

Lagos orders demolition of structures under bridges



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Kogi MPs apologised to me - Governor Idris



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8 more ministers named

● Why Masari was dropped

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

EIGHT more names were presented to the Senate by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday for screening and possible

confirmation as ministers, bringing the total number of nominees to thirty three. The Senate has already set Monday next week to begin the ministerial nominees' screening, departing from its tradition of not sitting

on Mondays. A notable absentee from the elongated nominees' list was former House of Representatives Speaker Aminu Bello Masari, who was widely speculated to be on the list. A Presi-

dency source told *Daily Trust* yesterday that Masari was indeed on the list approved by Jonathan but was removed by the Acting President at the last minute to make room for Katsina State Commissioner for

Works Architect Musa Sada, at the insistence of Governor Ibrahim Shema. Of the 8 new nominees, Dr. Shamsudeen Usman and Professor Dora Akunyili were returnees from the dissolved Cabinet, while the

others are new nominees, even though two of them, Adamu Maina Waziri and Mohamed Sanusi Daggash, previously served in the Yar'adua cabinet as Minister of State for Agriculture

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SENATOR Jibril Martins Kuye



MOHAMMED Sanusi Daggash



MRS. JOSEPHINE Anenih



PROFESSOR Shiekh Abdullahi

Constitution:

Senate adopts 35 changes

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

THE Senate yesterday passed the historic electoral reform bills sent to it by ailing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, thereby

amending 35 provisions of the 1999 constitution which according to the lawmakers will pave way for the conduct of free and fair elections in 2011.

For the first time since the return to

democracy in 1999, the electronic voting machines installed in the chambers were repaired and Senators were given an activation card which enabled them to vote electronically.

In a five hour sitting during plenary session, Senate unanimously adopted and passed all the recommendations of the committee on the review of 1999 constitution led by Senator

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Inside Today's Daily Trust

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Barcelona's Lionel Messi has deposed David Beckham to become the best-paid footballer **56**

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The PDP yesterday raised an alarm over a plot by some of its members to truncate the 2011 polls **51**

Gunmen attack Senator Bukar's house, kill cop



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58 Nigerians deported from Sudan

From Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

ABOUT 58 Nigerians have been deported from Sudan. The deportees were dumped at the international wing of the Murtala Muhammad Airport Ikeja, Lagos yesterday. The deportees, our correspondent observed are all Northerners and some of them are blind. The President of the Association of Nigeria Licensed Custom Agents (ANLCA), Livinus Agubuzor Dada, said the development had affected their business.

"We were so disturbed when we met these people here this morning and we immediately put calls across to relevant security agencies at the airport. They were the ones that informed us that the people were deported from Sudan. Up till now, some of our clients are not coming in. We hope the relevant agencies will do something about them," he added.

At about noon, the deportees were taken away to an unknown destination. The deportees who arrived the country aboard a chartered Air Libya with flight no TLR-129 at

about 2000hrs on Wednesday include 8 males, 41 females and 9 minors. A source close to the Nigerian Immigration Services told *Daily Trust* that the deportees were sent back to Nigeria because they were a nuisance to Sudan.

The source said most of the deportees, especially the women were blind and their major means of livelihood in Sudan is begging. According to him, the Sudanese authority also said some of the deportees had fake/ expired travel documents while some of them were illegal immigrants.

Gunmen attack Senator Balogun's house

From Yemi Bamidele, Ibadan

GUNMEN yesterday attacked the Alarere, Ibadan residence of Senator Lekan Balogun, a member of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Oyo State.

A witness told our correspondent that six gunmen attacked the senators house, firing shots at the gate in an attempt to enter the house. He added that security men at the residence fired back and eventually scared the hoodlums away. Empty shells of the bullets fired by suspected attackers littered the premises yesterday morning, when newsmen visited the house.

The security men at the gate told journalists who visited the scene yesterday that the men were dressed in white garments and were shaking the entrance gate to force themselves in. Senator Balogun said the gunmen stormed the house around 11.30 p.m. He said he had been receiving threat messages from some people in the state. He added that he had also been receiving unusual phone calls from unknown persons.

Senator Balogun alleged

that one notorious criminal was sighted around the house on Tuesday evening before the incident saying, "The criminals stay around this area and I have made several reports to the Commissioner of Police, but the police are yet to take action."

He called for the scrapping of the National Union Of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) in Oyo State as he alleged that politicians were using the union members to perpetrate crimes against their perceived enemies. Senator Balogun said he had contacted the Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of operations to alert him of the incident, but when contacted, the state Commissioner of Police Baba Adisa Bolanta said he was not aware of the attack.

The attack on Chief Balogun's residence is coming barely one month after a similar attack on the Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party in Atiba Local Government Area of Oyo State Alhaji Azeez Adegbile and another Action Congress (AC) chieftain, Mr. Taiwo Falade. The men were assassinated in their respective homes by yet to be identified gunmen.

Suspected assassins attack Senator Bukar's house, kill policeman

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

UNKNOWN gunmen on Tuesday attacked the home of former Governor Bukar Abba Ibrahim of Yobe State, who is now representing Yobe South senatorial district in the Senate. The house is located at the Government Reserve Area (GRA) in Damaturu. The gunmen killed a police Constable, Mohammed Idris, attached to the house.

Bukar was recently appointed by the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) in the state to lead its reconciliation committee to reconcile aggrieved members of the party including Senator Usman Albishir who recently lost his bid at the Supreme Court to unseat Governor Ibrahim Gaidam.

In an interview with our correspondent, the state Police Commissioner Mamman Sule confirmed the incident

and ruled out armed robbery attempt. "We feel they wanted to kill the former governor who unknown to them left Damaturu on Monday. Unfortunately they killed one of our men", he said.

The commissioner who described the attack as "Very strange, especially in Yobe" said the three suspected assassins stormed the residence of the former governor around 7:40pm.

"Immediately they opened the gate to the house, they saw some people sitting outside and they targeted and shot our police Constable at close range before they ran away. He died on the spot", he said.

The commissioner said no arrest had been made, but that police investigators sent to the house of the former governor recovered two face caps, live ammunitions and shoes. Meanwhile, Governor Ibrahim Gaidam has condemned the attack.



THE new Emir of Dikwa Alhaji Muhammadu ibn Masta II ibn El-Kanemi soon after he was turbaned at Dikwa, Borno State, yesterday.

Kogi MPs apologised to me — Idris

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

GOVERNOR Ibrahim Idris of Kogi State on Tuesday said the problem between the state executive and the legislature had been settled and that members of the state Assembly who came to his office on Tuesday apologised to him and said they were misled. The governor said this when the management team of Media Trust Limited, publishers of Trust newspapers led by the Managing Director Alhaji Isiaq Ajibola visited him in Lokoja. He said since he assumed office, he had not experienced such, saying he had always tried to ensure a cordial relationship among the three arms of government.

"I have succeeded in keeping the House of Assembly together for the past seven years. The recent crisis was the first of its kind. There was an allegation that one of their colleagues was molested in my presence at the Government House. That never happened. The member in question brought some aggrieved youths from his constituency to me for reconciliation.

"I learnt that the youths molested him at the gate of the Government House. Anyway, members were here today. We

discussed, they admitted their mistakes and I have forgiven them. So, the matter has been resolved", the governor said.

Chairman of the House Committee on Information, Mustapha Allah-Dey, who spoke with our correspondent yesterday, said the crisis had been resolved.

"We resolved the issue amicably with the governor on Tuesday. We realised that it was just a mix-up. Our colleague was not molested at the instance of the governor as previously alleged. The governor could not have tolerated that. The whole thing was misunderstood. We ought to have respected him by hearing from him before boycotting plenary session. We just had to apologise and he has forgiven us", he said.

Speaker of the House Clarence Olafemi said though the matter had been resolved in the interest of the state, it was normal for the executive and the legislature to have a misunderstanding and resolve it, especially in a democracy, saying "no one was guilty".

It would be recalled that the House last week embarked on a boycott of plenary sessions over alleged insecurity of members.

Man bags 10 years for defrauding priest

From Sunday Ejike Benjamin, Lagos

A High Court in Ikeja, Lagos State yesterday sentenced a fraudster, Ferdinand Iheasirim, to 10 years imprisonment for defrauding an Australian clergyman, Reverend Robert McArdle.

The trial judge, Justice Olubunmi Oyewole, found Ferdinand Iheasirim guilty of obtaining \$1,000 from the foreigner under false pretence. He was also convicted for forging a Central Bank of Nigeria's letter in 2004 as well as the forgery of Federal Ministry of Finance identity card in 2005 to facilitate the perpetration of his fraudulent business transactions. The judge found him guilty on five out of the seven count charges slammed against him by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

Justice Oyewole consequently sentenced him to 10 years imprisonment. He was however acquitted on the remaining two of the charges (four and seven) as the court held that the prosecution failed to prove the counts beyond reasonable doubt.

Iheasirim had used the name, Dr. Ben Agu during the fraudulent transaction conspiring with others now at large to dupe the foreigner under the guise of contract arrangements.

The convict has refunded the \$1,000. It would be recalled that the Australian clergy informed the EFCC when he got to know that he was dealing with fraudsters. Iheasirim has been in detention since 2006 when he was first arraigned. His accomplices, who are now at large are Ala Owerri (a.k.a Barrister Ugo Ukanma of Ukanma and Co), Galadima Hassan, Barrister Daniel Amachree and another person, not mentioned in the charge.

Profile of the new ministers

Alhaji Musa Sada (Katsina)

Currently the Katsina State Commissioner for Works and known to be a very close friend of Governor Ibrahim Shema. He holds a B Sc and M Sc in Architecture as well as an MBA, all from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. He was a Principal Partner in Triad and later Quaditect Consultants.

Alhaji Murtala Yar'adua (Katsina)

Holder of an M Sc in Financial Management. A graduate of the Nigeria Military School, Zaria who later schooled in England. Son of the late political kingpin and former Chief of Staff, Supreme Headquarters Major General Shehu Yar'adua. Currently a director of Bank PHB, Hamada Carpets and Intel, Port Harcourt. He is 39.

Alhaji Yusuf Sulaiman (Sokoto)

A Business Administration graduate of the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and also a graduate of the Harvard Business School. Former Director of Industries in the Sokoto State Ministry of Commerce and Industry, former Special Assistant to the National Security Adviser, former Director of Administration, Nigeria Maritime Authority [NMA] and Chairman of the board of the Nigeria Teachers Institute [NTI], Kaduna.

Prof M.K. Abubakar (Kebbi)

Currently the Vice Chancellor, Kebbi State University of Science and Technology, Aliero. A Professor of Biochemistry at the Usmanu Danfodio University, Sokoto, a graduate

of the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, holder of a Ph D from the United Kingdom, and former Kebbi State Commissioner for Education.

Prof Sheik Abdullahi (Niger)

Professor of Management at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Former Director of the ABU's Institute of Administration, Kongo Campus. Former Director General of the Administrative Staff College of Nigeria [ASCON], Badagry.

Sen. Jubril Martins Kuye (Ogun)

Born Aug 16, 1942. BSc. Economics. Minister of State for Finance in the first Obasanjo cabinet, 1999-2000.

Mrs. Iyom Josephine Anenih (Anambra)

A lawyer, ex-PDP National Women's leader, founder of the Women Foundation Nigeria, wife of PDP chieftain Chief Tony Anenih.

Sen. Mohammed Sanusi Daggash (Borno)

Born 1950, BSc & MSc. Architectural, Former Minister of National Planning in the first Yar'adua cabinet, 2007-08.

Adamu Maina Waziri (Yobe)

Ex-PDP Governorship candidate, Yobe State. Former Minister of State, Agriculture and Water Resources, former Executive Secretary, Petroleum Technology Development Fund.

Nduese Essien (Akwa Ibom)

Born Feb. 1944. B Sc Business Admin, ABU, Zaria. Member of the House of Representatives, 1999-2003.

Sen. Bala Mohammed (Bauchi)

ANPP member, elected to the Senate in 2007.

Prof. Ruqqaya Rufai (Jigawa)

Former lecturer at the Bayero University, Kano. Currently Commissioner for Education, Jigawa State.

Mohammed Bello Adoke (Kogi)

Law graduate of the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Called to the bar 1986. In active legal practice since then. Former director of Peugeot Automobile and current chairman of Unity Bank's Audit Committee. Senior Advocate of Nigeria, member of the Legal practitioners Privileges Committee and fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitration, London. He is 47.

Olusegun Olutoyin Aganga (Lagos)

Managing Director Goldman Sachs International, London. An investment banker.

Nuhu Somo Wya (Kaduna)

An architect. Worked briefly in Kaduna Polytechnic after graduating from ABU in 1977. Went into private practice as proprietor of Kaduna based CIBI granite.

For Murtala Yar'adua, a false alarm

By Nasiru Abubakar

WIDESPREAD rumours yesterday alleging that President Umaru Yar'adua's

nephew Murtala Shehu Yar'adua had turned down his nomination to serve in the new cabinet turned out to be false. His close friend

told *Daily Trust* last night that the speculation was not true and that Alhaji Murtala had indeed agreed to serve.

Earlier yesterday, a mem-

ber of the Yar'adua family had said Alhaji Murtala, son of the late political kingpin General Shehu Yar'adua, had turned down the appoint-

ment and said it "should be taken to the market." However, his close friend denied that anything of the sort happened.



JUNGLE justice on a bag snatcher at Oke-Afa in Ejigbo Area of Lagos State yesterday.

Electoral reform: The 36 sections amended by the Senate

Compiled by Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

SECTION 65 as amended reads "A person shall be qualified for election under subsection (1) of this Section if, (a) he has been educated up to tertiary level." The amendment has raised the educational requirement from school certificate as provided in the Constitution.

(b) "He is a member of a political party and is sponsored by that party or he is an independent candidate." The amendment has created room for independent candidature in future elections.

(3) A person standing for election as an independent candidate shall be qualified for election if he is nominated by not less than ten registered voters in each of at least two thirds of the wards in the Senatorial district in the case of senator or fifteen registered voters in each of at least two thirds of the electoral wards in a federal constituency, in the case of a member of House of Representatives, whose signatures on the nomination form shall be verified by the Independent National Electoral Commission."

Section 66 (d) (disqualification in an election) was amended to now read "Within a period of less than ten years before the date of an election to a legislative house, he has been convicted and sentenced for an offence involving dishonesty or he has been found guilty of a contravention of Code of Conduct or any other law relating to electoral offences."

Section 66(h) of the Constitution was deleted to prevent witch-hunting of opponents in an election. The section deleted reads "he has been indicted for embezzlement or fraud by a judicial commission of inquiry or an administrative panel of inquiry or a tribunal set up under the tribunal 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." Senate said the deletion of the section is in line with the ruling of the Supreme Court in the case between Atiku Abubakar and INEC over his disqualification from contesting in the 2007 election.

Section 68 was deleted. The existing section reads; "(g) being a person whose election to the House was sponsored by a political party, he becomes a member of another political party before the expiration of the period for which that House was elected;

Provided that his membership of the latter political party is not as a result of a division in the political party of which he was previously a member or a merger or two or more political parties or Election by one of which he was previously sponsored"

Section 69 (Recall of members) reads; "A member of the Senate or of the House of Representatives may be recalled as such a member if -

(a) there is presented to the



SENATE President David Mark

Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission a petition in that behalf signed by more than one half of the persons registered to vote in that member's constituency alleging their loss of confidence in that member and which signatures are duly verified by the Independent National Electoral Commission."

Section 75 (Ascertainment of Population) "For the purpose of section 72 of this Constitution, the number of inhabitants of Nigeria or any part thereof shall be ascertained by reference to the latest census held in pursuance of an Act of the National Assembly."

Section 76 (Time of Election to the National Assembly) read "(1) Elections to each House of the National Assembly shall be held on a date to be appointed by the Inde-

Section 135 "in the determination of the four year term, where a re-run election has taken place and the person earlier sworn in wins the re-run election, the time spent in the office before the date the election was annulled, shall be taken into account."

pendent National Electoral Commission.

(2) The date mentioned in subsection (1) of this section shall not be earlier than one hundred and fifty days and not later than ninety days

before the date on which the House stands dissolved, or where the election is to fill a vacancy occurring more than ninety days before such date, not later than thirty days after the vacancy occurred." The Senate said the provision is to allow for time to dispense with election petitions and litigations.

Next is Section 81 (Authorization of Expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund). Senate has amended sub-section 3 of the section to now read "The amount standing to the credit of the-

(a) Independent National Electoral Commission,
(b) National Assembly,
(c) Judiciary;

in the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation shall be paid directly to the said bodies respectively; in the case of the Judiciary, such amount shall be paid to the National Judicial Council for disbursement to the heads of the courts established for the federation and the States under section 6 of this Constitution."

Section 84 (Remuneration, etc of President, and certain other officers) "The recurrent expenditure of the Independent National Electoral Commission in addition to election expenses shall be a charge upon the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation."

Section 106 "(d) he is a member of a political party and is sponsored by that party or he is an independent candidate.

(2) A person standing for an election to a House of Assembly as an independent candidate shall be qualified for an election if he is nominated by not less than twenty registered voters in each of at least two-thirds of the wards in the constituency each of whose signatures on the nomination form shall be verified by the Independent National Electoral Commission."

Section 107 (disqualification) reads "(1) No person shall be

qualified for election 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 Inquiry or a Tribunal set up under the Tribunals 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;" this has been deleted to avoid witch-hunting.

Next is section 110 which deals with recall of members. The section now reads "A member of the House of Assembly may be recalled as such a member if -

(a) there is presented to the Chairman of the Independent National electoral Commission a petition in that behalf signed by more than one-half of the persons registered to vote in that member's constituency alleging their loss of confidence in that member and which signatures are duly verified by the Independent National Electoral Commission;"

Section 116 read "(1) Elections to a House of Assembly shall be held on a date to be appointed by the Independent National Electoral Commission.

(2) The date mentioned in subsection (1) of this section shall not be earlier than One hundred and fifty days not later than ninety days before the date on which the House stands dissolved, or where the election is to fill a vacancy occurring more than ninety days before such date, not later than thirty days after the vacancy occurred."

To take care of independence for the state houses of assembly, Senate amended section 121. The new subsection (3) inserted reads "(3) Any amount standing to the credit of the House of Assembly or the judiciary in the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the State shall be paid directly to;

(a) the House of Assembly of the State; and
(b) the heads of the courts concerned;

respectively." Section 131 "(1) A Person shall be qualified for election to the office of President if- (a) he is a citizen of Nigeria by birth; (b) he has attained the age of forty years; (c) he is a member of a political party and is sponsored by that political party or he is an independent candidate; and (d) he has been educated up to tertiary level and obtained the relevant certificates.

(2) A candidate who intends to contest election to the office of President as an independent candidate shall be qualified for election if he is nominated by not less than one registered voters, in each of at least two thirds of the wards in the Federation, whose signatures on the nomination form shall be verified by the Independent National Electoral Commission."

Section 132 (election of president: general) reads "(2) An election to the said office shall be held on a date

not earlier than one hundred and fifty days and not later than ninety days before the expiration of the term of office of the last holder of that office."

Section 135 "in the determination of the four year term, where a re-run election has taken place and the person earlier sworn in wins the re-run election, the time spent in the office before the date the election was annulled, shall be taken into account." This provision is meant to check elongation of term for officials that win re-run election after court nullification of their elections.

Section 137 deals with disqualification. (i) reads "he has been indicted for embezzlement or fraud by a Judicial Commission of Inquiry or an Administrative Panel of Inquiry or a Tribunal set up under the Tribunal of Inquiry Act, a Tribunals 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." This section has been deleted.

Section 156 reads "(1) No person shall be qualified for appointment as a member of any of the bodies aforesaid if -

(a) he is not qualified or if he is disqualified for election as a member of the House of Representatives, provided that a member of any of these bodies shall not be required to belong to a political party, and in the case of the Independent National Electoral Commission, he shall not be a member of a political party." The provision according to Senate is to insulate members and chairman of INEC from partisan politics. It is to provide political independence for the commission.

Section 160 deals with operations of INEC. The section provides that "(1) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, any of the bodies may, with the approval of the President, by rules or otherwise regulate its own procedure or confer powers and impose duties on any officer or authority for the purpose of discharging its functions, provided that in the case of the Independent National Electoral Commission, its powers to make its own rules or otherwise regulate its own procedure shall not be subject to the approval or control of the President"

Section 177 deals with qualification for election as governor. The new section provides "A Person shall be qualified for election to the office of Governor of a State if- (c) he is a member of Political Party and is sponsored by that Political Party or he is an independent candidate, and (d) he has been educated up to tertiary level and obtained the relevant certificates.

(2) "A person standing for an election to the office of Governor of a State as an independent candidate shall be qualified for election if he is nominated by not less than five registered voters in each of at least two-thirds of the wards in the State each of whose signatures on the nomination form shall be verified by the Independent National Electoral Commission."

To be continued tomorrow



PHOTO: NAN

NYSC director general, Brig.-Gen Maharazu Tsiga inspecting a guard of honour at the NYSC permanent orientation camp in Ise/Emure in Ekiti State, yesterday.

Senate adopts 35 changes

Continued from page 1

Ike Ekweremadu, who is also the Deputy Senate President.

