulanis.

It will all be a smouldering cauldron of savage violence as hostile warring neighbours engage in an orgy of killing as Nigerian society implodes in a whirlpool of disaster. This implosion will, within its first few weeks, produce a casualty of unimaginable magnitude and an estimated refugee problem of at least 25 per cent of the population. A 37.5 million refugee problem is not something that can be managed even by the combined resources of all the relief agencies in the world.

Running helter-skelter, refugees who survived would pour out across borders in all directions putting unprecedented strain and pressure on the societies and economies of Cameroun, Chad, Niger and Benin republics as these countries are forced to take in more than their own population as refugees. This, in turn, will ignite a chain reaction of massive state failure and economic collapse across the West African sub-region and, by extension, the continent.

Srebrenica and Zepa will look like heaven compared to Jos, Kaduna, Modakeke or Port Harcourt. At that time, the only resource that the so-called ethnic nationalities will be running to control will be their lives. And if after this, there is still a Niger Delta, it will probably constitute the coastal enclave of a still boiling Biafra; or, more likely, a dependent oil-producing outpost of the United States of America.

But if Pakistan is a wrong choice by Gaddafi, Yugoslavia is even more so. Because, despite the 1947 pogroms, the 1965-66 and 1971 wars with India and its child Bangladesh, and the continuing tension necessitating the stationing of 150,000 troops in Kashmir, the ten million refugees uprooted and the hundreds of thousands who died for want of food, and the possibility of nuclear conflict erupting from this precarious balance of terror, a manageable, if scary, stalemate would seem to have been reached.

And in any case, Gaddafi has not examined the counter-argument advanced at the time of the partition by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, who opposed the creation of Pakistan. According to his thesis, today, if Pakistan had not been created, the total population of Muslims in non-partitioned India would have been 543,452,101 [174,578,558 in Pakistan; 137,493,990 in Bangladesh, and 231,579,553 in India], almost the entire population of the African continent in the 1980's and nearly half of India's 1,156,897,766, such that they couldn't have been ignored, bullied or taken for granted. But now, they are catching hell in three different countries.

Of course, Yugoslavia gave the world its first on-screen, modern-day ethnic cleansing; and, perhaps seeing parallel with Plateau State here, Gaddafi thought he could improve his case by suggesting it. Would that he had stuck to his less erroneous Pakistan example; far and away better would it have been for his reputation.

Yugoslavia has already split into six different countries—Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia and unrecognized Muslim Kosovo, along with the two restive provinces of Vojvodina and Montenegro. The former has remained riotous, the latter is in rump Yugoslavia without the consent of all of its people, and both are almost certain to witness even more bloodshed in the coming years.

Because someone might say that Yugoslavia's breakup came all of a sudden, let's see how much saner, neater and better a nego-

tiated breakup is. From 1989, when Mikhail Gorbachev became Soviet head of state and the Berlin Wall crumbled, to 1991, when he resigned after negotiating the dissolution of the Soviet Union, trouble and clashes erupted in the Baltic states, in the Caucasus region, in the Central Asian republics and in southern Russia, and at least eleven different full-fledged wars raged; and all of them are still smouldering to this day.

In 1989, there were fierce ethnic clashes in Uzbekistan's Fergana Valley, horrendous massacres in Abkhazia, Tbilisi and Ossetia. The following year, Soviet troops were in Azerbaijan and in Kyrgyzstan to restore order and stop ethnic clashes; and in Dushanbe a civil war raged between Tajk and Armenian militias. More than 20,000 died and 700,000 were homeless.

In 1991, Soviet troops were in Latvia's Riga occupying all key installations, and paratroopers descended on Vilnius in Lithuania to impose an economic blockade.

In 1992, heavy casualties were recorded in the Georgia-Abkhaz conflict and border clashes between Chechnya and Ingushetia, and Russia invaded Chechnya and killed 40,000 people and made 250,000 homeless; and later razed all of Chechen urban areas to the ground. Meanwhile, the civil war in Nagorno-Karabakh had led to 23,000 deaths and one million refugees.