Section 65 of the constitution has now been amended to provide for independent candidature in all elections and only those who have obtained a minimum of ordinary diploma or national certificate of education can contest for any elective office.

Amendment to section 135 which deals with tenure of office of President and Governors reads, "In the calculation of the four year term, where a re-election has taken place and the person earlier sworn in wins the re-election, the time spent in the office before the date the election was annulled, shall be taken into account."

Senate also legitimised cross carpeting by elected public office holders by deleting provisions of section 68 subsection, of the constitution which prohibits cross carpeting.

Moreso, elections into all elected offices will now be conducted between 210 days and 180 days to the expiration of tenure to allow adequate time for dispensing of litigations arising from elections.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), National Assembly and the Judiciary will now get their funding directly from the consolidated revenue fund of the federation in an effort to guarantee their independence.

Section 285 was also added to the constitution which stipulates a period of 21 days for filing of election petition in subsection 1, while subsection 2 reads, "An election tribunal shall deliver its judgement in writing within 180 days from the date of results of elections; an appeal from a decision of an election tribunal or court shall be heard and disposed of within 60 days from the date of the delivery of judgment of the tribunal."

The amendments will now await those of the House of Representatives, after which a harmonisation committee will be set up between the two chambers to adopt one of the positions for onward transmission to the 36 state Houses of Assembly for endorsement of at least 2/3 of them, before the amendments will take effect.

8 more ministers named

Continued from page 1

and Water Resources and Minister of National Planning respectively. Another nominee, Senator Jubril Martins Kuye, was Minister of State for Finance in the first Obasanjo cabinet in 1999.

At yesterday's sitting, Senate President David Mark read out the list of thirty three nominees sent by the Acting President. The list has 9 returnee ministers from the dissolved cabinet, including Mrs. Diezani Allison Madueke (Bayelsa), Arc. Nuhu Somo Wya (Kaduna), Senator Akinlabi Olasunkami (Osun), Mrs. Dora Akunyili (Anambra), Dr. Shamsudeen Usman (Kano), Mrs. Fidelia Akubata Njeze (Enugu), Adetokunbo Kayode (SAN) (Ondo), Henry Odein

Ajumogobia (SAN) (Rivers) and Elder Godsdag Orubebe (Delta).

The 24 new nominees include Senator Mohamed Sanusi Daggash (Borno), Professor M.K. Abubakar [Kebbi], Chukwuemeka Ngozichineke Wogu (Abia), Mrs. Iyom Josephine Anenih (Anambra), Labaran Maku (Nasarawa), Eng. Chris Ogiemwonyi (Edo), Alhaji Suleiman Bello (Zamfara), Alh. Murtala Yar'adua (Katsina), Senator Bala Mohammed (Bauchi), Hon. Nduese Essien (Akwa Ibom), Mrs. Josephine Tapgun (Plateau), Mohammed Bello Adoke (Kogi), Navy Capt. Ernest Olubolade (Ekiti) and Olusegun Olutoyin Aganga (Lagos).

Others include Alh. Adamu Maina Waziri (Yobe), Alh. Umar Aliyu (Taraba), Awodele

Najeem Adewale Alao (Ogun), Alh Abubakar Sadiq Mohammed (Gombe), Yusuf Suleiman (Sokoto), Prof Ruqaiyya Rufai (Jigawa), Arch. Musa Sada (Katsina), Prof Sheikh Abdullah (Niger), Capt Emmanuel Iheanacho (Imo) and Senator Jubril Martins Kuye (Ogun).

Acting President Jonathan in a letter to the Senate said after dissolving the former cabinet on March 17, "Accordingly, in line with the provisions of Section 147 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, I forward herewith, the names of the first batch of nominees for appointment as minister of the government of the federation for the consideration and confirmation of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria."

There were indications yesterday that some of the nominees would face a tough time during the screening exercise as senators were threatening to stop their confirmation.

When the name of Senator Daggash was announced by Senator Mark, several senators shouted their disapproval, indicating that the acrimony between the Senate and the former minister was still rankling.

The Senate does not usually sit on Mondays, but Vice Chairman of the Senate Committee on Information and Media Senator Anthony Manzo (PDP, Taraba) said the screening will begin by Monday to enable senators complete the exercise and embark on their Easter recess, which was cut by a week.

The 33 ministerial nominees

RE-APPOINTMENT

Mrs. Fidelia Akubata Njeze
Elder Peter Godsdag Orubebe
Arch. Nuhu Somo Wya
Chief Adetokunbo Kayode, SAN
Mr. Henry Odein Ajumogobis, SAN
Sen. Akinlabi Olasunkami
Mrs. Diezani Alison-Maduake
Dr. Shamsudeen Usman
Prof. Dora Akunyili

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Chukwuemeka Ngozichineke Wogu
Iyom Josephine Anenih
Labaran Maku
Engr. Chris Ogiemwonyi
Alhaji Suleiman Bello
Alh. Murtala Yar'adua

Enugu
Delta
Kaduna
Ondo
Rivers
Osun
Bayelsa
Kano
Anambra

Abia
Anambra
Nasarawa
Edo
Zamfara
Katsina

Sen. Sanusi M. Daggash
Sen. Bala Mohammed
Hon. Nduese Essien
Mrs. Josephine Tapgun
Mohammed Bello Adoke, SAN
Navy Capt. Earnest Olubolade
Mr. Olusegun Olutoyin Aganga
Prof. M. K. Abubakar
Alh. Adamu Waziri
Alh. Umara Aliyu
Mr. Awodele Najeem Adewale Alao
Alh. Abubakar Sadig Mohammed
Yusuf Suleiman
Prof. Ruqaiyya Rufai
Arc. Musa Sada
Prof. Sheikh Abdallah
Capt. Emmanuel Iheanacho
Sen. Jibril Martins Kuye

Borno
Bauchi
Akwa Ibom
Plateau
Kogi
Ekiti
Lagos
Kebbi
Yobe
Taraba
Ogun
Gombe
Sokoto
Jigawa
Katsina
Niger
Imo
Ogun

Fate still unknown

Michael K...
Dr. Abba Sayyadi Ruma
Dr. Mansur Muhtar
Dr. Rilwanu Lukman
Dr. Shettima Mustapha
Dr. Lanre Babalola
Dr. Sam Egwu
Prof. Babatunde Osotimehin
Chief Ufot Ekaete
Babatunde Omotoba
Chief Achike Udenwa
Hajiya Aisha Dukku
Mr. Remi Babalola
Chief Demola Seriki
Amb Ibrahim Kazaure
Hajiya Salamatu Suleiman

Gummi LG chairman arrested

From Sadeeq Aliyu, Gusau

The former Chairman of Gummi Local Government Area of Zamfara State Sule Mohammed Gyalange who has made several attempts to regain his seat was arrested Tuesday for attempting to take over the council while his case is still pending in the court. The state Commissioner of Justice Armaya'u Bukkuyum while reacting to media reports that the chairman was abducted, said Gyalange was arrested for

alleged criminal conspiracy, inciting public disturbance and stealing N3 million belonging to the council. Gyalange's council was dissolved in 2004 by former Governor Ahmed Yarima, but he filed a case before Gusau High Court to challenge the dissolution and judgement was delivered in his favour. However, Bukkuyum, said they appealed against the judgement and the case was transferred to the Sokoto Appeal Court where it was dismissed for lack of diligent prosecution on the part of govern-

ment. The commissioner said they applied for a relisting of the case in the same court, but it was not relisted and they appealed at the Supreme Court on January, 21st, 2010 where the appeal is still pending.

According to Bukkuyum, on March 19th, 2010 they heard reports that Sule Gyalange was escorted to the council by policemen where he took over. He said he and the governor who were parties to the case were not informed, but that they later found out that there was a letter from the

Zamfara State Judiciary signed by Sani Gago, the Registrar of Gummi High Court and addressed to the Divisional Police Officer of Gummi asking him to reinstate the chairman. He said Gyalange went to the council with five other persons where they allegedly vandalized council's property and took away N3 million. The commissioner said they filed a case against the chairman at the Sharia Court in Gummi which issued an arrest warrant and Gyalange was arrested.

NCGN calls for probe of ex-ministers

By Nweze Jane Frances O.

THE National Coalition for Greater Nigeria (NCGN) yesterday urged the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to probe the activities of past ministers as well as their ministries to ensure probity in the system.

President of the group, Taiye Oghogho Garrick, condemned the recent attack on EFCC operatives, who followed suspects to court in the eastern part of the country and called on the Acting President not to bow to pressure from certain quarters, but to appoint tested persons as ministers. Garrick also called on Mend to cease fire and allow for meaning dialogue to reign so that there could be development in the Niger Delta.



CHIEF Judge of Federal Capital Territory, Justice Lawal Hassan Gummi (left) with the guest lecturer Prince Lateef Fagbemi, at the 1st annual Law Lecture Series, organized by Nigerian Bar Association, Abuja branch, held in Abuja yesterday.

Media boycott in Nasarawa frustrates govt, PDP

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

THE ongoing media boycott of government, party and police functions in Nasarawa State is frustrating parties involved. This is as all efforts by leaders of the Peoples Democratic party and party chieftains in Lafia to address newsmen yesterday proved abortive.

The party stakeholders had gone to the Press Centre along Jos Road in Lafia for a press conference, but the leadership of the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ) in the state and the newsmen walked out of the venue. The NUJ said it is still standing by its decision to boycott activities of government, police and the PDP, saying the government must punish those who assaulted two journalists in the state recently.

ThisDay reporter, George Okoh and National Life reporter, Joseph Erunke, were allegedly assaulted by the Chief Security Officer (PCSO) to Governor Doma in Akwanga during a PDP rally.

The council had asked the state governor to make a public apology and pay the hospital bills of those assaulted.

Lagos govt orders demolition of structures under bridges

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

THE Lagos State government has directed that all structures under bridges in the state be pulled down. The directive is as a result of the fire incident at the office of the Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG) zone 2 in Lagos last Friday. The fire was said to have affected the Onikan Bridge. At a news conference yesterday, the state Comptroller of Works Engr. Ibemena Ejike said this was the seventh time a fire incident in the state was affecting a bridge. He said he had written to the Federal Ministry of Works to support him in the 'war' against

illegal structures under bridges in Lagos.

"Any business that is not friendly to the bridges would be pulled down from now on. We have more bridges in Lagos than all other part of the country put together. This Onikan Bridge is the seventh bridge to be damaged in Lagos due to human error. Enough is enough," he said.

He added that restriction of heavy vehicles on the bridges would commence on April 6th and that it would last for six months. "As soon as Julius Berger Construction company comes out with its findings on the life of the bridge, we will look for a permanent solution," he said.

The Special Adviser to Lagos State Governor on Works and Infrastructure, Engr. Ganiyu Johnson said officials of the state's Ministry of Works and Infrastructure and their counterparts from the federal level had inspected the burnt bridge. He said the inspection revealed that the fire affected the surface of the bridge, adding that more tests needed to be carried out on the damaged bridge. The Special Adviser to the state Governor on Transportation, Kayode Opeifa, said the Ministry of Transportation was informed that though, the bridge was damaged by the fire, it could be used by motorists.

Felled tree kills woman in Lokoja

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

A tree fell at the entrance of the Kogi State Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources in Lokoja yesterday and killed a middle-aged woman, leaving two others severely injured. Witnesses who spoke to our correspondent said the incident occurred at 2.00pm.

The deceased was waiting for her relation under the tree when the tree fell and killed her on the spot. Confirming the incident, Alhaji Yusuf Yahaya, the Director-General of the Kogi State Sanitation

and Waste Management Board, said the victim's corpse had been deposited at the mortuary of the Federal Medical Centre, Lokoja where the injured were also being treated. Yahaya, who described the incident as unfortunate said there would have been more casualties if his officials had not driven away traders who usually transacted business around that area.

"Two days ago, my staff drove away street traders around that area. I learnt that the deceased was not a roadside trader, but was waiting for someone under that tree before the unfortunate incident," he said.

Plateau killings bad for Nigeria's image – Gov Aliyu

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

NIGER State Governor Babangida Aliyu yesterday said the recent killings in Jos in Plateau State is giving the country a bad image abroad. The governor, who just returned from Saudi Arabia said foreigners were discussing the recent killings, adding that such could affect the country's relationship with other countries.

"Killing in parts of the

country is giving Nigeria a bad image. In the recent crisis in Jos has continued to dominate centre stage in the international media. Those behind the killings are not religious because in Islam, we believe that the sins of anyone killed is transferred to the killer, so killing is not part of Islam", he said.

Aliyu who was speaking at a function organised by the Niger State Development Company (NSDC) on Leadership and Good

Character said Nigerians must adopt a system where only credible people are given responsible positions.

"Let me appeal to all Nigerians whether in the private or public sector to be accountable and transparent so that we can provide services for the people. The NSDC is being repositioned to ensure the rejuvenation of the economic, industrial and human resources sectors of the state", he said.

Kano govt gives contractors 7-day ultimatum

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

A seven-day ultimatum has been given to the contractors handling the library complex and the Geography Block Projects at the Kano State University of Science and Technology (KUST) Wudil, to resume work or have their contracts revoked. The state Commissioner of Projects Monitoring and Evaluation Alhaji Ibrahim Garba issued

the ultimatum yesterday after a meeting with stakeholders at the university. Alhaji Garba expressed displeasure over the contractors' failure to comply with the earlier directive to return to sites. He described this as poor work ethics and warned that if the contractors failed to return to sites, the university would be advised to follow the normal procedure and terminate their contracts. The commissioner also directed defaulting contractors to change or face the

law. Garba advised the university to always respond to correspondences of contractors and consultants as delay in doing so hindered the execution of projects. The Vice Chancellor of KUST, Wudil, Professor Ibrahim Garba assured that the university authorities would take measures to ensure the execution of the projects.

Professor Ibrahim Garba promised that within a week there would be remarkable changes.

Ministerial nominees: Plateau women commend Jonathan over Tapgun

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

A group known as the All Plateau Women Group in Plateau State has commended Acting President Goodluck Jonathan for nominating Josephine Tapgun as minister. Tapgun is on the list of ministerial nominees submitted to the Senate Tuesday. The group made up of both elite and rural women in the state said in a statement yesterday that they were pleasantly surprised with the nomination. The statement signed by the group's president, Mrs. Daisy Vou Pam, said Plateau women were optimistic that Jonathan would do whatever was necessary to move Nigeria forward. The women assured the Acting President that his choice of Tapgun is not misplaced as they described Tapgun as a well tested technocrat who has given a good account of herself in the civil service. The women said they were not in doubt that the nomination of Tapgun would be well received by the majority of people in Plateau as well as in the country, saying those who had worked with her could testify.

...NLC, NUJ kick against Alao's nomination

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

THE Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) yesterday condemned the nomination of the former Managing Director of the New Nigerian Newspapers Mr. Ndanusa Alao as minister by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan. Alao is one of the nominees whose names were sent to the Senate by the Acting President for screening and possible confirmation. The former NNN Managing Director is representing Kogi State. The Chairman of the Kaduna State council of the NUJ, Alhaji Yusuf Idris, said there were petitions against Mr. Alao for maladministration. He advised the Acting President to nominate credible people.

"Only last week, workers of the New Nigerian Newspapers went on strike solely for his sack. He rendered the media house useless. The workers are being owed salaries and there are allegations of financial scams in the company, yet he has been nominated for a ministerial slot. This shows that in this country, we glorify people with questionable character," he added.

He urged the Senate to look at Alao's nomination critically. The Chairman of the Kaduna chapter of Nigeria Labour Congress, Comrade Daniel D. Bissala, also said the nomination of Alao was questionable.

"I learnt that the former MD of New Nigerian Newspapers has been nominated for ministerial appointment, if this is true, it means something is wrong somewhere. Look at the way he managed his former organisation," he said.

He said the Acting President should give reasons for the dissolution of the former Federal Executive Council (FEC) saying Nigerians were still in the dark as to why he took the decision.

New Emir of Dikwa turbaned

From Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

THE new Emir of Dikwa Alhaji Muhammad ibn Masta II ibn El-Kanemi was yesterday turbaned in Dikwa town, Borno State. The coronation, which was preceded by traditional royal rites by members of the Dikwa Emirate Council, was held at the Dikwa town Government Lodge, which is to serve as the temporary palace. Shehu Masta was appointed a first class emir in the newly created Dikwa Emirate, with headquarters in Dikwa town on March 12, 2010 following the creation of Bama Emirate from the existing Dikwa Emirate by the Borno State Governor Ali Modu Sheriff. The creation followed an amendment to the Local Government Law by the state House of Assembly.

The Deputy Governor Shettima Adamu Yuguda Dibal along with other dignitaries and well-wishers congratulated the new emir.



FROM left: Regional Sales Manager, East Region, Zain Nigeria, Wole Abu, representative of GOC 82 Division, Nigerian Army, Lt. Col. Samuel Ogbonnaya, and Enugu State Commissioner for Sports Mr. Matthew Idu, during Zain Day at the ongoing 21st Enugu International Trade Fair in Enugu, recently.

Suspended chairmen sue Assembly

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

THE 20 suspended local government chairmen in Bauchi State alongside their deputies and secretaries have taken the state House of Assembly to court over what they described as their illegal suspension. The local government bosses, who were suspended by the House about six months ago to pave way for investigations over allegations of misappropriation, told newsmen at a briefing

in Bauchi Tuesday that they took the decision after exhausting all avenues to resolve the matter amicably. Their leader, who is the former chairman of ALGON in the state and Chairman of Toro Local Government Area, Alhaji Isa Muhammad Kufai, alleged that the councils had become inaccessible to the people because those manning them now were not duly elected.

The Speaker of the state House of Assembly Alhaji Abubakar Ahmed

Fago while reacting to a letter written to the House by the National Assembly directing it to reconsider its position on the suspension of the chairmen had assured that the House would make recommendations to the committee set up to investigate the chairmen public as soon as it was ready. The council chairmen and their deputies, who were elected on May 12, 2008 to serve for 30 months were suspended by the Assembly on October 13, 2009.

UBEC harps on teachers training

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

THE Executive Secretary of the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) Dr. Ahmed Moddibo Mohamed says there is a need for regular training and re-training of teachers to revive the education sector. Speaking at the commencement of a teacher professional development programme in Kaduna, he said for teachers to discharge their duties as expected, they must be trained and re-trained regularly.

Represented by a director of the com-

mission, Alhaji Wada Zakari, he said teachers in the country needed to be abreast with current changes and development in their profession.

"The availability of infrastructure, instructional materials and other learning equipment cannot guarantee effective basic learning in schools without the skilful guidance of learners by teachers," he said.

The Kaduna State Commissioner of Education, Mallam Suleiman Lawal Kauru reiterated the commitment of the state government to salvage educa-

tion in the state through the provision of necessary logistics.

"We are up to date in accessing the Federal Government UBE intervention funds. This is made possible by the support and keen interest of the state governor in the education sector," he said. He appealed to the people of the state to cooperate with the government to transform the sector, describing education as a vital and formidable instrument for human empowerment and socio-economic development of the society.

Yobe govt follows due process in contract awards – Gaidam

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

GOVERNOR Ibrahim Gaidam of Yobe State says the state government observes due process in the award of contracts to ensure and entrench transparency and accountability. The governor said this at State Executive Council meeting in Damaturu yesterday. Governor Gaidam said before any contract is awarded, relevant government professionals would determine

the cost of the project on the basis of prevailing market prices, labour and other costs as well as profit margin for the prospective contractor.

The governor added that once the state tenders' board offers a contract for bidding, it would be guided by the 'government price' as determined by the relevant professionals.

"If a prospective contractor quotes far below the price determined on the basis of the work conducted by

the relevant professionals, it means he is unlikely to execute the project successfully and might just be looking for the initial contract payment before he or she disappears. On the other hand, a prospective contractor who quotes far above the actual value of the project and what the government can afford to spend on it is also likely not to get the contract when government cannot afford the price quoted," he said.

How to check corruption in Nigeria, by ICPC

By Boco Edet & Muideen Olaniyi

CHAIRMAN of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) Justice Emmanuel Ayoola has blamed the high incidences of corruption in Nigeria on the failure of the executive and the legislature to implement chapter II of the 1999 constitution.

Ayoola said at a lecture organized by the Ondo State Local Gov-

ernment Service Commission in Akure that implementing chapter II would have transformed the nation and reduced the propensity of Nigerians to feel justified in indulging in corrupt practices.

Chapter II of the 1999 constitution deals with fundamental objectives and directive principles of state policy, and lists the obligations of the government, duties of the citizens among others.

He said that only a value-driven

leadership can appreciate the need to implement Chapter II and transform the nation but regretted that such a leadership is yet to emerge in the country.

He said that only a value driven leadership can appreciate the need to implement Chapter II and transform the nation but regretted that such a leadership is yet to emerge in the country.

In a related development, Pastor Tunde Bakare said yesterday

in Abuja that elite are responsible for the problems ravaging Nigeria including the growth of corruption which seems unstoppable.

Speaking at a Consultative Forum organized by Movement Against Corruption in Nigeria (MAC) and Coalition for Change (C4C), he called on churches and mosques to join the campaign against corruption.

In her lecture on 'Achieving a Corrupt Free Nigeria: Consid-

eration, Questions and Strategy', Ms Uchenna Idoko of Centre for Democracy and Development attributed the root cause of corruption in Nigeria to oil wealth, show of affluence by politicians and glorification of corrupt people in the society.

Earlier, MAC Chairman Imam Ahmad AbdulRahman said that eradication of corruption in Nigeria is central to the attainment of good governance.

Kogi commissioners, LG bosses remain in EFCC custody

By Boco Edet

THREE Kogi State commissioners, five serving and one former local government chairmen arrested by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on Tuesday over alleged N3bn fraud are still being held by the anti-graft agency.

The commissioners arrested are Samuel Abiodun, Finance; T. J. Faniyi, LG Affairs; and Albert Soje, Agric; while the five LG chairmen are Obaro

Kayode, Yagba East, Gabriel Daudu, Ogori-Magongo, Yahaya Abubakar, Okene, Stephen Afala, Yagba West, Ahmed Raji, Adavi and Enesi Suleiman Jimoh, immediate past chairman of Adavi LG.

A source said the commission had obtained a court order to detain the officials and they would be arraigned in court after conclusion of investigations into the case.

EFCC's Spokesman Femi Babafemi confirmed they were still being held in custody.

N2.5bn fraud: Court remands Bayelsa officials

By Ogechi Ohalee

AN Abuja Federal High Court yesterday remanded three Bayelsa State government officials arraigned by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to Kuje prison.

Francis Okokuro, Abbot T. Clinton and Ikobho Anthony Howells, who are facing a six count charge of fraud and money laundering amounting to N2.5 billion all pleaded not guilty.

The accused persons are said

to have converted several sums of money belonging to the Bayelsa State government and also conspired to defraud the state of the sum of N2 billion under the pretence of using the said money to augment salaries of the state government.

Counsel to the accused persons, A J Osayande orally applied for their bail but Justice D. U Okorowo said bail applications should come in written form.

He adjourned till April 13 for hearing.

Ministry harps on research to eradicate diseases

By Misbahu Bashir

OFFICIALS of the Ministry of Defence yesterday said in-depth research on both communicable and non-communicable diseases can prevent their spread.

Chairman of the Ministry's Health Ethics and Research Committee (HERC), Dr. J. N Ugwuegede said at a workshop in Abuja the Committee handles research works that will promote good health and contribute in eliminating diseases.

"The Committee has the specific task of reviewing and granting approvals for research

proposals and protocols in order to ensure that research by relevant institutions, agency and individuals meet ethical standards that will promote good health, as well as contribute to the prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases," she said.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Ezekiel Oyemomi said the Workshop was aimed at keeping the Committee germane in handling its functions. He said the HERC which was established a year ago was approved by the National Health Research Ethics Committee.



MOTORCYCLES impounded by the police and Federal Road Safety officials at the start of enforcement of the law banning motorcycle riders on major roads in Oyo State yesterday.

PIC: NAN

AU begins anti-trafficking campaign in West Africa

By Akor Ojoma and Aisha Umar Agaie

AFRICAN Union commission launched campaign against trafficking in persons for the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) region.

Speaking during the launch of the campaign and opening of the workshop on operationalising the Ouagadougou action plan in Abuja, Commissioner of Social Affairs the Commission H.E. Adv. Bience Gawanas said the campaign aims to raise awareness towards tackling the problem of trafficking in human beings throughout the continent.

* AU associated the cause of traf-

ficking in the region to poverty, large family size, lack of educational opportunities, and lack of employment and low status of children.

She said many African states are yet to ratify the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, the international instrument adopted at UN level to fight human trafficking and or fully implement it with specific legislation in their respective domain.

She urged ECOWAS member states to galvanise commitments to the cause by joining the AU in implementing the Ouagadougou Action plan.

Earlier, President of the ECOWAS Commission Ambassador Victor

Gbeho who was represented by the vice president John Deans said the forum is an opportunity to determine how best there may be cooperation between the various countries in the region towards the elimination of the scourge of trafficking in persons.

Executive secretary of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP), Barrister Simon Chuzi Egede, said the AU COMMIT is another initiative of the collaborative efforts made by UN, AU, and ECOWAS and NAPTIP geared towards fighting the scourge of trafficking in persons.

Ecological fund to tackle erosion in 5 states

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE Ecological Fund Office (EFO) said it plans to save five states from black out following erosion that is threatening the polls belonging to the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN).

Permanent Secretary of the EFO Mrs. Ibukun Odusote said the federal government had approved the reconstruction of areas affected by

erosion in Ifite-Duwu, Dunukofia Local Government of Anambra state.

Speaking yesterday in Abuja while awarding the contract, the permanent secretary said Anambra, Enugu, Ebonyi, Taraba and Benue states would have been in total darkness for six months based on PHCN reports but for the intervention.

She said during the award of the contract that the 2.4 kilometre ero-

sion in Ifite-Duwu, Dunukofia, has already resulted in the collapse of some buildings in the area, adding that people in the area are finding it difficult to access road to their homes.

The permanent secretary turned down the request by the contractors for more funds considering the level of the erosion, saying "Ecological Fund projects are fix and firm, which has no variation."



NIGERIA DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

Plot 447/448, Constitution Avenue Central Business District P.M.B. 284, Garki Abuja

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR NDIC PUBLIC ENLIGHTENMENT TELEVISION PROGRAMME

INTRODUCTION

The Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) was established under NDIC Decree No. 22 of 1988 (now NDIC Act No. 16 of 2006) is mandated to insure deposit liabilities of licensed banks and such other deposit-taking financial institutions in Nigeria. However, since the NDIC commenced operations in 1989, it has been experiencing serious challenges, particularly, the low-level public awareness on its mandate and activities. It is on the basis of these developments that a continuous and sustained public enlightenment campaign on the benefits and limitations of the deposit insurance scheme in Nigeria is considered very desirable. Consequently, the Corporation hereby invites interested, reputable and competent media consultants to bid for the production of the public enlightenment programme.

TARGET OBJECTIVES

Among the major objectives of this public enlightenment campaign include the following:

- i) to enlighten members of the public on the concept and practice of deposit insurance with particular emphasis on Nigeria;
- ii) to provide highlights (or news flash) on NDIC's major official engagements within and outside the Corporation;
- iii) to engage the MD/CE, EDs and Directors of operations and other key departments on the NDIC's vision and mission, structure, functions and other core operational issues;
- iv) to provide simple explanation on technical and legal issues involved in bank supervision, bank liquidation, particularly the payment of insured deposits and liquidation dividend, etc; and
- v) to use the programme as an avenue for feedback from the banking public on any issues involving the Corporation.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The target audience include but not limited to the following:

- ◆ Insured Banks
- ◆ Microfinance Banks (MFBs) and Primary Mortgage Institutions (PMIs)
- ◆ Depositors
- ◆ National Assembly
- ◆ Business Community
- ◆ Tertiary Institutions
- ◆ Women's Associations, NGOs, etc
- ◆ Labour Unions and Other Pressure Groups
- ◆ Mass Media
- ◆ General Public

DURATION AND SCOPE

Since the proposed television programme is a pilot scheme, it will cover an initial period of three months. The recording, editing and telecast of the programme will therefore be every fortnight. The structure of the programme should include the following:

- i) Recording - the programme is to be recorded before telecast (it is not going to be a live transmission) in order to ensure quality control;
- ii) Operational Issues - these are to be segmented into major topics from simple to complex and they are to be discussed one at a time during every transmission;
- iii) Clips of major official functions (or public outings), NDIC's speeches and other special events, in order to publicize its achievements;
- iv) Interview Segment - one NDIC official is to appear to discuss in simple terms the operational issues (on each edition of the programme) as they affect his/her division, department or unit. The officials include the MD/CE, EDs, Heads of Departments/Units;
- v) Jingles/Public Announcement - to be telecast at commercial intervals during the programme's transmission;
- vi) NDIC Slogan - "NDIC is committed to depositor protection" to be telecast and splashed at the end of every edition of the programme, to showcase the mandate of the Corporation;
- vii) NDIC e-mail address/website - www.ndic.org.ng are also to be splashed on the television screen in order to be made familiar to the target audience.

SUBMISSION OF TENDERS

The tenders, which are to be labelled: **TENDER FOR NDIC PUBLIC ENLIGHTENMENT TELEVISION PROGRAMME** should be submitted not later than **4.00pm, April 8, 2010** and addressed to:

The Head
Communication & Public Affairs
Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation
Plot 447/448, Constitution Avenue
Central Business District
P.M.B. 284, Garki
Abuja

OPENING OF TENDERS

The tenders opening session shall be at **5.00 p.m.** on the date of closure of the submission. Representatives of tenders are hereby requested to be present.

PLEASE NOTE:

This advertisement supersedes the earlier one of Tuesday, March 23, 2010.

SIGNED:
MANAGEMENT



UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION COMMISSION (UBEC)

UBEC Building, No. 7 Gwani Street, Wuse Zone 4, P.M.B. 5086, Abuja-Nigeria.

A PROGRAMME OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

REPLACEMENT OF 7,156 AND ENLISTMENT OF 5,000 SCIENCE BASED PARTICIPANTS OF FEDERAL TEACHERS' SCHEME (FTS)

The Federal Government approved the recruitment of the 2nd Batch of 34,000 qualified and interested NCE graduates into the Federal Teachers' Scheme (FTS) for the 2008/2009 academic session. This is a major component towards achieving the EFA and Millennium Development Goals.

The Scheme is to assist the States and LGEAs in the supply of qualified teachers to boost the UBE Programme.

In December, 2008, the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) conducted screening and selection exercises across the States of the Federation and FCT for qualified NCE graduates into the Federal Teachers' Scheme.

Out of the 34,000 participants that were allocated to 32 States and FCT, a national monitoring exercise revealed a shortfall of 7,156 which needs to be screened along side with 5,000 science based participants for JSS.

To this effect, the Commission is organizing another screening and selection exercise.

- **Eligibility**

To participate in the FTS, candidates must fulfill the following conditions:

- hold the Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE) obtained not earlier than 2002 from a **recognized College of Education** (i.e. fully accredited by NCCE);
- must have undergone the **NCE course on full-time basis**;
- shall not take other gainful employment during the period of the service; and
- must be ready to serve in any part of the Country.

- **Remuneration**

An allowance of N10,000.00 per month will be paid to each participants. In addition, host LGEA/Community is expected to provide accommodation.

- **Method of Application**

Candidates who fulfill the above stated conditions and who are willing to volunteer as participants in the Scheme should submit their applications to: **THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, STATE UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION BOARD** in their respective States. Photocopies of relevant credentials and two certified passport photographs should be attached to all applications.

- **Deadline**

All applications must be received within one week from the day of publication of this advertisement.

- **Screening and Selection Exercise**

The exercise will take place in all State Headquarters except Anambra, Ekiti, Ogun and Rivers States as follows.

Date:- April 12 – 16, 2010
Time:- 10.00 am daily
Venue:- SUBEBs Offices

NOTE: Candidates must come with their original credentials

All successful candidates will be notified through the Notice Boards of UBEC Headquarters, Zonal/State Offices, SUBEBs and NTI Offices.

Dr. Ahmed Modibbo Mohammed
Executive Secretary

Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



Berom youths angry at Northern Govs Forum

THE anger of BYM on the comments of the Northern Governors Forum is rather uncalled

for. The suggested action, if taken, will only take the state backward. However, there is need

for Jamang to know that Berom is a segment of a community in Jos, therefore they cannot not speak

for the rest of the tribes. I pray that the state would not be a group against itself in the near future.

Please let give peace a chance.
Abdullahi S. Dandume
abdullahiteejay@yahoo.com

Yar'adua's nephew makes list

NIGERIA... what a shameful, vicious circle...always a clique circulating appointments among themselves. Yesterday they were the ones holding the office; today it's the turn of their wives. Later their sons and daughters and some other times their corrupt friends and associates. I am sure we are going nowhere. There must be a generational change if really we are to progress as a nation.

Lamara Garba Azare
lamaragarba@yahoo.com

We are not bothered about his relationship with President Yar'adua. Our own concern is that he should contribute tremendously towards the development of our country.

Abubkr Badru Jkamshi
damurna@yahoo.com

Is Goodluck not wasting his time watering an infertile land where no result will be generated? Yar'adua will resume duty next week Monday or Wednesday. In essence what he did was a mere waste of time... work done equals zero.

Bashir
bashitalks@yahoo.com

What about Kano? Are we exempted from the ministerial seat or is it because we didn't vote PDP in our state? We know



ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan

Allah is with us.

Nura Sagir
nursag2008@yahoo.com

We hope and pray that the Senate of Federal Republic Of Nigeria will do us a favour by properly screening all the ministerial nominees so as to ensure that only credible people will emerge as Ministers in the new cabinet. We hope that 'take a bow' will not be part of the mode of screening the nominees.

Ibrahim Tsadu Ibrahi
elkutigi@gmail.com

I want draw the attention of our

lawmakers to the fact that since the Acting President has failed to present the names of credible and dedicated people, the burden now lies on them; let them stand firm and reject anybody that is not fit to govern. Let them demonstrate patriotism because most of the people that are agitating to occupy these positions are not qualified technically or professionally. Also, some of them served as ministers before and did nothing for this country. They are more conscious of accumulating wealth for themselves and their families.

Zanna Baruwa Gashua

bukar.zanna@yahoo.com

As far as I am concerned the recent re-shuffle of the FEC will not have any positive impact on the lives of Nigerians. We have been witnessing this type of game since the democratization of the country in 1999 and all to no avail. This is just a last opportunity to compensate those that might have worked for the PDP or the acting president, but am sure nothing will change.

Umar Abdullahi
umargaladima08@yahoo.com

Please on what grounds are some recently 'dissolved' ministers returning to the cabinet? Is it based on geographical sentiments, political influence or bias that some are being returned? Things will continue to remain still in Nigeria, if you keep appointing people who do not have good records. Mr. President, think twice before you appoint anybody if you really want to move Nigeria forward.

Idris H.
idrisharon4real@yahoo.com

Mr. President it is unfair to allow any former minister or his wife into your cabinet. And why is there no candidate from Zamfara. After all, we decamped to PDP.

Muhammad maigoro
Umar.muhammad63@yahoo.com



PRESIDENT Umaru Yar'adua

Yar'adua recovering well -Yuguda

IT'S a simple statement but, yet a lot of questions need to be answered. Is Mallam Isa now the Dora of the government? Is he the ministerial nominee to replace Akunyili? Is he the personal physician to Mr. President? Or is he the Minister of foreign affairs? My advice to him is that he has a lot of home work in Bauchi. Nigerians are tired of such unguarded utterances.

Mohammed Babagana
babaganamohd@yahoo.com

The issue of President Yar'adua recovering well and soon to bounce back to office is just blowing hot air and a diversionary ploy by his apologists to ensure that Acting President Jonathan is slowed down in making fundamental changes that are likely affecting the so-called cabal ways they never expected. Yuguda did not answer the question: did he see him?

Ladan Gindiri
ladangindiri@yahoo.com

Well if Gov. Isa Yuguda, cannot see Mr. President who, apart from being a state governor, is also his son-in-law then there is something fishy.

Abubkr Badru Jkamshi
damurna@yahoo.com

It will not be a surprise if Mr. President bounces back into office but all we need for now is a strong workforce from Mr. VP for driving the country forward. Once again, wishing our President quick recovery.

I.M. Najib
ibrahim_najibullahi@yahoo.com

Yar'adua: A war for crude power

ALH. Tanko Yakasai was talking of the constitutionality and legality of the acting president's position and actions but was being condemned. Some Nigerians are full of contradictions. We were earlier told that President Yar'adua must give way

for Vice President Jonathan to act in line with the provisions of the constitution but somebody that insists on the laws and constitution to be followed is being condemned and insulted.

Aminu Abdullahi

aminu.abdullah@yahoo.com

I agree with you. Those benefiting from this crisis are not Nigerians rather they are just greedy individuals. We can see it from the ministerial nominees submit-

ted to the National Assembly. The list is full of those that failed and children or spouses of same. May Allah deliver us from the hands of cruel people.

Dan Usmanu
jikansanusi@gmail.com

Senate cuts president's power over INEC

THE President's power to appoint the INEC Chairman is the most important part of the constitu-

tion to be reviewed. Even if INEC got its funds from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, it will not

change anything because it is the president that gives approval of the fund. With financial autonomy and the judiciary appointing the Chairman, INEC will truly be independent.

Mukhtar Musa
elmukhtar_musa@yahoo.co.uk

This is wonderful, although we can't say bravo to the National Assembly until after they have voted in favor of the amendment and passed it into law before mid-year so that there can be a possibility of implementing it properly. God bless Nigeria.

Usman Ahmed Danbaba
Danbaba1986@yahoo.com



PROF. Maurice Iwu, INEC Chairman

Niger begins work on three arms zone

WHEN the sing song of the administration is to transform Niger into one of the top three economies in the country, I doubt if building a three-arm zone is part of what will make us one. With scarce resources and many developmental issues begging for attention, this is certainly a misplaced priority.

Ibrahim Tsadu Ibrahim
elkutigi@gmail.com

Beyond the NECO disaster

THE result should not be a surprise to a nation that cherishes entertainment more than education. Take a look at what is going on entertainment-wise today in Nigeria and compare it with what education is receiving. More than 90% of our television programs are also given to entertainment. The implication is that the youth appreciate dancing more than reading. My dear brother, we have to take one since our leaders are not ready for us. Thanks for the write up. I hope they will listen one day.

Gazali S.A.
sikirulahi@yahoo.com

Idang Alibi

idangalibi@dailytrust.com; 08036938729

Time to jettison the zoning arrangement

For me as a patriot and a firm believer in the Nigerian Project, the major national issue that the ill-health which has sidelined President Umaru Musa Yar'adua and all the controversies that have surrounded that change in leadership chair have thrown up, is the need for us a nation to rethink the zoning formula and absolutely jettison it.

Zoning was a creative political formula evolved to reassure all Nigerians that they are "full-blooded sons of the soil" and as such every one can aspire to any office in the land, especially the most prestigious of them all, the presidency.

But with the constitutional crisis that arose from Yar'adua's apparent incapacity and Jonathan's ascension which nearly plunged the nation into the abyss, we should resolve to jettison this formula. It has outlived its usefulness, if it ever served any useful purpose at all. Even before the current crisis, every one recognized that zoning is not only unconstitutional, but that the formula is also undemocratic and quite irksome to implement. What is more, the very idea of not looking for the best man or woman from anywhere in the country to lead us to glory but restricting the search to a particular zone is a terrible idea that will not guarantee that we fulfil our enormous potential. Contrary to what advocates of zoning say that zoning and merit cannot be mutually exclusive, the truth is that zoning is antagonistic to merit. Zoning can compel the unprepared and the unwilling to get a position that those who are fully prepared and willing are denied because it is not yet the turn of their place to get it.

"We will not break up because we are so differently made by God"

There is everything wrong with zoning. It gives the benefiting zone a certain feeling of entitlement. The man or woman who emerges is now regarded as our own man. It is our turn to have a man there and now he is there he is ours first and foremost. Other Nigerians own him only tangentially. Some smart and greedy elite from that zone now begin to guard the office jealously and zealously such as the cabal behind Yar'adua are doing right now. When you criticize the office holder for even an obvious wrong he has done, some from that zone will accuse you of doing so because the man is their own son or daughter. Some even think that you do not have a right to poke nose in what he is doing. The thinking is the presidency is now ours and we can carry on with it the way we like. I do not think this is the intendment of those who came up with the formula.

Zoning inevitably gives a beneficiary leader some kind of narrow-mindedness even if he was a broad-minded person before. In fact the people who get to

surround him begin to drum it into his ears that it is the turn of their region so the man should give all good things to their people. Others now watch them in envy. It is truly regrettable that the zoning formula which was invented as an instrument to unite Nigerians by giving all in the polity a sense of belonging has ironically become one that is creating so much division in our country.

The refusal of the Yar'adua handlers to do what the Constitution specifies arises from this sense of entitlement I have talked about. Their reason is that the Yar'adua presidency belongs to the north so why should the north surrender its right to another zone even if the development that led to it was an act of fate. If Yar'adua had been perceived as a president of all Nigerians, the cabal would not have acted the way it did.

If Yar'adua was seen as a Nigerian president, the senate also would not have had recourse to the 'doctrine of necessity' it was compelled to adopt to solve the political lock jam. It would have impeached Yar'adua out rightly, not even on the ground that he was sick and incapacitated but on the solid ground that he left on a sick holiday for such a long time without transmitting a letter to the National Assembly as required by the Constitution.

For us to make progress, we must grow up in our thinking. As we have lived together for a while now the feeling of marginalization has been significantly assuaged. The threat facing our nation today is not the differences arising from our heterogeneity. We will not break up because we are so differently made by God. The reactions by Nigerians to Muammar Gaddafi's recipe are a clear indication that Nigerians do not want a break up. Today, the greatest threat facing us is that of poor quality leadership which has ensured collective misery for a vast majority of the population. This collective suffering has ironically made many Nigerians to yearn for good people who can offer high quality leadership.

From the sentiments I get from the streets many Nigerians will not mind if a good Nigerian from anywhere comes unto the scene to lead us out of misery. They say what they need to have is a Nigerian president who owes loyalty to the Nigerian people and nation. We need a state governor who belongs to all the people of the state and we need legislators who are loyal and answerable to the whole constituency.