If indeed there are 250 ethnic groups or their dialects, Mu'ammarr thinks the solution is to have 250 such statelets in place of one Nigeria. Perhaps Chief Anthony Enahoro and his ethnic nationalities associates might endorse; but to us, it looks like a recipe for opening up 250 battle-fronts. And who wants to fight?

Perhaps later a visionary may arise who will appreciate the virtues of integration and help galvanize Africa towards it. Indeed, Africa should have been a single country; or, if it must be partitioned, it shouldn't have been carved up into more than three separate countries—West Africa, North Africa and portions of Equatorial Africa should have formed a single country; the Horn of Africa, central Equatoria and East Africa—the home of the Great Rift Valley—should have been another; with southern Africa—from Angola down through the cape to Mozambique—constituting the third country.

But it was not given to colonialists and it was indeed not the business of colonialism to worry about or plan for the long-term future of its conquered territories, or preserve the culturally homogenous path trodden by the ancient empires of the Western Sudan. Yet, the mirage of cultural homogeneity that Gaddafi is indirectly pining about is neither a condition nor a guarantee for peaceful co-existence or for the sustenance of nationhood. Muslim-majority Ethiopia under Christian Menelik II enjoyed peace and prosperity as a nation and had the internal cohesion necessary to defeat Italy in battle. On the other hand, Somalia, which is 100 per cent Muslim and virtually 100 per cent Hamitic and Bantu Somali in ethnic composition, has been riddled with unlivable violence, proving to be the world's most woefully failed state.

As a country, Nigeria has not failed—yet; it is Nigerians—the Nigerian elite—who have, but instead of admitting it, they are blaming the nation-state. And in the name of fighting for ethnic nationalities, the elite will soon stoke the fire of enmity among the people and succeed in setting brothers at each other's throats; and yesterday's friends become tomorrow's enemies, would-be helpers become instant killers, and hunger and famine stalk the land, killing as many as the weapons of the antagonists fell.

Those looking for a so-called better Nigerian union through the prism of ethnic nationalities will certainly find something; for, they who seek always find; but it is doubtful if what they see or find is going to be national unity—unity in diversity. It will probably be more like unity in disunity, which, being a contradiction in terms, becomes a sure recipe for the collapse of the Nigerian nation-state, in the form of a sacrificial offering to some atavistic ethnic urge.

The breakup a nation is easy to set in motion; but once begun, it is irreversible; and then and only then does it become clear that it is no solution at all. It is always done in the battle-field; and not even the naivety of the patriarch of self-government is likely to alter an established fact.

And then eventually comes the blood, after which many of the so-called indigenes and as many of the so-called settlers will finally inherit the land—six feet underground. But of what use is that to the living? Or even to the dead?

SPORTS REPORT



JOHN Terry

Terry: Chelsea will face Man U with no fear

Terry says his Chelsea side must approach Saturday's meeting with Manchester United at Old Trafford with no fear and use the momentum gained in recent weeks to take a potentially crucial lead in the title race.

Chelsea travel to Manchester this weekend one point behind the leaders United with six games to play. Sir Alex Ferguson's side will be without Wayne Rooney, but Carlo Ancelotti yesterday suggested that

Didier Drogba could return to the Chelsea line-up after injury.

"There is so much on the game on Saturday and the way we have played the last couple of games, we have to take that momentum and that same game-plan into this match," said Terry. "We have to approach the game with no fear and we must go into it playing our own game. It is a tough place to go and the way we got beaten there and the way we played there last year was not good enough."



MARIO Balotelli

Balotelli makes peace with Mourinho

Mario Balotelli, the 19-year-old Internazionale forward, has apologised to his club and manager José Mourinho after being dropped from the first-team squad for wearing the red and black shirt of city rivals Milan on a television programme.

The Italy Under-21 striker, who has been linked with transfers to Milan, Chelsea and Manchester City, last played for Inter on 7 March when he was in the starting line-up for the goalless draw with Genoa. He has been out of favour since.

But a statement from the player yesterday said: "I apologise for the situation that has been created in recent times. I am the first to suffer because I adore playing football and I would like to play. Now I will wait silently in order to return and be useful to the team."