Come to think of it, what is the real benefit that is conferred on a region when their son occupies the presidency? Let me confess that the only real good you feel about it is psychological. Beyond this, there is practically nothing else.

Apart from a few sons and daughters from the zone who get appointed to some lucrative offices, sometimes undeservedly, what tangible benefits do the ordinary people from that zone get because their person is occupying the presidency?

Let someone tell me the special advantages the Yoruba of the South West got because Chief Obasanjo their son was president for eight years and let someone also tell me what the people of the North West have got because Yar'adua has been president for three years now.



By Inuwa Ya'u

Polio eradication in Nigeria: Yes we can? (II)

To be cont'd from yesterday.

Achieving all these within a year was quite commendable, but the question still remains "can we really interrupt polio in Nigeria?" The answer to my opinion is yes we can, despite some gaps still existing that must be overcome for us to achieve this.

The technical feasibility of eradication is quite clear with the interruption of all viruses in all but 4 countries in the world and the eradication of the type 2 virus across the globe. Coupled with this is the delivery of new tools such as Bivalent vaccine (two in one vaccine-against type 1 and 3 virus), increased commitment and resource mobilization from GPEI. In addition to this is the technical and financial support from the local development partners and the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), which is responsible for Immunization and PHC development in Nigeria under the leadership of Prof. Muhammad Ali Pate.

Adding all these to the efforts and commitment of Governors, the NTL and Religious clerics, one can safely deduce that yes we are on course. But the strongest and the weakest link to this polio eradication drive in Nigeria

"This is a statement from the WHO independent evaluation team during their 2009 visit"

is the Local Government Areas, while the final determining factors are the community themselves.

The Federal Government in 2006 commissioned a survey to undertake a study on knowledge, perception and beliefs about childhood immunization and attitude towards uptake of polio-myelitis immunization in eleven polio endemic Northern States.

This study was conducted by a team of public health experts under the direction of Prof. M. Kabiru (Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital). Some of the findings for reasons of OPV rejection were: Misconception of OPV as an anti-fertility agent and containing HIV virus (which will lead to reduction of Muslim populations), lack of clear position of vaccination in Islam and apparent disparity between medical felt needs (Malaria and other infections) of the people and Primary Health care system. The team recommended some measures such as active participation of community in planning, implementation and evaluation of immunization activities and that RI be accorded the highest priority.

Although some of these perceptions have dwindled in recent times but by far religious concern still remains a major barrier and is still persisting. This is similarly observed

by the WHO Independent Evaluation team for barriers to polio eradication when they came to visit the country in September 2009.

Therefore it becomes imperative on the part of the States and the LGAs to develop with the support of the Religious and Traditional institutions a pragmatic and enthusiastic programme of social mobilization to overcome this challenge. The opinion of the writer is a systematic delivery of messages through Fatwa (Islamic position on Immunization), Friday sermons on Immunization against polio, Radio and Television programmes, community dialogues etc.

State Governments should also improve their oversight functions on the LGA. It is not all about releasing funds for Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI)/Immunization and or PHC. What matters is the effective utilization of these funds and demonstrable leadership at that level that is able to carry the communities along.

Unfortunately this is absent in many LGAs today especially in the polio endemic ones. Some LGAs approve meagre amounts which are released only when for example the SIA campaign is over.

"The war against polio in Nigeria can be won or lost at the LGA level". This is a statement from the WHO independent evaluation team during their 2009 visit. And is a statement of fact. LGA is the level that all the action takes place. It is the face of the Polio Eradication programme to the public and is the closest instrument of power to the people and should be able to respond to community needs.

Great variability in LGAs exists in PEI in the north. These range from political commitment, existing infrastructure, Performance management, Funding, Technical abilities and level of community engagements amongst others.

LGAs with committed leaderships and sound management have done and are still doing well in PEI compared to some unlucky LGAs that have stocks of truant leaders that put little or no value to health care needs of their people. These kind of leaders cut across many of the affected states and their Excellencies' the executive Governors should as a matter of priority bring these people to the reality of their responsibilities. Gaps in technical and managerial abilities of some of the PHC drivers in some states and LGAs to steer this most important level of health is still a huge challenge. Polio does not hide and its visibility is an evidence of poor routine immunization, sanitation and community link as well as sub-optimal PHC system.

Routine Immunization (RI) performance in particular in the North-East and North-West zones is quite deplorable and its weakness considered the main reason for this polio upsurge.

To be concluded.

Ya'u, a staff of the NPHCDA, Abuja, is currently studying International public health at the University of Heidelberg, Germany. (inuwa-barau@yahoo.com)



Your Letters

Jos crises: Kudos to the police, but...

I think the Nigeria Police Force deserves strong commendation for speedily releasing the report of the

latest crisis at Dogon Hawwa village in Jos South Local Government. However the Inspector General of Police should also be aware that he has the moral obligation to invest the same sustained commitment in fishing out the perpetrators of the previous killings in Kuru Karama village where innocent Fulani, including their children were mercilessly hacked and stuffed in wells and

latrines. Such even-handedness will ensure that justice is done to both sides, because failure to do so will be akin to killing a snake without cutting the head and its subsequent reaction could be disastrous. As the popular saying goes, a word is enough for the wise.

Mahmud Zakaria, Wuse II, Abuja.

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Yar' adua's nephew makes list
SO Yar'adua's tenure for the rest of his presidency is now reduced to a mere Ministerial slot for one of his siblings; or this is just political gimmickry?

ABDULLAHI Dangaladiman Takatuku, Abuja, 08035861962.

Still on Jang and the anvil

WHEN I read Baba Timawus Mathias' article (17 March) I felt an urge to write, but held back the impulse, so as not make the same mistake he made, because when emotion is high the tendency for human vulnerability increases. But upon dissecting his follow-up column (24 March) I felt that my patience had been aptly compensated, albeit, only if agree with some of positive criticism emanating from his readers' reaction. To be candid, I refuse to align with Nasir's venomous posture. But I agree with Abdul-salam's wise approach. Because

one would be safe to say that trying to justify the grossly unethical conduct of the former commissioner of police is indeed embarrassing. I want to remind Mathias that whoever God enriches, the fruit is not for him alone, but for his society as well. Urge him to always be wary of analysing phenomena when emotion is high in order to avoid similar error in future.

LAWAL Jibril, NBPZ, Zaria, Kaduna State, 08034422601.

2 kidnapped NNPC staff found dead

IT'S troubling that certain sections of the country would harbour such extreme hatred towards northerners that can only be equated with the anti-Semitism of the Europeans towards the Jews before World War II. The political leaders of these regions are responsible for inciting such hate

crimes. They should learn from Hitler and recently from Hutu's of Rwanda the evil fate of those that trade hateful incitements towards other tribes and race.

08064359990.

This ministerial list...

ACTING President Jonathan should be guided by the need to emphasise merit in the appointment of his ministers.

FELIX B. Gaude, Abuja, 07068074093.

...Is business as usual

APPOINTMENTS so far made by the acting president and the names of his ministerial nominees are to say the least very disappointing. Does he expect recycled products to offer anything new? Is he truly interested in making a difference? Kai! Is 12 not the same thing as a dozen?

MANSUR A Kurawa, 08037875785.



By Kabiru Danladi Lawanti

Re: Beyond the NECO disaster

WHEN I read Sanusi Abubakar's *Beyond the NECO disaster* (Daily Trust, Tuesday, March 23, 2010), the first thing that came to my mind was a phrase – indeed a favourite phrase of one of my lecturers during my university days – *self-deception*. It is a very interesting phrase in philosophical discussion which remains a matter of controversy, especially its definition and sometimes its paradigmatic cases. It is the phrase that best describes the present situation of our dear country, Nigeria. For long we [?] and our leaders have been maintaining belief (or, at least, the avowal of that belief) that the country social institutions and infrastructure are working well in the face of strong evidence to the contrary. This is the only way to explain the disaster that befell the nation recently. I'm not referring to the bomb blast that rocked Warri city or the never-ending carnage on the Plateau, but the massive failure recorded in the just released National Examinations Council's school certificate examination results.

The alarm bell sounded long ago and in fact, several analysts, commentators, educationists and academicians have been shouting at the top of their voices on the imminent disaster and calamity that was staring us in the face in our educational sector. The rot set in since the early 80s up to the confusion in the late 80s and 90s. That explains our self-deception. Despite evidence on ground, a daily reality that stares us, our politicians and policy makers keep lying and deceiving the whole nation that the nation is OK. Billions of naira is released every year as budget; the custodians of this huge amount of money betray our trust, either the money was squandered or was stolen. The evidence from the recent failure of our final year secondary students is an indication that these monies were not judiciously used.

AS important as statistics may be in drawing home the argument of this piece, it is of little use here, because all the statistics in terms of students' enrolment, performance, students/teacher ratio are well documented and kept in the archives of Federal and States Ministries of education, policies are drafted by best brains on how to tackle the problems in the educational sector, however, the unfortunate thing is we have, as leaders, people, whose main preoccupation was who will contest the presidency in 2011 or which region of the federation should produce the next president.

Today as the nation prepares to celebrate 50 years of independence, we are still grappling with social and political crises, with little hope for a possible change in the near future. What is the future for a nation with a 92.8% of its productive youth failing in their final examinations? If really the mass failure is a source of concern to the government, as the Former Minister of State, Education, Hajiya Aisha Dukku, said in Jigawa in December, 2009 then they have done little in terms of reviewing the institutional responsibilities for every agency or redefining set targets, or as she was quoted as saying expanding the scope of monitoring to ensure total coverage of curricular activities in every school.

THE nonchalant attitude of our political leaders and lack of focus is very clear that announcement last week of massive failure in NECO could not be last. The rot in the system is so manifest that what the educational system needs is a total overhaul and real commitment from the people saddled with the responsibility to oversee it. Last year, the 2009 WAEC result released indicated that only 356,981 out of 1,373,009 candidates representing 25.99 per cent obtained five credits including English and Mathematics in less than six months we have another disaster from NECO that said only 4, 223 students passed the exams with a credits in English and Mathematics.

This scenario is pointing to only one thing; we have lost direction as a nation, we don't know what our priorities are. We were blaming the military but can we continue blaming the military forever? What excuse do we have, after 10 years of democracy, of our inability to at least redress the situation? Our schools, our hospitals and the general infrastructure were better off during the military than what we have today. And who cares? We can help ourselves by addressing these issues now. The earlier we do this the better for us and the nation.

Lawanti wrote from Area 11, Garki, Abuja.

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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Scandalous

The persistent and worsening rate of failure in Senior Secondary School Certificate Examinations (SSCE) in recent years reached a scandalous level with the recent release of school certificate examination results by the National Examinations Council (NECO). It is an ominous trend that affects examinations conducted by West African Examination Council (WAEC) and the National Business and Technical Examinations Board (NABTEB). This mess has variously been blamed on poor quality teachers and deplorable state of learning facilities in schools. Whatever the causes, these poor results should be a matter of grave concern to everyone.

More than 98 percent failure rate was recorded in the SSCE result released last week by NECO. According to the Registrar of NECO, Professor Promise Okpala, only 4,223 candidates representing 1.80 percent of a total number of 236, 613 candidates that sat for the November 2009 NECO examination obtained credit passes in five subjects and above, including English and Mathematics. The result of the May/June 2009 SSCE conducted by WAEC, NECO and NABTEB was only marginally better, but no less distressing. We expressed our outrage in a front page comment. While 84 percent failure was recorded by WAEC in the May/June 2009 SSCE, NECO had 89.3 percent failure rate in the June/July SSCE of the same year. How can we halt this dangerous slide?

Most public secondary schools lack adequate teaching and learning facilities including classroom furniture and textbooks. Their laboratories are ill-equipped while physical structures are in varying stages of dilapidation. There is inadequate number of trained and qualified teachers to teach various subjects on the school curriculum. The few available trained teachers, too, are products of poor standard of education caused by incessant strike actions in our universities and colleges of education across the country.

While many parents struggle to make ends meet, unwittingly neglecting the educational needs of their children, some teachers too, especially in public schools, lack the minimal commitment to their duties. The common reference usually made to the quality of education in the country up to late 1970s is the result of unreserved commitment from those early teachers. Government must also not be oblivious of the need to make the welfare of teachers a matter of priority. Teachers in many states of the federation had to go on strike for several months last year, agitating for the implementation of a 27 percent wage increase agreed with government. Commitment to job cannot be guaranteed when emoluments and other statutory benefits are not paid.

It is clear that government has not made serious effort to commit adequate resources to the funding of education. The minimum 26 percent of budgetary appropriation recommended by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is yet to be made a sustained reality. Even the little fund that is currently appropriated for education does not seem to be judiciously applied. Corruption has become a rule in the administration and management of funds by government officials.

Government needs reminding that education is the bedrock of development; without it, any effort made to achieve success will amount to building castles on sand. No country develops beyond the quality of her teachers. The threat by some state governors that school principals who produced poor results would be sanctioned is not a solution; in fact it is likely to promote examination malpractices and poorer performance by students at external examinations. There is no magic wand to producing good SSCE results rather than government ensuring the provision of an enabling environment for effective teaching and learning to take place. Stringent measures must also be put in place to check corruption at all levels in the management of funds in the education sector. The entire education system in Nigeria from primary to the tertiary level requires serious and genuine commitment from all stakeholders if the nation is desirous of averting the looming disaster that the recent NECO results portend.

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Almajirci and the burden of guilt (II)

The annual lecture organised by the Kaduna based nongovernmental organisation NGO, the Arewa Media Forum on *The Challenges of Almajirci and Destitution in the North* on March 15 2010 also provided an opportunity for several discussants to make their contributions on the topic. The first part of this article highlighted the major issues in the lead paper presented by Governor of Kano State, Malam Ibrahim Shekarau and some of the contributions made by the discussants. One of the discussants was the wife of the former Governor of Kaduna State, Hajiya Asmau Ahmed Makarfi who established an NGO the Millennium Hope which focuses its activities on the welfare of the *almajirai* through provision of uniform, meals and skills to the pupils. In her contribution, Hajiya Asmau emphasised that 'education is vital for the development of the society and nation's human resources. The *almajirai* could boost our human resource capital if they are properly educated and their skills harnessed'. It is important to also share with readers the recommendations made by the participants during the interactive session and those contained the lead paper. Malam Ibrahim Shekarau shared information on what Kano State government had done to reform *almajirci* and recommended that whatever policies were developed for addressing the challenges of *almajirci* should be backed with the relevant legislation at federal and state levels. He also underscored the need to collate the input of the practitioners of the system mainly the teachers at the Traditional Qur'anic Schools- the *alarammomi* into any legislation on the issue.

The Bill proposed by Senator Umar Abubakar the *Tafidan* Argungu and forty senators in 2008 provided for the establishment of a National Commission for the Eradication of Child Destitution in Nigeria. When established, the Commission would perform several functions. One of these is 'formulation of policy guidelines for the successful eradication of child destitution in the country and the harmonisation of the *almajirci* system with Western and vocational curricular'. The use of the word eradication generated opposition from the *alarammomi* who viewed it as an attempt to sabotage the Traditional Quran School system. They also raised concerns on the form that the harmonization of *almajirci* and formal schools system would take. Senator Umar said they insisted that 'the Commission should operate without eroding the Madrasah system which had produced an advanced literary culture with schools and scholars everywhere across the entire length and breadth of Muslim settlements in the country'. One of the *alarammomi* Mal Aliyu in his contribution said the government has embarked on systematic destruction of the *almajirci* system since 1904 but people have clung to it with a tenacity that is amazing because it touches on their belief system. He said *almajirci* is Islamic in origin and could be traced to the first revelation of

Civil Society Watch

By Hajiya Bilkisu (mni)

the Quran when the Angel Jibril urged the Prophet Muhammad S.A.W to read. Since the first verse of the Quran was an injunction to read, Islam became synonymous with seeking knowledge anywhere it was available. He reminded participants that during the early days of Islam, pupils migrated in search of knowledge. What is however not Islamic is the culture of begging (*bara*) which is prevalent among the *almajirai*. Mal Aliyu said that is happening because of the neglect of the *almajirci* system of education by the government and the communities.

Professor Idris Abdulkadir, the former Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission confirmed this. He said the *almajirci* system of education used to be well organised with parents paying weekly fees, kudin laraba

Almajirci has become a major issue for public discourse particularly in the Northern states. The Jamaatu Nasril Islam JNI, the umbrella organisation for many Muslim groups in Nigeria held its Central Council meeting in Kaduna on Sunday, March 21 2010.

It was attended by Emirs and Islamic scholars. The meeting was presided over by His Eminence, the Sultan of Sokoto and President General of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar. The Governor of Kaduna State, Arch Muhammad Namadi Sambo was the Special Guest of Honour. A Ministerial Committee on *almajirci* system led by its Chairman Professor Shehu Galadanchi also attended the meeting and made a presentation on its assignment of advising government on the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee earlier established to promote integration of *almajirci* into formal school. The Chairman made a detailed presentation on *almajirci* in Hausa for the benefit of those

“The Bill proposed by Senator Umar Abubakar the *Tafidan* Argungu and forty senators in 2008 provided for the establishment of a National Commission for the Eradication of Child Destitution in Nigeria

to the teachers of the schools who also embark on farming to provide food for himself and the *almajirai*. Members of the community where the *alarammma* resided also used to send food to the school. The Professor lamented that today the communities do not send food, parents do not pay fees and the *alarammma* has no farm land so he is reduced to a level where he has to send the *almajirai* to beg. Another *alarammma*, Malam Abudullahi Maitama Yusuf urged participants and policy makers to restore the past glory of *almajirci* schools by providing adequate funding to support the schools. This will ensure that water for cottage industries and sanitation is supplied to all the *almajirci* schools. He also recommended that farm land and tractors should be provided to the District Heads who will then motivate the *alarammomi* to return to farming.

Senator Umar Abubakar in his paper highlighted the recommendations made by Professor Shehu Galadanchi at an earlier seminar co sponsored by the Arewa House and the Education Trust Fund in 2004. He said the recommendations should be implemented by governments at all levels. The Senator said the state should intervene to fund, register, control and restrict mobility. The State should recognise the parallelism of the *tsangaya* system, create and fund all its tiers, through secondary and tertiary levels. The third recommendation is that the state should integrate the system into the Universal Basic Education scheme.

who might not have a good grasp of English. The presentation was well received and generated much interest among the participants. The JNI in its communiqué noted with concern the persistence of *almajirci* especially in the Northern States of Nigeria which has reduced scholars, the patrons of the noblest profession in the Muslim community to abject poverty, earning their livelihood through begging.

The Council urged the state and federal governments to support the integration and institutionalisation of the traditional Islamic education sector and promote its ideals. It commended the Federal Ministry of Education and the former Minister of State for Education, Hajiya Aisha Jibril Dukku, for establishing the Ministerial Committee to formulate a coherent Madrasah Policy for Nigeria. The Governor of Kaduna state, Architect Mohammed Namadi Sambo had informed the participants that the state had completed plans to launch a pilot *almajirci* reformation project which would provide functional education, boarding facilities and economic empowerment for the *almajirai*. The JNI therefore noted with delight the strides being made by Kaduna State government to reform the *almajirci* system through the planned economic empowerment programmes and introduction of boarding facilities in *Almajiri* schools and recommended that other states should emulate the Kaduna project.



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YOBE STATE OF NIGERIA

FIKA EMIRATE COUNCIL

PMB 1030, POTISKUM, YOBE STATE, NIGERIA

PRESENTATION OF FIRST CLASS STAFF OF OFFICE TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, THE EMIR OF FIKA



His Excellency
Alhaji Ibrahim Gaidam FNCA, CPA
Executive Governor, Yobe State

The esteemed Fika emirate Council of Yobe State, Nigeria, heartily and graciously announces to the general public, especially its friends, associates and well-wishers, the official installation and presentation of First Class Staff of Office to His Royal Highness, **Alhaji Muhammadu Abali Ibn Muhammadu Idrissa**, the 43rd Emir of Fika, Chairman, Yobe State Council of Chiefs and Chancellor Federal University of Uyo, Akwa-Ibom State.

SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR:

His Excellency
Alhaji Ibrahim Gaidam FNCA, CPA
Executive Governor, Yobe State



His Royal Highness,
Alhaji Muhammadu Abali Ibn Muhammadu Idrissa,
Emir of Fika

SPECIAL GUESTS:

His Excellency
Senator (Dr) Ali Modu Sheriff
Executive Governor,
Borno State

His Excellency
Alhaji Isah Yuguda (Matawallen Bauchi)
Executive Governor
Bauchi State

His Excellency
Alhaji Muhammad Danjuma Goje
(Sarkin Yakin Gombe, Jajin Fika)
Executive Governor
Gombe State

His Excellency
Alhaji Murtala Hamma Nyako CFR
(Sarkin Yamman Adamawa)
Executive Governor
Adamawa State

His Excellency
Danbaba Danfulani Suntai
Executive Governor
Taraba State

His Excellency
Alhaji Mahmud Yayale Ahmed (CFR)
(Ajiyan Katagum)
Secretary to the Government of the Federation

ROYAL FATHER OF THE DAY:

His Eminence, **Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar III. CFR, mni**
Sultan of Sokoto and President General Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs in Nigeria

DATE:	Saturday 24 th April, 2010
VENUE:	(i) Federal College of Education (Technical) Potiskum, Convocation Ground (Presentation of First Class Staff of Office and durbar); (ii) Emir of Fika's Palace, Potiskum (Cultural dances)
TIME:	(i) 8:00am-12:30pm (Presentation of first Class of Office and durbar) (ii) 4:00pm-6:00pm (Cultural dances)

Signed: Mallam Adamu Ciroma
MADAKIN FIKA



NATIONAL AGENCY FOR THE CONTROL OF AIDS (NACA)



The Presidency

Invites Stakeholders and General Public to the Public Presentation of



NATIONAL HIV/AIDS STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS

SPECIAL GUESTS:

Prof Emeritus Umaru Shehu
Chairman,
NACA Governing Board

Senator (Dr) Iyabo Obasanjo Bello
Chairman,
Senate Committee on Health

Hon. (Dr) O. Olakunle
Chairman,
House Committee on HIV/AIDS, Malaria & T. B.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION:

Alhaji Yayale Ahmed CFRH (Secretary to the Government of the Federation)

Date: Thursday, 25th March, 2010 **Venue:** Congress Hall, Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja **Time:** 10 a.m. Prompt

SPONSOR
Prof. John Idoko
Director General (NACA)

INTERNATIONAL

Turkey: Taming the once-omnipotent military

By Charles Onunaiju

THE Turkish military establishment, which has long played a key role in the country's politics, seems to have been finally shown its place by the democratically elected civilian government.

In the last week of February, the Turkish police announced that it had uncovered a plot hatched in 2003 to overthrow the government.

Those arraigned by the police in this connection include 68 serving and retired officers, of them 24 generals or admirals. They were taken into custody. Barring 35 of them, who were detained pending trial, the rest were released subsequently.

Never before in modern Turkey's history have so many military officers been detained. In fact, until recently the military was virtually above the law. The headline "The untouchables have been touched", which appeared in the newspaper Daily Zaman following the arrests, highlighted the significance of the event.

The detentions followed an expose in the newspaper Taraf in January. The paper published documents detailing the alleged plot, which provided proof of a meeting held in March 2003 at the Turkish First Army Headquarters in Istanbul, which was attended by 160 officers of the army, air force and navy.

According to the newspaper, which has a reputation for being fiercely independent, the plotters discussed the staging of violent incidents, code-named "Operation Sledgehammer", which would have provided the rationale for a military coup. The ruling Justice and Development Party (AK), under the leadership of Recep Tayyip Erdogan, was new to government at the time, just finding its feet after winning a majority in Parliament.

According to Taraf, the plotters hoped to prod Greece, the country's traditional rival, into a military conflict. Other plans included carrying out bomb attacks on two prominent Istanbul mosques during Friday prayers and targeting religious minorities, in the hope of triggering public unrest. The bombings were to be blamed on "Islamist terrorism". A list of senior politicians and officials, along with their political affiliations, was also prepared. This belies the claims of the accused that "Sledgehammer" was just an abstract war game.

The military has admitted that a meeting did indeed take place on the date mentioned but claimed that the contents of "Operation Sledgehammer" were part of the course work for a routine seminar on military matters. The docu-

ments published in the newspaper, the military has claimed, only pertain to "war gaming scenarios" on how the army should react in the eventuality of the civilian government collapsing and a national emergency being declared. Many people in Turkey believe that the "Sledgehammer" documents were leaked to the paper by army officers. This could mean that the army is no longer all that united and that there are senior officers who think that reforms in the military are overdue.

The army top brass, along with many of the leaders of the "secular parties", allege that the documents were fabricated to defame the army. The army chief, General Ilker Basbug, said that the charges were unjustified and warned that the armed forces "had limits to their patience".

In the second week of March, the discovery of a munitions-laden truck in the capital Ankara became front-page news. The army acknowledged that the arms, transported in a civilian truck, belonged to it and claimed that it was "a routine practice for the transfer of explosives to avoid risks". The government has brought the matter to the attention of the army chief.

According to government rules, the armed forces must request police escort for the transfer of large amounts of ammunition from one city to another.

No such request was received by the Ankara Police Department. The Turkish media have noted that this incident is similar to earlier cases of large quantities of arms being discovered. Since the start of the Ergenekon investigations in 2007, hand grenades, explosives, anti-tank weapons, AK-47s and other weapons have been unearthed from secret locations. (In the Ergenekon case, senior military officials were accused of earlier instances of plotting against the government.)

Large quantities of arms were found hidden in an Istanbul suburb in April last year. It is alleged that these weapons belonged to the army. Several army officers, along with civilians, have been detained.

There never was any love lost between the AK party and the military. The military, which has appointed itself the sole guardian of the secular legacy of Kemal Attaturk, the founder of modern Turkey, has always viewed the AK party's political agenda with suspicion. Many in the AK party's leadership were previously involved with the banned Welfare Party.

The party was briefly in power in the mid-1990s at the head of a coalition government before being overthrown on the pretext



MR. Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister of Turkey

of harbouring a hidden Islamist agenda.

In all, the Turkish army has staged four coups since 1960, the last one being the "post-modern coup" of 1997, as it is popularly known, which got rid of the government led by Necmettin Erbakan of the Welfare Party. Many of the army officers indicted by the government in the 2003 coup attempt were involved in the 1997 coup, which was orchestrated from the military headquarters.

The "deep state", as the army and its supporters inside and outside the bureaucracy are known in Turkey, has been held responsible by public opinion for the thousands of extra-judicial killings and bombings in the country since the 1970s.

The former Prime Minister, the late Bulent Ecevit, acknowledged its existence, saying that there were secret paramilitary groups working "within the government". He had admitted that when he was Prime Minister he was unaware of their secret identities. Influential groups in the military have been trying to oust the democratically elected AK government through the auspices of a section of the judiciary.

A large section of the judiciary consists of diehard "Kemalists" representing the privileged elite, who have ruled the roost since the 1920s. In 2008, the courts were on the verge of banning the party on the grounds of undermining Turkey's secular Constitution. Erdogan had tried to get the ban

on women wearing headscarves in government offices lifted.

A split decision saw the party escaping with a heavy fine. Prime Minister Erdogan called for a snap election in 2007 and came back with a bigger majority, proving that the people were with his party. He consolidated his position with the election of Abdullah Gul, his close ally, as the President of the republic.

But some elements in the army evidently have not given up hopes of destabilising the government. General Ilker Basbug accused the government of waging "asymmetric psychological warfare" against the military. Abdurrahman Yalçinkaya, Turkey's chief prosecutor, said in late January that some parties "can sense whether or not they will be banned". The only major party that has been targeted by the military and the courts is the AK. Yalçinkaya was the official who filed the first petition in 2008 asking for the banning of the AK for "anti-secular activities".

The army and its supporters in the bureaucracy are particularly upset with Erdogan's attempts to reform the political system to bring it in line with European Union (EU) norms. Since coming to power in 2002, the AK party has abolished the state security courts and allowed Kurds to use their language.

Erdogan has improved Turkey's relations with Greece and has shown that he is willing to resolve the Cyprus problem through negotiations.

The Turkish army has a large presence in the northern part of the island. Any settlement will entail the withdrawal of the army from the island. The Turkish government is also increasingly charting a new foreign policy course.

Until recently, Turkey was Israel's closest ally in the Muslim world. The armed forces of the two countries are known to be very close. After the Israeli assault on Gaza, Erdogan vehemently criticised Israel and has since scaled down the level of cooperation with it. He recently visited Iran and described the country as a "friend". Relations with Syria have been transformed from being bad to excellent under AK party rule.

Even more galling to the Turkish military are the contents of the draft constitution that seeks to bring the army under civilian control. The days of outright military intervention in the country's politics may be over, given Turkey's aspirations to be a full-fledged member of the E.U. In fact, the EU has been calling on the government to curtail the military's power.

Countries opposed to Turkey's EU membership have used the Turkish military's propensity to interfere in civilian affairs as a pretext. The E.U. has stressed that the ongoing investigation into the plot "is a test for a well functioning democracy".

Turkey is waiting for the outcome of the Ergenekon trial. Since October 2008, as many as 200 hearings have been held in regard to the case.

International



A woman sits outside her demolished home in Luanda, Angola.

Angola ruling party looks into homes demolition

ANGOLA'S ruling party said yesterday it will send a team of lawmakers to look into demolitions that have left 3,000 families homeless in the southern city of Lubango, as rights activists vowed to protest.

THE demolitions began in early March to clear illegally built shacks off a railway that was abandoned during the 27-year civil

war that ended in 2002.

Independent media, local rights groups and the Unita opposition have criticised the demolitions which until Wednesday had been ignored in official media.

A delegation from our parliamentary group will go to Huila province to prepare a report... so that we can better understand

what is happening," ruling party spokesman Ventura De Azevedo said on national radio.

"According to the information that we have and the images seen on television, the people are demanding immediate solutions," said the spokesman for the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA).

Burundi's army in crisis - Defence minister

BURUNDI'S army is in a state of crisis that could "plunge the country into the abyss" two months ahead of a marathon round of elections, the country's defence minister has warned.

"Something unusual is happening. Since I started my career in the army 34 years ago we have never had a crisis that lasted as long as this one, even as the country is going through a crucially-important period," General Germain Niyoyankana said yesterday. "If this crisis lasts it could plunge the country into the abyss," Niyoyankana told journalists.

The minister was speaking on the day of the start of the court martial in Bujumbura of 18 soldiers arrested in January and charged with "military plotting" and "destabilising the country's institutions".

The trial comes in a context of persistent unease in the ranks of the army and the police.

Since December 2009, at least six junior officers have been arrested and eight other soldiers dismissed from the army, suspected of being behind tracts calling on soldiers to revolt. In February a soldier was killed in a shoot-out in a military camp in Bujumbura.

"For the past several months we've been seeing clashes between youth groups affiliated to these parties. It should stop," the general said.

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International

Saudi Arabia lambasts Israel

SAUDI Arabia has condemned Israel's "arrogant" policies in Jerusalem which it says are denying the rights of Arabs and Muslims in the holy city.

A government statement yesterday criticized Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for saying in Washington his government would not stop construction in Jerusalem, calling it the capital of Israel.

Israel recently announced new

housing plans for east Jerusalem, which Palestinians want for a future capital.

The statement said Netanyahu's comments denied the rights of Palestinians and Muslims in Jerusalem and ignored international efforts to relaunch peace talks. The kingdom asked the Quartet, consisting of US, Russia, UN and the EU, to explain Israel's "arrogant" policies which insist on challenging the world.

US-Russian nuclear deal to be signed in Prague

PRAGUE announced yesterday it will host the signing of a new US-Russian treaty to reduce long-range nuclear weapons, the clearest sign yet that Washington and Moscow are close to completing a deal to replace the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty. For President Barack Obama, a ceremony in Prague would be a symbolic return to the city where he outlined his nuclear agenda in April and declared his commitment to "a world without nuclear weapons" in a sweeping speech before tens of thousands.

Czech Foreign Ministry spokesman Filip Kanda said negotiations on the treaty have not been completed yet but Prague agreed to host the signing by Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev when a deal was reached. The START treaty had expired in December. "As an ally, we have consulted with the US side on an option for us to complete the signing when a deal is done," Kanda said.



THAI anti-government protesters hold a candlelight vigil to honour the nation's revered King, forming a sea of flickering light in Bangkok's old quarter.

Thai protesters hold candlelight vigil for King

SOME 10,000 Thai anti-government protesters held a candlelight vigil yesterday to honour the nation's revered king, forming a sea of flickering light in the city's old quarter. "We are lighting candles to show our loyalty to His Majesty the King," protest leader Veera Musikapong told the crowd of red-shirted supporters of former premier Thaksin Shinawatra.

The "Red Shirts" have held rolling demonstrations since March 14 to push for fresh elections to replace a government they say is illegitimate and the tool of the country's elites. Thaksin, who lives in exile

to avoid a jail term for corruption, has been accused by his critics of disloyalty to King Bhumibol Adulyadej -- a grave offence in Thailand, where the monarch is regarded by many as a demi-god.

The 82-year-old, who is the world's longest-reigning monarch, has been hospitalised since September with a lung infection and fever. He has appeared in public several times since then. The large crowd at the vigil, which stretched out along a main Bangkok avenue, sang a song in praise of the monarch, and then chanted "Long Live the King".



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Venue.

NICON LUXURY HOTEL,
Ekiti Hall, Plot 903, Tafawa Balewa Way,
Area 11, Garki, Abuja
(Behind the International Conference Centre)

Date.

Saturday, 27 March 2010

Time.

TIME: 12 noon to 2pm

RSVP
Idoko 08033156140 08025019994

FREE ENTRY. Refreshments will be provided.



PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT FUND

PLOT 672, Port-Harcourt Crescent, off Gimbiya Street, off Ahmadu Bello way, Area 11 Garki Abuja, www.ptdf.gov.ng

2010/2011 PTDF LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME (UNDERGRADUATE AND M.Sc)

NOTICE OF APTITUDE TEST FOR SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES

This is to inform all candidates that applied for the **2009/2010 PTDF Local Scholarship Scheme (Undergraduate and M.Sc)** that the list of shortlisted candidates for the **APTITUDE TEST** in respect of the scholarship award has been published on our website www.ptdf.gov.ng. The **APTITUDE TEST** will hold at the PTDF upgraded departments of the Universities where the PTDF has endowed professorial chairs across the country on **Saturday March 27, 2010 by 8.00am**.

In addition, the names of shortlisted candidates are pasted on the notice board in their respective universities.

Please visit www.ptdf.gov.ng for the list of shortlisted candidates for the **APTITUDE TEST**, a significant process leading to the award of PTDF Local Scholarship at Undergraduate and Master's level.

**MANAGEMENT
ANNOUNCER**



CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA NIGERIAN TREASURY BILLS

TENDER NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by the Central Bank of Nigeria that the Federal Government of Nigeria Treasury Bills of 91 and 182-day tenors amounting to N10,553,018,000 and N30,000,000,000 respectively would be issued by Dutch auction on Thursday, 01/04/2010.

All Money Market Dealers should submit bids through the CBN TEMENOS INTERNET BANKING between 9.00a.m and 11.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 31/03/2010.

Each bid must be in multiple of N1,000 subject to a minimum of N10,000. Authorized Money Market Dealers are allowed to submit multiple bids. A bid may be for authorized Money Market Dealers own account, Non- Money Market Dealers or interested members of the public. The result of the auction would be announced by 11.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 31/03/2010. The Bank reserves the right to reject any bid.

Allotment letters would be issued for successful bids on Thursday, 01/04/2010, while payment for the successful bids should be made to your account with Central Bank of Nigeria not later than 11.00am on Thursday, 01/04/2010.

*The Bank reserves the right to vary the amount on offer in line with market realities prevailing as at the period of auction of the Nigerian Treasury bills.

Government Securities Office
Financial Markets Department
Central Bank of Nigeria
Abuja

FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC BALI

PMB 05 Bali, Taraba State

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR 2010 PROJECTS

The Federal Polytechnic Bali invites interested and reputable consultants, contractors and suppliers with relevant experience and good track record for pre-qualification in respect of 2010 capital projects as follows:

- I Procurement of Vehicles
- II Procurement of Computers and office equipments
- III Procurement of Audio Visual aid equipments
- IV Procurement of Power Generating sets
- V Construction of Borehole and over head tanks
- VI Construction of Basic and Applied Science Complex
- VII Construction of 2 Classrooms blocks
- VIII Construction of access Roads
- IX Construction of twin lecture theatre
- X Construction of ICT Centre
- XI Construction of 500 seats capacity Auditorium
- XII Construction of Agric Engineering and Technology Complex
- XIII Renovation of Students demonstration centre
- XIV Conversion of donated Market Stores to Hostels
- XV Construction of Perimeter fence at Polytechnic permanent site
- XVI Provision of low/high tension electric poles
- XVII Provision of solar power for ICT Centre
- XVIII Provision of solar power security lights
- XIX Establishment of Polytechnic farm

A PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS (CONTRACTORS / SUPPLIERS)

Reputable and interested contractors and suppliers are required to submit their applications along with the following documents:

- I Evidence of incorporation/Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission
- II Evidence of tax clearance certificate in the last three years (2007-2009)
- III Evidence of V.A.T remittance in the last three years (2007-2009)
- IV Company profiles which should include names, qualifications and experience of key personnel, list of similar projects previously executed with photographs, contract values, locations and names of clients to include GSM numbers and e-mail addresses of the firm if available.
- V Evidence of similar projects handled by the firm including cost (practical completion certificate)
- VI Evidence of valid subsisting registration with Federal Polytechnic Bali in the relevant category
- VII Evidence of financial capability to handle the chosen project.
- VIII Original documents should be available for sighting on demand during or after opening of pre-qualification documents.

The invitation for pre-qualification is not an invitation to tender; only pre-qualified contractors/ Suppliers will be invited to tender.

A INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONSULTANTS INTERESTED IN PROVIDING CONSULTANCY SERVICES ON CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS STATED ABOVE

Interested consultants are to forward pre-qualification documents stating the project they intend to handle. Such documents should include:

- I Evidence of registration with relevant professional body
- II Evidence of incorporation/Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission
- III Evidence of tax clearance certificate in the last three years (2007-2009)
- IV Evidence of similar projects handled by the firm including cost (practical completion certificate)
- V Company profile which should include names, qualification and years of experience of key personnel.
- VI List of support equipment available for such project e.g. computer system, graphic plotter/printer, and software etc.etc.
- VII Original documents should be available for sighting on demand during or after opening of pre-qualification documents

A SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

Application for pre-qualification in sealed envelope should be clearly marked "APPLICATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AS". Indicating either **CONSULTANT, CONTRACTOR OR SUPPLIER** Should be forwarded to:-

The Registrar,
Federal Polytechnic, Bali,
PMB 05, Bali,
Taraba State

On or before 12.00 noon on Thursday, 6th May, 2010
All submitted documents will be opened at 2.00pm the same day in the Rector's Conference Room, Federal Polytechnic, Bali.

Note:

The institution will not bear the cost of preparation and submission of application for pre-qualification.

Signed:
ZANNA M. KASHIM
REGISTRAR



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE OF NIGERIA (ASCON) ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (EDP) FOR RETIRING OFFICERS

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the six geopolitical zones, for participation in the One-Week Pre-Retirement Workshop for Retiring Officers in Private and Public Sector organizations to be conducted by the Administrative Staff College of Nigeria (ASCON) in Lafia Nasarawa State.

COURSE TITLE	DATES	CADRE
PRE-RETIREMENT WORKSHOP	1 st Run - April 5 th - 9 th , 2010	Officers on GL. 14 and above
	2 nd Run - April 12 th - 16 th , 2010	Officers on GL. 10 - 13
	3 rd Run - April 26 th - 30 th , 2010	Officers on GL. 07 - 9
	4 th Run - May 3 rd - 7 th , 2010	Officers on GL. 03 - 6

1. **DURATION:** One (1) week

2. **STATES INVOLVED**

- BENUE
- KWARA
- KOGI
- NASARAWA
- NIGER
- PLATEAU

3. **VENUE:** ASCON ZONAL OFFICE
SHENDAM ROAD, LAFIA,
NASARAWA STATE.

4. **WORKSHOP FEE PER PARTICIPANT - N70,000.00**

5. **BANKERS - Union Bank of Nigeria Plc. Badagry**

6. **ACCOUNT NO - 0201030002886**

7. **TARGET AUDIENCE**

Officers who will be retiring between now and the next five years and are from the above listed States

8. **EQUIRY**

Further information can be obtained from:

Director-General (ASCON)

Tel: 01-7736836-7

dgascon@yahoo.com

Tel: 2348324, 2348322, 5236883

WEBSITE: www.ascon.gov.ng

OR

The Liaison Director

Abuja

Fax: 095236883,

09-2348322

OR

Course Registrar, 01-8511688, 07040659382, 08057479572



Office of the Accountant -General of the Federation Abuja

Final notice for the verification and collection of the 5 years Pension Buyout entitlements to staff and Pensioners of NITEL/MTEL

This is to inform all staff and pensioners of NITEL who have not yet collected their entitlements and beneficiaries of Death Insurance Claims since the payment exercise commenced in February 2007, that final verification and payment exercise will be conducted one day in each month from January to March, 2010. The days for the Exercise are 27th January, 24th February and 31st March 2010. Beneficiaries are to come to the Office of the Accountant General of the Federation, Treasury House Abuja, for verification. For the avoidance of doubt those who are to come for this final exercise are as follows.

- i. Next of kin of staff who died on duty who have now secured letters of administration,
- ii. Staff and pensioners living outside the country who could not come during the various payment exercises;
- iii. Staff and Pensioners who have not yet collected any entitlement since the exercise commenced;
- iv. Death Insurance Claim beneficiaries.

In the case of staff living abroad that may not be able to come for the exercise, they should forward in writing their contact address in their countries of residence. Arrangements are being made to pay them through the Nigerian High Commission and Embassies located in their countries of residence.

Documents to be produced by staff and pensioners for the exercise are:

- i. Letter of first appointment;
- ii. Letter of retirement/Disengagement;
- iii. Identity card;
- iv. Letter of last promotion;
- v. Letter of administration for deceased entitlements and insurance claims only;
- vi. Letter of Identification from NITEL for the Next of kin.
- vii. Payslip for Pensioners

PLEASE, NOTE THAT THIS VERIFICATION AND PAYMENT IS NOT A NEW PAYMENT EXERCISE. IT IS ONLY FOR BENEFICIARIES WHO HAVE NOT YET COLLECTED THEIR ENTITLEMENTS (FIVE YEAR PENSION BUY OUT).



African Forum For Utility Regulators (AFUR)

www.afurnet.org

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF AFUR

The African Forum for Utility Regulation (AFUR) is hiring his Executive Secretary. This position is categorized as the most senior management posts in an international organization.

AFUR PROFILE

The African Forum for Utility regulators (AFUR) is an initiative based on the provision 110 of the working document of the New Partnership for Africa Development (NEPAD).

The AFUR was officially launched in November 2002 with its own status, as an association of utility regulators. AFUR aims to establish and strengthen effective cooperation among utility regulators on the African continent, as well as its socio-economic development and economic growth.

AFUR mainly focuses on infrastructures regulation-related relevant issues as such (energy, communications, transport, water and sanitation). The other mission of the AFUR is to promote an effective regulatory system which would facilitate the development of infrastructure services in Africa.

The organs of AFUR comprise the following:

- The **General Assembly** is the highest decision making authority of AFUR and is composed of all the Members of AFUR. It elects the chairperson.
- The **Executive Committee** is responsible for the conduct of the affairs of AFUR and consists of the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and a maximum of eight other Members elected by the General Assembly.
- The **Executive Secretary** is responsible for ensuring the effective and efficient daily operation of the Secretariat;

AFUR membership is open to any regulation agency, individual and organization from the African continent empowered to handle utility regulation in one's country. AFUR members' operations and activities are governed by AFUR status signed by its members. AFUR actually includes 28 members and 7 observers. Out of the 28 members, 18 are involved in energy sector regulation.

AFUR is based in Pretoria, Republic of South Africa,

Further information on AFUR is available on the Forum website:

<http://www.afurnet.org>

2. Position requirements

- ✓ Accountable for ensuring the effective and efficient operation of the Secretariat;
- ✓ Ensure the stewardship and security of its finances and other assets, including its property and facilities;
- ✓ Be responsible to the Treasurer.
- ✓ Be responsible for the preparation of the financial budgets for expenditure and forecast budgets for the forum's consideration, and ensures that expenditure is in accordance with the approved budgets.
- ✓ Support the work of the executive committee and its sectorial committees.
- ✓ Handle meetings minutes
- ✓ Be responsible for setting up and organizing an annual programme of AFUR meetings.
- ✓ Attend all such meetings, as far as possible
- ✓ Ensure the interface between the Forum and other organizations in the continent and abroad.
- ✓ Cooperates and liaises with other international organisations on matters of relevance to AFUR.
- ✓ Play a role in fundraising for significant projects that advance the Forum's strategy.
- ✓ Ensure that the Forum conforms to the requirements of the laws applying to it.
- ✓ Be responsible for contracts of employment and all other contracts

3. Qualifications and skills:

Applicants must:

- - Be a citizen of an African Union country member.
- - Be 55 years old at most on January 1, 2010.
- Have an appropriate degree or equivalent in Engineering, Economics or

Law field.

- Be fluent in French or English and have a good working knowledge of the other language.
- Have hold in the past a senior-manager position.
- Have proven experience in the field of :
 - Operations of international, regional organizations;
 - The management of personnel in a diversified, multi-cultural environment;
 - The preparation of financial budgets and the management of expenditures;
 - The organization of meetings and provision of secretariat support for high level committees;
 - Oversight and management of computer services and information technology;
 - utility regulation management, coupled with a strong command of regulation rules;
 - Search for the financing, partnership with agencies of funding and preparation of reports intended to donors.

4. Working conditions:

The salary level that will be offered will depend on the successful applicant's experience and qualifications, and will be broadly comparable to those of similar posts in other international organizations. Should you have any queries or require further information related to salary, contact:

ibassi@anare.ci and akafrancis90@yahoo.fr

5. HOW TO APPLY:

All applicants wishing to be considered for this position are required to supply the following documents:

- a. A written and signed application;
- b. A birth certificate or any related document
- c. A nationality certificate or any related document
- d. A detailed CV describing the applicant's professional experience;
- e. Certificates of experience acquired
- f. Reference letters

6. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications must be submitted by e-mail to the following address:

afur_recruit@yahoo.fr

7. RECRUITMENT PROCESS

Recruitment will take place in two steps:

- Short list
- Interview process

8. SHORT LIST

The short list is made via file. Three applicants will be shortlisted among the applicants submitting an application file. Only the preselected applicants will be informed of their preselection and invited for an interview.

9. SELECTION

The applicant selection is made among the shortlisted applicants.

Trip fees and additional charges of invited applicants for the final selection will be refunded by AFUR.

The applicant will be chosen after interviews.

10. CLOSING DATE

All applications must be received by March 31, 2010. Any application received after this date will not be considered.

11. START DATE

The chosen candidate will report to the Secretariat headquarters two full weeks before the departure of the incumbent Executive Secretary in order to allow for a transition.

BUSINESS

0805 1000 536



BROKERS trading on the floor of NSE

Capital Market hits N6trillion

MARKET capitalisation of listed equities on the Nigeria Stock Exchange (NSE) has increased to N6 trillion from N5.9 trillion the previous day, amidst signs of renewed hope and confidence among investors.

With the Tuesday's development, market has eventually recovered half of what was lost during the global market crisis, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports.

The market capitalisation was already running at N12 trillion before the March 2007 market crisis which saw the capital market almost collapsing in the heat of illiquidity.

The development was occasioned by foreign investors' decision to off-load their shares as well as the margin trading debacle.

The market capitalisation grew by an additional 1.34 per cent or N81 billion to close at N6.043 trillion, as against the

N5.962 trillion achieved Monday.

The benchmark for All-Share Index went up also by 1.34 per cent or 332.08 points to close at 25,005.63 points in contrast to the 24,673.55 points recorded on March 22.

NAN reports that as expected, 58 stocks appreciated in their share prices value against the 31 shares that dipped in price value. At the close of transaction, Guinness topped the price gainers' table chalking up N3.00 to close at N133.00 per share.

Conoil went up by N1.90 to close at N39.90 while Oando garnered N1.80 to close at N81.00 per share.

On the other hand, Enamel Ware led in the price losers' pack, dipping by N2.51 to close at N47.70 per share.

Julius Berger's shares depreciated by N1.51 to close at N28.83 while BOC Gas went down by N0.51 to close at N9.86 per share. At the close of trading, investors exchanged a total of 480.43 million shares

valued at N4.17 billion in 8,118 deals.

On March 22, 420.79 million shares worth N4.53 billion were traded in 7,274 deals.

The banking sub-sector was the most favoured of the sectors, trading 270.29 million shares worth N2.89 billion transacted in 4,152 deals.

The shares of Zenith Bank accounted for the bulk of transactions in the sub-sector, with 53.02 million shares valued at N955.83 million bought in 337 deals.

The insurance sub-sector was boosted by the shares of Guaranty Trust Assurance, selling 53.17 million shares worth N99.74 million in 1,030 deals.

Guaranty Trust Assurance's investors staked N53.53 million on 17.83 million shares in 120 deals.

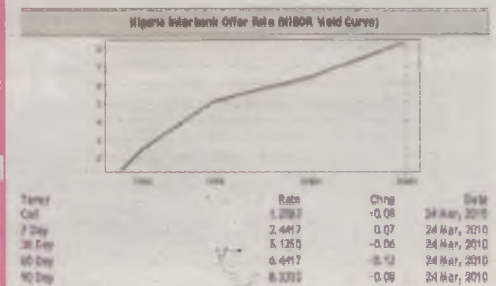
The Mortgage companies sub-sector traded 24.70 million shares valued at N3.14 million in 61 deals. (NAN)

CAC to delists 400,000 coys

THE Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) says about 400,000 companies which failed to file in their annual returns since incorporation will be struck off its register. The announcement was contained in the commission's current news magazine in Abuja yesterday.

It said the fact that the affected companies had failed to file their annual returns to the commission since incorporation, showed that they were not in business or operations. The commission said that in accordance with the provisions of section 525 of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990, it had started the process of striking off the affected companies from its register.

It said that in the previous year, more than 9,341 companies had been struck off the commission's register for similar reason. (NAN)



Stock Market Index	
Date :	Wednesday, March 24, 2010
Index :	25,005.63
Deals :	10,451
Volume :	522,848,398
Value :	N 4,056,403,629.15
Cap. :	N 6,042,780,036,479.18

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	→ \$81 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			BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES	
	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)		
23/3/2010				BUYING	
CFA	0.2891	0.2991	0.3091	DOLLAR.....	N150
DANISH KRONER	26.6861	26.7767	26.8673	EURO.....	N205
EURO	198.6475	199.3218	199.996	POUNDS.....	N230
POUNDS STERLING	220.8324	221.582	222.3315	SELLING	
RIYAL	39.2827	39.416	39.5493	DOLLAR.....	N152
SDR	224.471	225.2329	225.9948	EURO.....	N207
SWISS FRANC	138.6447	139.1153	139.5859	POUNDS.....	N233
US DOLLAR	147.31	147.81	148.31	Source: S&I Bureau de Change, Wuse Zone 4, Abuja.	
WAUA	225.5896	226.3553	227.121		
YEN	1.6301	1.6356	1.6411		

Business



FROM left: Senior Brand Manager, Glaxosmithkline (GSK) Mrs Funke Akinloye, representing Lagos State Commissioner of Health, Director Family Health and Nutrition, Lagos State Ministry of Health, Dr. Jemilade Longe and consultant Corporate Communications GSK Mr Femi Kolajo, during a press conference on Maclean's Oral Capacity Building for Teachers in Lagos, Tuesday.

Abuja trade fair targets N1.25bn

By Sunday Williams

THE Abuja Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (ABUCCIMA) said it hopes to generate N1.24 billion in the 5th Abuja International Trade Fair which commences on April 8.

This would be an increase of 25 percent of N1 billion realised in the previous year's edition. ABUCCIMA's First Vice President Engineer Solomon Nyagba said the fair is targeting about 250 exhibitors. He spoke at a press conference on the forthcoming fair on Tuesday in Abuja.

"About 40 companies from Ghana have indicated interest to participate in this year's fair as against 25 that participated last year. Interest has also been shown by visiting business delegations from Turkey, Finland, China, and United Arab Republic among other", he said.

Last year over 250 exhibitors from 17 countries actively participated in the Abuja international trade fair. The theme of this year's fair is, "Economic Reforms: a panacea for restoring investors confidence."

He said the chambers aim is to transform Abuja from an administrative city to a business driven town.

The Chamber is faced with the challenges of infrastructure which is why it is using the Area 10 parade ground for the fair instead of its vast land located along Airport road.

International banks give tough conditions to fund NNPC

By Hamisu Muhammad

SOME international banks have given stringent conditions which the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) must meet to get funds to run its operations.

Some of the conditions include a fully commercialised NNPC as well as transparency in the operations of the Corporation, the General Manager, office of the Group Managing Director of NNPC Mallam Bello Rabiú told our

reporter.

He said the banks are willing to finance projects for the NNPC as they soon as the Corporation meet such conditions.

Some of the international banks include Deutsche Bank, JP Morgan, Standard Chartered Bank and two local Nigerian banks - First Bank Plc and United Bank for Africa (UBA).

Management of NNPC recently met in London with five of the leading investors in the world and two of the lead-

ing domestic banks to begin to explore various models of its capitalization.

Rabiú said the essence of the meeting with the international financiers in London last week was to get the requirements for accessing the funds before the new law (PIB) came into fruition.

He said: "The key issue is that when the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) came to fruition, then the National Oil Company has to be commercialised fully, and it has to be capitalised in doing so.

It requires financing from international financiers but at this point we are not there yet, we need to know what others are doing and what are the requirements by the financiers.

"We are happy at the end of the day that they told us what are the requirements, they said what we need to do is to go back to settle down as a commercial company."

NNPC as a state-run enterprise is now battling with negative cash flow as a result of unnecessary expenses.

Of recent, the Managing Director of the Corporation, Mohammed S Barkindo said the capitalization of NNPC will provide the strategic autonomy and financial independence.

According to Rabiú, the banks "even assured us that despite the lingering turbulence of the global economic meltdown, we still need to go ahead because investors prefer countries like Nigeria, since we are not so exposed to the global trend like some other countries in term of debt."

Nigeria imports 175,000 vehicles yearly

By Sunday Williams

NIGERIA imports 100,000 used and 75,000 new vehicles annually into the country, the Director General, National Automotive Council (NAC), Engineer Aminu Jalal has said.

He said this yesterday in Abuja at the Truck and Construction Equipment Conference and exhibition (TRACCON) organized by On Wheels magazine.

Engineer Jalal said the Nigerian automotive industry has the capacity to produce 100,000 cars, 56,000 commercial vehicles, about a million motorcycles and a million bicycles annually.

Due to the major problems militating against the development of the industry, the local production of vehicles declined from a peak of over 100,000 units annually in the early 1980s to below 10,000 units currently.

Reps set to amend free trade zones laws

BY Nasir Imam

THE House of Representatives is set to amend relevant sections of the constitution on free trade zones in the country.

The amendment would stop illicit trades like gun running, terrorism financing and mass production of illicit drugs, the deputy chairman House of Representatives Committee on Drugs, Nar-

cotics, and Financial Crimes Hon Bassey Etim, has said.

He said this yesterday at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport Abuja, on his arrival from the United States of America, where members of the Nigerian Parliament attended an international conference on Anti-terrorism financing and money laundering.

He said the bill for the amendment of the Act estab-

lishing free trade zones will receive its second reading as soon as the National Assembly resumes sitting after its recess billed to commence March 25, to mark the 2010 Easter celebration.

Free trade zones across the globe are said to be transit camps for gun running, terrorism financing, illicit drugs production and money laundering, contrary to the provisions of the law establish-

ing the zones with the hope to generating revenue for its home country.

The leader of the Nigerian delegation to the conference and the sponsor of the bill on free trade zones, Hon Etim lamented the poor state of infrastructure in the Nigeria's free trade zones which he described as a hide out for drug peddlers and other illicit affairs.

He said: "Many other countries have commenced

the amendment of the laws on free trade zones to reposition and beef up security to check the illegal activities of operators of the free trade zones, as provided by existing laws.

"Recently, the House of Representatives had passed a resolution that the laws establishing free trade zones in the country be amended to curb the obnoxious trade being carried out by unpatrician Nigerians at the zones."

Business

Banking reforms: CBN would face odds, says economist

From Isa Umar Gusau and Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

THE planned reversal of the universal banking structure by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to give rise to many banks would lead to disappointments, a professor of economics at the University of Maiduguri, Borno state has said.

Professor Dahiru Balami said CBN Governor Sanusi Lamido Sanusi will face severe risks of disappointing Nigerians if he de-consolidates banking system.

He told Daily Trust yesterday in Maiduguri.

He said even though CBN is taking the steps to protect public interest, the policy would create a challenge of regulating many financial institutions that would emerge.

"They would also need more supervisors and from past experience, I do not think that the central bank has that capacity because it was the failure of the same system that led to the consolidation process in the first place", he said.



PROFESSOR Dahiru Balami

He said CBN would be confronted with the issue of putting in place mechanisms to supervise the new institutions.

The type of universal banking we are having now is a situation in which you have one bank performing varieties of specialized financial services with a centralized management.

He said: "The CBN should expect the challenges of regulating more financial institutions, which would be compli-

cated by the attitudinal behaviour of Nigerians regarding financial discipline.

"Bank executives will need to make financial investment to promote a sector and not a different interest."

He added that, "Unless the CBN strengthens its own regulation when the institutions multiply and become too many, the mortgage banks would have their own problems. So you have to create new regulations and institutions to supervise them.

"The insurance section would also have their problems as well as other sectors of the banking industry which would present a different scenario.

He however said that the restructuring was not a bad plan.

"The idea is good because for instance, if you establish an agricultural bank, that particular bank will be concerned with giving out agricultural credits to farmers. Such ventures are productive and would in turn have a spreading effect on several sectors of the economy", he said.

CBN decries poor loan repayment in Katsina

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

THE Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has decried poor loan repayment by the beneficiaries of its Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme (ACGS) in Katsina state.

CBN's branch controller in the state Alhaji B Mohammed said out of N668.8 million guaranteed by CBN in the state, only N185.4million was recovered, representing 38 percent of the loan disbursed.

He spoke at the 2009 Annual Bankers and Customers' Forum in the state, at the weekend.

He said in 2009, there were loan applications of 7,732 worth N668.3million. Only 2,944 beneficiaries had fully repaid their loans amounting to N185.4 million.

He said the situation has shown further decrease in the loans repayment in the state and described it as a very discouraging trend. He warned the beneficiaries to realise that, only their repayment can guarantee their

enjoyment of an interest drawback scheme.

On the activities of the bank during the year under review, Alhaji Mohammed revealed that, the deposit money banks withdrew N26.834 billion and deposited N5.209 billion.

He said CBN clearing house cleared 77,674 cheques worth N144.386 billion as against 90,551 cheque of N131,900 billion in 2008.

He attributed the decrease in the volume of cheques to the introduction of e-payment system

The situation has shown further decrease in the loans repayment in the state and described it as a very discouraging trend

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Features

The battle of El Alamein was a turning point in World War II but the unexploded munitions it left behind continue to kill and maim the local population, as *Christian Fraser* reports from Egypt.

As spectators of desert warfare, Arab Bedouins have always had the front-row seats.

For thousands of years they have watched vast armies wage war on the harshest of battlefields.

In 331 BC, the Bedouin were ringside, tending their camels, sheep and goats, as Alexander the Great mustered his men in the sands of Mesopotamia - modern-day Iraq - and conquered half of Persia.

In 1942, their descendants were still grazing animals, this time in the Sahara, as they witnessed the massed armies of Montgomery and Rommel fight out the pivotal World War II battle of El Alamein.

Today however, Egyptian Bedouin are not merely onlookers but reluctant combatants in a battle against death and injury in their ancestral lands.

The Allied and Axis forces are long gone from North Africa but their lethal legacy remains - millions of rusting landmines, bombs, mortars and artillery shells lying in wait for the unwary shepherds and their children.

The Desert Rats knew it as the Devil's Garden, this 40-mile belt of featureless land in Egypt's Western Desert.

Heading inland from the Mediterranean today, you can see what the warring generals knew back then - that there were few natural barriers to shield men and munitions from the enemy, which meant fortifying their positions with millions of mines.

Today there are no reliable maps of the minefields because their deadly crop constantly shifts in the desert winds.

You cannot see the mines buried in the sand.

When the Bedouin discover them, the hard way - ploughing them up in their olive groves or digging them up as they scrape a pit for a campfire - all they can do is mark the spot with a cairn of stones to warn those who follow.

Tragic consequences

Already this year there have been four serious injuries and one fatality.

And with legal action and demands for compensation in the offing, no country is prepared to accept responsibility for owning or laying the unexploded ordnance.

Who then is to blame for the



THE featureless desert landscape conceals the deadly remains of war

Lethal landmine legacy from battle of El Alamein

maiming of 11-year-old Mawa?

She was a keen footballer until the day she kicked what she thought was a tin can.

The rusted detonator blew her foot off and now she lifts her floor-length skirts to reveal a carefully-bandaged stump.

It is infected at the moment - probably from her attempts to make the two-hour walk to the school she loves but can no longer reach.

"I can't run any more," she says.

"I can't play with the other children and I can't go to school at the moment because of the infection."

She sits on her doorstep and cries, says her father Abdulaziz.

While Mawa is sad, he is furious.

"I thank God she is still alive but I'm angry," he says, "because our life is destroyed."

"I used to have sheep but I had to sell them because the children refuse to go to the fields now because they're too dangerous."

“Psychologically and economically we have been badly affected. And we've had no compensation.”

The detonator could have been of Italian or German origin but Abdulaziz blames the British.

"It was their battle," he said. "They brought the war to Egypt."

No support

Thousands of Bedouin are believed to have been killed or injured in explosions over the years but given their tradition of oral history, there is no written record.



MAWA'S father firmly blames the British for his daughter's injury

Now though, a group representing some 660 registered injured is compiling a formal dossier to bolster claims for compensation.

There is no legal precedent for landmine victims suing a foreign nation for damages.

The group has already approached the UK government, which pointed out that it contrib-

utes about \$15m (£10m) a year to the problem of uncleared mines globally.

It says its financial help is directed at countries that have signed the Ottawa Convention - which puts in place a framework to support victims.

So far, Egypt has refused to sign up.

For the past 10 years, it is the

Egyptian army that has had sole responsibility for clearing the detritus of war from the area around Alamein.

Untapped riches

The region is rich in natural resources.

There is a huge amount of natural gas that lies buried underground and the Egyptian government suggests there could be 4.8bn barrels of oil, potentially doubling the country's existing reserves.

International oil companies that have cleared their own access roads through the mines have already been rewarded with considerable finds.

Tourists are another target.

This stretch of coastline is among the most beautiful in the Mediterranean - if only the land around it was not cut off by the minefields that property developers would dearly love to replace with golf courses and villas.

The bravery of the thousands of Commonwealth, Italian and German soldiers, who fell far from home will forever be remembered in the tranquil cemeteries and mausoleums built along the coast.

It was said of Alamein that before the battle the Allies knew only defeat. After it they tasted only victory.

But for the Bedouin, Alamein marked only the beginning of the bloodshed.

And almost 70 years on, World War II continues. For them it is equally cruel and it is never ending.

Culled from *bbc.co.uk*

Water Supply, Nassarawa State



Water Supply, Ekiti State



SUBSIDY SPEND
2006-2009
N2.5 trillion
2010 Projection
N600 billion

THE UNFAIRNESS OF SUBSIDY

- Both are Government projects.
- Nasarawa State and Ekiti State have contributed N20.7 billion and N21.1 billion to petroleum products subsidy respectively between 2006-2009 despite their different internal needs and challenges.
- Nasarawa State still has manually operated water project in this day and age, while Ekiti State operates power generated water supply.
- These two states, aside their different needs also buy petrol at various prices despite their contribution to petroleum subsidy.
- Is this fair?
- Does this subsidy make sense?

It is time to deregulate.



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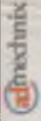
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INTERMOTORS



Business/International

Zain board approves asset sale to Bharti — Sources

THE board of Kuwaiti telecoms operator Zain has approved a \$9 billion sale of most of its African assets to India's biggest telecoms firm Bharti Airtel, sources yesterday.

Due diligence on the deal, which will extend Bharti Airtel's reach into African emerging markets, is completed and the sale documents will be signed within several days, the sources said.

Spokesmen for Zain and Bharti declined to comment.

Bharti said on Sunday it had tied up the entire financing requirement of \$8.3 billion, with major international banks committing to underwrite the amount. The deadline for exclusive talks with Zain expires on Thursday.

Bharti, which failed twice to acquire Africa's biggest mobile operator MTN Group, is desperate to expand in new markets, as cut-rate competition in its home market - the world's fastest growing - squeezes margins and clouds its growth outlook.

Zain's African businesses had been considered a natural target for Bharti, which has thrived in an Indian market with low incomes and tariffs and a heavily rural population - characteristics shared by African nations.

Bharti, 32-percent owned by Singapore Telecommunications, has said it would pay a total \$9 billion in cash to Zain, including \$700 million to be paid one year after the deal closing.

The Indian firm will also assume \$1.7 billion debt on the target firm's books. (Reuters)

Ghana sees \$800m a year windfall from oil

GHANA expects oil and gas to generate on average \$800 million a year in government revenues between 2011 and 2029, the West African country's finance ministry yesterday.

The ministry said its estimate assumed that Ghana would produce about 500 million barrels of oil over the next 20 years, and that the oil price would average \$65 a barrel over 10 years.

It estimated income from oil and gas at \$490 million in 2011, rising from 2014 to reach a peak of \$2 billion in 2017 before dipping to \$1.2 billion in 2020 and falling further thereafter.

By comparison, total Ghanaian government revenue and grants amounted to 4.52 billion cedis in 2009.

The ministry's estimates on oil revenue appeared in the preamble to a questionnaire Ghana is issuing to citizens on how to use revenues from its Jubilee field, which is due to start production in late 2010.

The ministry calculated that if oil and gas revenues were distributed directly to individuals, each Ghanaian would receive about \$20 next year, rising to \$75 in 2017. (Reuters)

E/Africa can attract \$2bn remittances in 2010

EAST Africa could attract more than \$2 billion in remittances in 2010 and should direct this money to investment rather than consumption, the United Nations' Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) said.

"If regional peace and stability was assured in the East African region then remittances would surpass the \$2 billion mark over the year," Antonio Pedro, director of the UNECA sub-regional office, said late on Tuesday.

The World Bank estimates that remittances to the five countries in East Africa fell last year to \$2.1 billion, from \$2.3 billion in 2008, as they were hit by the global economic downturn.

Kenyans abroad sent home \$609 million in 2009, down slightly from a record \$611 million a year before, according to Central Bank of Kenya statistics.

Uganda's remittances fell to \$414 million in 2008/09 from a high of

\$547 million in 2007/08, according to the Bank of Uganda. However, the amount still exceeded all other sources of inflows in the current account.

The World Bank says Uganda is the second-largest recipient of remittances in East Africa after Kenya.

Rwanda and Burundi reported growth in amounts sent home by their citizens living abroad, according to a UNECA study presented by Pedro on Wednesday.

"Figures from Bank du Burundi show that the country registered remittances inflows of only \$41,000 in 2004 but (that) increased dramatically to about \$4.5 million by November 2009," the UNECA report said.

The report said Tanzania's official current transfers amounted to \$811.8 million in 2008, but only \$443.9 million in the year ending October 2009. Recorded remittances amounted to only \$18 million in the year ending October 2009. (Reuters)



Mozambique to invest \$289m in electrification

MOZAMBIQUE'S state-owned utility Electricidade de Mozambique (EDM) plans to spend \$289 million in electrification projects by 2013, its chief executive was

quoted by SAPA news agency as saying yesterday.

Chief Executive Manuel Cuambe did not elaborate on where the money will come from. The

utility reported an annual loss of \$30 million due to illegal connections and vandalism despite a 12 percent rise in annual revenue to \$17.1 million, he said.

Mozambique has one of the lowest electrification rates in Africa, with the majority of the population still not linked to the national grid. (Reuters)

Confidence crumples in industrial metals markets

PRICES of industrial metals fell on Wednesday as the dollar rose against the euro and expectations are for further losses because of market surpluses.

Benchmark lead on the London Metal Exchange fell to \$2,042, its lowest since February 11 as the market fretted about stocks in LME warehouses, at their highest since the middle of 2003.

Three-month copper traded at \$7,360 a tonne at 1109 GMT from \$7,440 a tonne at the close on Tuesday. The metal, used in power and construction, is down more than 5 percent since the year high of \$7,796 a tonne hit on January 7.

The euro tumbled to a 10-month low against the dollar, knocked by uncertainty about aid for debt-stricken Greece ahead of an EU summit on Thursday and Friday.

"The direction for base metals is going to be down because of a whole range of things. Broadly speaking, we see markets in surplus this year, even though it looks as if LME stocks are topping out," said Stephen Briggs, analyst at RBS.

"The dollar's firmer trend against the euro will continue, focus is shifting to capacity restarts and we are looking at a trend of rising interest rates in different places and times."

A strong dollar makes metals more expensive for holders of other currencies and a persistently higher dollar could prompt producers to raise prices as they seek to protect margins.

Worries that further policy tightening in China, the world's largest consumer of industrial metals, could put a brake on demand have taken their toll in recent weeks. (Reuters)

Business/Finance

Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
2ND-TIER SECURITIES				
ADSWITCH PLC	3	2.30	64,000	140,160.00
CAPITAL OIL PLC	9	0.50	365,170	184,960.10
SECTOR Totals	12		429,170	325,120.10
AGRICULTURE				
FTN COCOA PROC. PLC	25	0.93	1,883,951	1,750,421.43
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	17	0.70	364,505	251,727.60
OKITIPUPA OIL PALM PLC	3	6.21	5,000	29,500.00
OKOMU O. PALM COY PLC	1	21.62	432	8,873.28
PRESCO PLC	18	5.57	199,515	1,164,421.80
SECTOR Totals	64		2,453,403	3,204,944.11
AIR SERVICES				
AIRL/SERV. & LOG. PLC	4	2.86	72,300	206,778.00
NIG. AV. HAND. COY PLC	105	10.00	1,123,060	11,197,747.85
SECTOR Totals	109		1,195,360	11,404,525.85
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE				
DN TYRE & RUBBER PLC	7	0.50	94,300	47,150.00
INCAR NIGERIA PLC	1	1.97	360	676.80
R. T. BRISCOE (NIG.) PLC	57	5.52	2,064,815	11,882,195.01
SECTOR Totals	65		2,159,475	11,930,021.81
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	267	9.90	19,918,988	199,434,806.85
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	101	2.86	9,412,708	26,749,045.09
DIAMOND BANK PLC	150	9.50	9,214,679	90,494,056.17
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	89	7.00	36,395,356	258,019,152.27
FIR/CITY MON. BANK PLC	95	9.12	3,994,711	36,499,439.05
FIDELITY BANK PLC	403	3.35	27,471,103	92,666,354.93
FIRST BANK OF NIG. PLC	880	15.80	15,432,763	243,766,271.28
FINBANK PLC	103	0.75	6,871,059	5,142,322.75
GTBANK PLC	558	19.40	21,771,915	428,798,229.52
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	84	10.87	1,259,240	13,551,578.53
INTERCONT. BANK PLC.	87	2.17	3,080,907	6,558,571.02
OCEANIC BANK INT. PLC	132	2.10	5,272,450	10,925,642.39
BANK PHB PLC	102	1.90	3,239,118	6,213,259.37
SKYE BANK PLC.	268	8.02	14,685,443	118,772,289.03
SPRING BANK PLC	8	1.05	127,657	129,516.10
STERLING BANK PLC	26	2.24	1,378,935	3,088,814.40
UNT. BANK FOR AFR. PLC.	265	14.84	25,043,982	367,217,256.34
UN/BANK OF NIG. PLC	179	6.15	6,167,086	37,638,819.18
UNITYBANK PLC	42	1.02	4,039,319	4,193,060.83
WEMA BANK PLC	59	1.05	4,273,776	4,731,304.57
ZENITH BANK PLC	270	17.85	11,532,581	207,315,661.59
SECTOR Totals	4,168		230,583,776	2,161,905,451.26
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	155	18.03	4,292,809	78,167,288.50
BENUE CEM. COY PLC	63	62.47	623,312	38,760,182.70
CEM. CO. OF N/NIG. PLC	76	18.55	2,445,525	45,501,262.63
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	44	33.60	498,120	16,613,458.90
SECTOR Totals	338		7,859,766	179,042,192.73
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
BERG./PAINTS NIG. PLC	14	4.92	175,384	861,650.06
CHEM. & ALL. PROD. PLC	9	29.67	69,386	2,079,450.49
DN MEYER PLC	7	3.40	31,761	112,270.77
SECTOR Totals	30		276,531	3,053,371.32
COMMERCIAL/SERV.				
AFROMEDIA PLC	2	0.51	25,200	12,852.00
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	9	3.04	459,855	1,397,959.20
TRANS NATION. EXP. PLC	1	6.45	10,874	66,657.62
SECTOR Totals	12		495,929	1,477,468.82
COMP. & OFFICE EQUIP.				
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	18	0.56	1,564,500	869,775.00
THOMAS WYATT PLC	1	1.75	5,323	8,889.41
TRIPPLE GEE & COY PLC	1	4.37	1,154	4,800.64
SECTOR Totals	20		1,570,977	883,465.05
CONGLOMERATES				
A. G. LEV. (NIG.) PLC	9	3.30	109,593	361,311.05
CHELLARAMS PLC	2	14.13	15,644	210,098.92
JOHN HOLT PLC	1	9.28	3,385	29,855.70
PZ CUSSONS NIG. PLC	46	29.94	302,364	8,971,184.46
SCOA NIGERIA PLC	4	8.71	29,262	242,289.36
TRANS. CORP. OF NIG. PLC	37	0.53	6,382,060	3,373,561.60
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	103	48.00	1,136,555	54,076,965.70
UNILEVER NIG. PLC	100	26.55	904,479	24,039,008.62
SECTOR Totals	302		8,883,342	91,304,275.41
CONSTRUCTION				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	36	5.30	715,675	3,825,493.81
JUL/BERGER NIGERIA PLC	43	29.70	513,997	14,885,189.00
MULTIVERSE RES. PLC	2	0.50	107,500	53,750.00
ROADS NIGERIA PLC	1	3.46	11,733	38,601.57
SECTOR Totals	82		1,348,905	18,803,034.38
ENGINEERING TECH.				
CUTIX PLC	7	2.97	123,300	366,201.00
NIG. WIRE AND CABLE PLC.	3	0.62	109,000	67,580.00
SECTOR Totals	10		232,300	433,781.00
FOOD/BEV. & TOBACCO				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	7	30.60	3,536	113,611.68
BIG TREAT PLC	16	0.82	545,500	439,570.00
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	75	17.81	1,438,179	26,377,580.01
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	263	17.22	7,292,892	127,223,026.65
DANGOTE SUGAR REF. PLC	105	18.05	2,858,844	51,499,572.94
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	102	52.99	929,266	48,687,149.00
HO/WELL FLOUR MILL PLC	46	8.88	1,038,200	9,084,602.25
NAT. SALT COY NIGERIA PLC	109	7.41	5,207,467	38,938,458.98
NIG. BOTTLING COY PLC	25	28.24	108,282	3,131,194.77
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	31	270.00	45,128	12,347,499.60
TANTALIZERS PLC	19	1.10	2,996,312	3,295,943.20
UTC NIGERIA PLC	6	0.66	77,546	51,480.36
SECTOR Totals	804		22,541,152	321,189,689.44
HEALTHCARE				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	12	1.07	302,350	323,514.50
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	63	3.10	2,066,081	6,394,911.17
GLAXOSM. CONS. NIG. PLC	28	30.97	114,583	3,698,183.33
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.	36	5.25	416,741	2,180,420.35
NEIMETH INT. PHARM. PLC	11	1.47	189,285	270,537.00
UN/DIAG. & CLIN. SERV. PLC	25	0.63	2,918,091	1,787,274.60
SECTOR Totals	175		6,007,131	14,654,840.95
HOTEL & TOURISM				
CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	5	2.79	138,285	397,432.30
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	7	1.80	159,800	287,640.00
SECTOR Totals	12		298,085	685,072.30
INDUST./DOM. PRODUCTS				
ALUMACO PLC	1	11.63	50,000	581,500.00
B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	2	9.86	2,000	19,370.00
NIGERIAN ENAMELW. PLC	1	47.70	370	16,768.40
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIG. PLC	2	0.52	2,800	1,512.00
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC	36	5.39	665,590	3,588,597.91
VONO PRODUCTS PLC	1	0.60	381	228.60
SECTOR Totals	43		721,141	4,207,976.91
INF. & COMMUNIC. TECH.				
CHAMS PLC	30	0.67	4,039,140	2,721,882.80
STARCOMMS PLC	22	2.15	1,859,021	3,900,298.77
SECTOR Totals	52		5,898,161	6,622,181.57
INSURANCE				
AFRICAN ALLIANCE INS. PLC	2	0.50	200,000	100,000.00
AIICO INSURANCE PLC.	429	1.09	6,211,925	6,810,876.04
CONTINENTAL REINS. PLC	12	0.96	2,102,000	1,975,890.00
C/STONE INSUR. CO. PLC.	24	0.56	9,318,500	5,129,891.50
CUST. AND ALLIED INS. PLC	71	3.78	3,534,572	13,373,351.90
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	1	0.50	200	100.00
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	11	0.64	2,597,500	1,662,400.00
GUARANTY TRUST ASS. PLC	75	3.05	7,135,889	21,686,310.06
GUINEA ASSURANCE PLC.	4	0.50	65,000	32,500.00
CONSOL. HALLM. INS. PLC	7	0.50	271,280	135,640.00
INTERN. EN. INS. COY PLC	35	0.53	2,597,732	1,382,369.79
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	28	0.50	2,365,197	1,190,823.50
LAW UNION & ROCK INS. PLC.	44	0.53	77,487,500	38,797,970.00
MUTUAL BEN. ASSUR. PLC	20	0.61	3,050,000	1,876,500.00
N.E.M. INS. CO. (NIG.) PLC.	28	0.53	1,819,790	966,248.30
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	19	0.66	2,795,000	1,967,923.29
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC.	3	3.11	55,000	171,050.00
SOVEREIGN TRUST INS. PLC	2	0.50	8,000	4,000.00
STACO INSURANCE PLC	9	0.54	215,000	116,100.00
STAND. ALLIANCE INS. PLC	6	0.50	645,256	322,628.00
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	30	0.76	5,101,000	3,832,290.00
UNITY KAPITAL ASSUR. PLC	1	0.58	100,000	58,000.00
UNIV. INSURANCE COY PLC	1	0.50	10,000	5,000.00
INTERCONT. WAPIC INS. PLC	19	0.88	1,101,372	968,578.11
SECTOR Totals	681		128,787,713	102,566,440.49
MORTGAGE COMPANIES				
ABBEY BUILD. SOCIETY PLC	1	1.61	100	153.00
ASO SAVINGS & LOAN PLC	28	0.63	4,043,400	2,695,384.00
RESORT SAV. & LOANS PLC	1	0.50	2,800,000	1,400,000.00
UN/HOMES SAV.& LOANS PLC	65	0.94	5,289,110	4,933,028.68
SECTOR Totals	95		12,132,610	9,028,565.68
PETROLEUM(MARKETING)				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	51	43.13	316,936	13,669,449.68
BECO PETR. PROD. PLC	14	1.99	462,440	920,255.60
CONOIL PLC	42	40.10	167,625	6,787,347.55
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	19	7.10	189,826	1,346,854.30
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	9	107.64	6,272	645,972.52
OANDO PLC	153	80.20	9,442,569	761,445,953.83
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC 5	149.62	1,396	209,711	1.20
SECTOR Totals	293		10,587,064	783,025,614.68
PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC	21	8.22	186,320	1,536,336.90
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	19	6.18	212,793	1,270,664.45
SECTOR Totals	40		399,113	2,807,001.35
ROAD TRANSPORTATION				
ASSOCIATED BUS COY PLC	12	1.05	974,634	1,023,365.70
SECTOR Totals	12		974,634	1,023,365.70
TEXTILES				
UNITED NIG. TEXTILES PLC	1	1.42	110	148.50
SECTOR Totals	1		110	148.50
THE FOREIGN LISTINGS				
ECOBANK TRANS. INCORP.	38	18.46	2,460,155	45,402,785.40
SECTOR Totals	38		2,460,155	45,402,785.40
OVERALL Totals	10,451		522,848,398	4,096,463,629.15

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.

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GAINERS

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FLOURMILL	1.99
WAPCO	1.60
PZ	1.42

LOSERS

AP	2.27
CADBURY	0.89
OANDO	0.80
ALUMACO	0.61



THIRD NATIONAL FADAMA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (FADAMA III)
 FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES
 Nafisah Plaza, Plot 502, Off Constitution Avenue, Central Business Area, Abuja FCT

Invitation for Bids

Issuance Date: 25th March, 2010.
PROJECT: Third National Fadama Development Project (Fadama III)
GRANT NO: TF056616-UNI
IFB No: NFCO/CEMP/GEF/NCB/02/2010

- The Federal Republic of Nigeria has received a Grant from the International Development Association (IDA) in various currencies to finance the cost of the Third National Fadama Development Project (Fadama III). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this Grant will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the **Procurement of Motor Vehicles**.
- The National Fadama Coordination Office (NFCO) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of **Motor Vehicles**:-

Lot/No	Item No.	Description of Items	Quantity	Bid Security	Delivery Period	Delivery Location
1	i	4x4WD PICK-UP	2	Not less than 3% of the bid price	60 Days	National Fadama Coordination Office, Nafisa Plaza, Plot 502, Off Constitution Avenue, Central Business Area, Abuja FCT.

- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the: National Fadama Coordination Office, Nafisa Plaza, Off Constitution Avenue, Central Business Area, Abuja FCT.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB), a procedure specified in the World Bank Guidelines: Procurement Under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, October, 2006. The bidding document will be collected by the representative of the bidder, or sent by courier services on request.
- Complete set of Bidding Documents can be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Ten Thousand Naira Only (N10,000.00)** or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency.
- Bids must be delivered to the above office on or before **12 Noon on 26th April, 2010** and must be accompanied by a bid security of **not less than 3% of Bid Price**. Late bids will be rejected.
- Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend on **26th April 2010 by 12 Noon, at the address in paragraph (4) above.**

National Project Coordinator, National Fadama Coordination Office, Nafisah Plaza, Plot 502, Off Constitution Avenue, Central Business Area, Abuja FCT. **08069609671, 08034333049, E-Mail fadamanfco@yahoo.com, Website www.fadama.net**

ADDENDUM No.1 ON NFCO/CEMP/GEF/NCB/01/2010 ADVERTISED ON 11th MARCH, 2010 FOR THE SUPPLY OF COMPUTERS AND EQUIPMENT.

Bidders for this Bidding Document should take note of the following changes on the quantities required as it appeared in the newspapers of 11th March, 2010.

- The required quantity for AO Scanner is 1No. and not 7No. Lot No. 2 item No. iii on page iii and page No. 42
- The required quantity for A4 Scanner is 6No. and not 3No. Lot No. 2 item No. iv on page iii and page No. 42

Bidders should take note of the new changes please.

National Project Coordinator **08069609671, 08034333049, E-Mail fadamanfco@yahoo.com, www.fadama.net**

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For more information call:

Lagos: Engr. I. Runsewe 07030961311
 Mr. S. Ojeme 08057494526

Abuja: Mrs. J. F Femi-Walsh 08057494537

Port Harcourt: Engr. Lawal 08057494535



STRUCTEC

Plot 2 & 4, Block D Amuwo-Odofin Ind. Scheme Apapa /Oshodi Expressway, Amuwo-Odofin. P.O. Box 391, Apapa.
Port Harcourt: 33, Elechi Beach Road, Mile 1, Port Harcourt.
Abuja: 28, Ndolia Crescent, Off Micheal Opara Opp Ibro Hotel, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja.

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 Training fees N20,000

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 Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 9th-11th of April, 2010, Venue: Rock view Hotel Classic,
 Plot 196 Ademola Adetokunbo Crescent, Wuse II, Abuja.
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 Venue: Hotel Presidential, GRA Phase II, Alia Road, Port Harcourt.
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CHALLENGING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The Yakubu Gowon Centre for National Unity and International Co-operation is an N.G.O. that has been working in about two decades to build a strong and united Nigeria. Its activities include management of International grants for health interventions. The Centre seeks immediate employment of the following:-

(1) Job Title: HUMAN RESOURCE ASSISTANT

Directly reports to: HR Officer

Role Purpose: To continuously ensure that highly skilled, well motivated and professionally managed people are always available to actualize the objectives of the Centre; promoting best people management practice, people development and effective performance management system.

SCOPE OF DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Ensure that all staff have valid contracts and job descriptions, and that they understand them
- Responsible for personnel and staff matters Implement HR deliverables.
- Prepare relevant employee statistics and update staff records
- Implement performance review and performance management for all staff with inputs from departmental heads
- Maintain Human Resource records, including staff lists, staff files and the leave register
- Ensure compliance with local labour law / regulations on all staff matters
- Undertake any other duties that may be assigned by the HR Manager and HR Officer

Qualification, Skills and Experience

- A good degree or HND in personnel management or other related field in humanities
- Must be computer literate, knowledge of HR operating software very essential
- A minimum of 3 years cognate experience
- Working knowledge of Nigerian Labour law and HR policies
- Knowledge of human capital empowerment and planning would be an advantage
- Proficient with the use of Microsoft office working tools.

(2) Job Title: Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

Summary of Job Description

Under the general supervision of the Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, the Monitoring and Evaluation officer will:

1. Strengthen the Monitoring and Evaluation systems and plans for YGC Malaria program.
2. Provide support in quality checks for data collection and data entry
3. Ensure that the health facility workers are adequately trained in data management and receive relevant DCTs on regular basis
4. Monitor the flow of DCTs from the Health Facilities through LGAs and the State RBM offices
5. Conduct HF Evaluation, Follow-up training Evaluation and other related evaluations.

6. Support the quality control systems and mechanisms needed to guarantee proper management of information and data
7. Coordinate the planning and implementation of monthly and quarterly monitoring and supervision visit to project sites in collaboration with Zonal Coordinators and State PSM officers
8. Collate and analyze monitoring reports and prepare comprehensive project reports which should be submitted to the M&E Manager in a timely manner.
9. Coordinate the planning and implementation of project surveys
10. Coordinate the preparation of quarterly progress update
11. Coordinate the conduct of quarterly data verification
12. Any other business as directed by the M&E Manager for the project

QUALIFICATIONS

- Good B.SC degree in Science or Social Sciences or M.D
- At least 5 years work experience in the monitoring and evaluation of Malaria Program and /or Malaria Research related activities
- Experience in the development and/or in the conduct of quantitative research activities in terms of planning, implementation and data analysis
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively and harmoniously with other team members
- Ability to work independently and to manage the Malaria program activities with minimal supervision
- Excellent writing and communication skills in English
- Computer Literacy with experience in word processing, spreadsheet, DHIS and preliminary statistical analysis

(3) Job Title: M&E Assistant

Summary of Job Description

Under the general supervision of the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, the M&E Assistant will:

- Collect and collate monthly programmatic data and reports sent by ZCs, States and implementing partners.
- Carry out Data check, editing and cleaning in preparation for data analysis under the supervision of the M&E Officer.
- Document data errors and communicate to M&E officer
- Liaise with Zonal Coordinators, State PSM Officers and State RBM Managers on issues related to quality of data received from them
- Carry out data cleaning
- Enter all data into the program database.
- Ensure proper documentation and archiving of programmatic reports using existing filing systems
- Generate monthly and quarterly implementation reports using standard reporting templates
- Translate reports in form of charts and graphs
- Perform any other duties as may be assigned by the M & E Manager and Officer

QUALIFICATIONS and SKILLS

- B.Sc. in Science, or Social Sciences, minimum of Higher National Diploma (HND) in the relevant area.
- At least 3 years work experience in a data processing environment, preferably in a Malaria Program
- Ability to work effectively and harmoniously with other team members
- Fluent in spoken and written English.
- Experience in word processing, use of MS Excel, MS Access or any database management package.
- Preliminary skills in statistical analysis software.

Method of Application

Qualified and interested candidates should send a one page application providing evidence of competences required for the job, with a comprehensive C.V. stating the Job Title as subject of the e-mail to careers@yakubugowoncentre.org. Only qualified candidates that meet the above requirements should apply. Closing date is two weeks from date of this publication.

Contd. of Challenging Career Opportunities Yakubu Gowon Centre

(4) JOB TITLE: INTERNAL AUDIT OFFICER**ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS**

Directly reports to: Head of Internal Audit

Role Purpose: To continually review and update control for adequacy and ensure controls established are strictly adhered to and in line with the guiding objectives of the Centre. Directly Ensure Compliance in all departments

SCOPE OF DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Monthly checks the Cashier record and the Supervisor's posting into the cash book and Pastel
- Verifies and checks all supporting documents for purpose, beneficiary, value authorization and date
- Check and ensure that relevant processes are followed for stock requisition
- Ensure internal control measures are operating as laid down
- Ensure overview function of internal audit is spread all over the operation of the Centre
- Carry out Spot check on all movable assets including cash

In carrying out the above functions, the Internal Audit Officer shall assist the Internal Auditor to:-

- Regularly review and appraise the soundness, adequacy and application of accounting checks and balances including internal controls built into the system.
- Affirm the quality of performance at various levels of carrying out designated responsibilities.
- Ascertain that all the Centre's assets are adequately protected and secured.
- Ensures that all incomes are properly computed and received as at when due
- Ensures that all payments are disbursed appropriately in accordance with laid down accounting procedures.
- Ensures that laid down limits of authority are consistently applied.
- Ensures that all deductions are accounted for as at when due
- Ensures that the Centre complies with all statutory and international regulations governing Non Governmental Organizations.
- Regularly seek improvements on the accounting process
- Ensure that all identified errors and/or weakness are corrected without delay.
- Ensure that all stores items are received into the store after due ascertainment.
- Ensure that all stores cards are posted regularly and up to date.
- Submit periodic reports directly to the Internal Auditor
- Initiate periodic stocktaking of the stores and the Centre's assets
- Carry out periodic surprise checks of the movables assets, stores and petty cash.

Qualifications, Skills and Experience

1. BSc. or HND Accounting with relevant professional qualifications. Minimum of 3-5 years post qualification cognate experience.
2. Must be computer literate
3. Must have sound numeric and analytical skills
4. A knack for details and Must be of high integrity

Method of Application

Qualified and interested candidates should send a one page application providing evidence of competences required for the job, with a comprehensive C.V. stating the Job Title as subject of the e-mail to careers@yakubugowoncentre.org. Only qualified candidates that meet the above requirements should apply. Closing date is two weeks from date of this publication.



DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (DGD)

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Despite 10 years of uninterrupted civil rule and three successive general elections including a successful transfer of power from one civilian administration to another, Nigeria continues to face the challenge of conducting elections that meet both regional and international standards of free, fair and credible elections. Consequently, soon after his inauguration as President in May 2007, President Umaru Yar'adua made commitment to reform Nigeria's electoral system and strengthen democratic governance. Electoral reform is currently under way, and hopefully will be concluded before the next general elections in 2011. UNDP and other donors the EU, DFID and CIDA have initiated Democratic Governance for Development (DGD), in response to the request from the Nigerian government to assist in working towards achieving a more credible electoral process.

This initiative will enable the Nigerian Government to work closely with Civil Society Organizations and other political key players in a six distinct and inter-related programming components such as:

1. Strengthening of National Assembly
2. Strengthening of Political Parties
3. Improvement of the Electoral Process
4. Increased Capacity and Performance of Civil Society
5. Reinforcing the role of the Media
6. Empowerment of Women

DGD in Nigeria will focus on Electoral Cycle Support and Deepening Democracy within the framework of the Joint Donor basket Fund will support the electoral process and consolidation of democracy from 2009 -2014.

The Project will work closely with UNDP Country Office in deepening democracy in Nigeria during the election periods. UNDP has reiterated its engagement in supporting the Nigerian Government in the reinforcement of capacity building in the objectives cited above. The project period will be covered for 5 years.

In support of this initiative, UNDP is recruiting a selection of posts to support the Project. The positions will be based in Abuja, with one year contract initially, with a possibility of extension based on performance and/or funding.

1. National Expert Electoral Support (SB5 Service Contract equivalent to National Officer - NOC) 1 Post. **Closing on 31 March 2010**
2. National Expert Democratic Governance (NASS, PP) (SB4 Service Contract equivalent to National Officer - NOB) 1 Post. **Closing on 31 March 2010**
3. Communications/Reporting Advisor (SB5 Service Contract equivalent to National Officer - NOC) 1 Post. **Closing on 31 March 2010**
4. National Expert Media Specialization (SB4 Service Contract equivalent to National Officer - NOB) 1 Post. **Closing on 31 March 2010**

For further details on the job descriptions and application process, please visit <http://jobs.undp.org> or www.ng.undp.org and submit applications.

UNDP is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, nationality and culture. Individuals from minority groups, indigenous groups, and persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply.

Qualified women are highly encouraged to apply. All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.

Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

GOMBE SOUTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT PEOPLES ASSEMBLY

OPEN LETTER TO ACTING PRESIDENT DR. GOODLUCK EBELE JONATHAN, GCON.

Your Excellency,

GOMBE STATE MINISTERIAL NOMINATION

1. We the entire people of Gombe South Senatorial District, which comprises Balanga, Billiri, Kaltungo, and Shongom Local Governments, wish to felicitate with you over your assumption of office as the Acting President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Certainly your emergence is a divine deed as such we want to thank God most profoundly.

2. Your dissolution of the Federal Executive Council came to us as a big relief owing to the fact that, some members of the council have outlived their usefulness, some could not perform and some were disloyal, hence could not give their best in the task of moving our country forward, it therefore became imperative for you to shop for credible men and women who would work with you for the development of our country. Certainly, this has made the level of politicking and lobbying intense to fill the vacant offices created by the dissolution, which necessitated this letter.

3. That the people of Gombe South Senatorial District, appreciate and identified with the positive things the State Governor is doing is an understatement, yet it will interest your Excellency to know that, the basic tenets of fairness and equity has no place in the lexicon of the Governor of Gombe State, hence the principle of Federal Character has been negated in appointments. Let us give your Excellency a vivid view of the sorry state of things in Gombe State.

Since the inception of the 4th republic from 1999 to date the following emerged and served as members of the Federal Executive Council (Ministers)

1.	Alh. Moh'd Danjuma Goje	-	Gombe Central Senatorial District	1999-2001
2.	Malam Murtala Aliyu	-	Gombe North Senatorial District	2001 - 2002
3.	Dr. Aliyu Modibdo Umar	-	Gombe Central Senatorial District	2002-2003-May
4.	Col. Musa Moh'd (Rtd)	-	Gombe North Senatorial District	June 2003- 2006
5.	Dr. Aliyu Modibdo Umar	-	Gombe Central Senatorial District	2006 -2007
6.	Hajiyah Aishatu Jibrin Dukku	-	Gombe North Senatorial District	June 2007- March 2010
7.	Dr. Aliyu Modibdo Umar	-	Gombe Central Senatorial District	June 2007-2009

In the appointments of Federal Boards and parastatals only 2% out of the 100% of the slots allocated to Gombe State were allotted to people from Gombe South Senatorial District.

While in the State Government:

NAME	POST	SENATORIAL DISTRICT
Alh. Dr. Moh'd Danjuma Goje	Governor	Gombe Central
Dr. John .L. Yoriyo	Dept. Govenor	Gombe South
Hon. Usman Bayero Nafada	DSP REPS	Gombe North
Hon. Manga Musa Bujude	Speaker GSHA	Gombe North
Hon. Inuwa Garba	Dept Speaker GSHA	Gombe Central
Alh. Sule Bage	S.S.G	Gombe North
Alh. Ibrahim Kuna Biri	H.O.S	Gombe North
Alh. Babayo Gidado	C.O.S	Gombe North
Alh. Moh'd Elnafaty	Chairman SUBEB	Gombe North
Alh. Muazu Magaji	Chairman H.A.S.C	Gombe North
Alh. Moh'd Bage	Chairman T.S.C	Gombe North
Alh. Manu Malala	Chairman C.S.C	Gombe North
Alh. Ahmadu Labilwa	Chairman L.G.S.C	Gombe South

Furthermore the two Local Governments of Akko and Y/Deba; that formed Gombe Central Senatorial District has three Commissioners each.

Yet with all these apparent disparity, The Governor does not deem it fit to nominate any body from Gombe South Senatorial District for Ministerial appointment, if the Governor has respect for fairness and equity we expect that this time around he should automatically nominate only people from Gombe South Senatorial District for consideration.

4. Your Excellency, Gombe South is blessed with men and women with the required and cognate experience to handle effectively and efficiently any office in the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Least we forget, during the last nomination exercise, when Hajiyah Aishatu Jibril Dukku and Dr. Aliyu Modibbo were nominated, the Gombe State House of Assembly passed a motion conceding the ministerial slot to Gombe South for equity and fairness and the speaker Gombe State House of Assembly led a delegation to the senate and House of Representatives to protest and lodged their resolution and during the screening exercise in 2007, the senator representing Gombe South put it on record that he will support Dukku and Modibbo, but hence any appointment that is not from Gombe South would suffer set back.

5. We therefore want to at this juncture call on the **Acting President** to treat this as an emergency, based on its merit. A child that is cheated cries and runs to the father, to seek for redress and solution, we therefore believe that our cry should be heard and our tears wiped away. We seek and ask that any nomination from Gombe State, that is not from South Senatorial District be rejected.

6. Looking forward to your kind disposition and action,

Thank you.
God bless Nigeria
God bless Gombe State
God bless Gombe South Senatorial District

Alh. Musa Abdullahi
Balanga LGA

Mr. Sylvanus Yohanna
Shongom LGA

Mr. Yila John
Billiri LGA

Mr. Haggai Ngarin
Kaltungo LGA

Sign Language



Where is the heavy traffic? Must be a joke.
Photo location: Colorado, US, by John Liboky
Culled from telegraph.co.uk

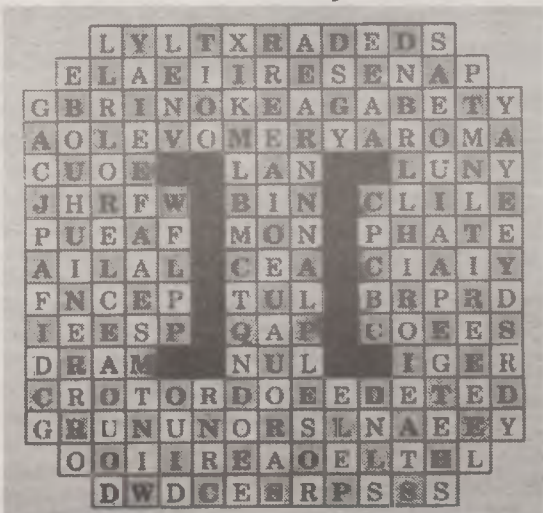
EASY CROSSWORDS

18

ACROSS	30. Scale tones	65. Daughter of Eurytus	6. Core germ
1. Seconds (a fence)	32. German article	66. Chinese dynasty	7. Harlequin stone
6. City on Norton Sound	34. Hero's birthplace?	67. Church part	8. Point, at times
10. Limn	35. French seasons	68. Ratite bird	9. Access
14. Begin afresh	37. Some stars	69. Indian nursemaid	10. Tiny amount
15. Wise to: 2 wds.	41. Craze: 3 wds.	70. Bright: French	11. Math concept
16. Fijian chestnut	44. Tip	71. Seat for Goren	12. Coral structure
17. Tree heard	45. Make over	72. An amphibian	13. Slackened
18. Transport	46. Slush	73. Dodge	21. Wee whooper
19. Solar disk	47. Smuggle		22. Work shift
20. High-wattage beam?: 3 wds.	49. Florida		26. Throws in
23. Bellwether's mate	50. Dill herb	DOWN	27. A Bobbsey
24. Faulty serve	51. Sharp turn	1. Ancient Syria	28. Author Wiesel
25. Accustomed	54. Salad-bar ort	2. Bolivian river	29. Glycogen storage-space
26. Dickens' Magwitch	56. Mauna —	3. Tautomerie compound	31. Four questions feast
	58. Vivid memory: 3 wds.	4. Spill it	33. Designer Kamali
		5. Nobel, e.g.	36. Incidental tidbit

Solution to Easy Crosswords

17



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.

114

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

Solution to Sudoku 113

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

News Extra



RUTH Ayinde-Azeez was jailed for four years for laundering £1.25m

A care home assistant who led a life of luxury thanks to an £8million (about N1.86 billion) mortgage fraud sobbed as she was jailed for four years yesterday.

Ruth Ayinde-Azeez, 26, lived in a six-bedroom mansion containing 12 plasma TVs and drove around in a top-of-the range Bentley and Land Rover.

She took lavish holidays in Dubai and the south of France, kept £1.6m in her bank accounts and blew huge sums at upmarket bars and restaurants.

But her lifestyle was funded by crime, Southwark Crown Court heard.

Her husband Victor, a fraudster who is on the run overseas, led a mortgage con gang which plundered nearly £6m from high street banks in just six weeks using a network of front companies and crooked solicitors.

The court heard that Ruth Ayinde-Azeez was sucked into the criminal world of her husband and came to enjoy the trappings of excessive wealth.

The Kenyan national laundered £1.25million and was jailed yesterday for four years for her part in the fraud.

Mrs Ayinde-Azeez, of Barnet, was found guilty at trial last month of conspiracy to acquire,

use or have criminal property and removing criminal property.

During the trial, the jury heard that when she was arrested, she had loaded her car and was about

Wife of Nigerian fugitive fraudster jailed for 4 years

... For her role in N1.86bn mortgage con

to flee the country.

Judge Anthony Beddoe told former care home worker Ruth: 'I do accept that you got sucked into the dishonesty of your husband, and it may be that had you never met, you would never have been in the position you are in, in this court.'

'But you are not, I am afraid, as naive as your counsel sought to suggest on your behalf to the jury.

'You were not stuck with Victor Ayinde-Azeez because you had his baby.

'The evidence revealed to me that this relationship became a meeting of minds, and you came fully to enjoy, as he did, the trappings of excessive wealth.

'So much so that you were prepared to follow his lead wherever it might take you, ready to leave your child in the care of your mother if necessary, and ready to join your husband overseas.

'You laundered over £1.25m,

During the trial, the jury heard that when she was arrested, she had loaded her car and was about to flee the country

and were set to launder very much more.'

'I recall the images shown to the jury of you spending and sharing the spoils with Victor.'

Three others who took part in the fraud were also sentenced.

Isaac Matthews, 42, of Chatham, Kent, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to acquire, use or have criminal property and two counts of entering into an arrangement in relation to criminal proceeds. Describing him as a 'seasoned fraudster' the judge sentenced him to six years in jail.

The court heard he had previously been sentenced to nine years in the US for fraud.

Matthews used his sister, Anthonia Akinyele, 35, of the same address, to help launder the money through two companies.

In total £5.2 million went through the companies, Zikkito and Isaac and Isaac International.

The judge said: 'I have no doubt you were to receive and were expecting to receive a very significant cut.'

Akinyele, who pleaded guilty to acquiring, using or having criminal property and two counts of entering into an arrangement in relation to criminal proceeds, will be sentenced later.

Jason Mercer, 36, of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to acquire, use or have criminal property.

The judge said Mercer, who obtained £111,000 to launder, conspired to play a part in the distribution of money being criminally obtained by Nigerian Victor Ayinde-Azeez and others and sentenced him to 21 months.

David Hunter, 35, of Hemel Hempstead, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to defraud.

The judge sentenced him to three years and nine months in jail, saying he was responsible for losses of £1.5 million after lending his name to four fraudulent mortgage applications.

The court heard that 24 fraudulent mortgage applications were successfully made between June and December 2007.



A house that Ruth Ayinde-Azeez was in the process of buying with proceeds from an £8 million mortgage deception

News Extra



A Chinese schoolboy with 16 toes (above) has undergone surgery to have his surplus toes removed (right)

Schoolboy with 31 fingers and toes has surgery to remove his extra digits

A six-year-old boy with 15 fingers and 16 toes has undergone surgery to remove his extra digits.

The unnamed Chinese child had four fingers on one hand and three on the other fused together.

He now has ten fingers and ten toes following a six-and-a-half hour operation at a hospital in Shenyang, Liaoning, to remove the surplus 11 digits.

The boy has a condition known as polydactyly, in which one of a variety of genetic disorders - which can be inherited, or are new mutations - gives rise to excess digits.

Most commonly, the extra digits appear on the little finger side of the hand.

This child appears to have the much rarer condition of central polydactyly, in which the middle fingers and toes are duplicated.

His mother said he had been ridiculed and called a 'monster' by his schoolmates in kindergarten.



THE boy has a condition known as polydactyly, in which one of a variety of genetic disorders gives rise to too many digits

He is thought to hold the world record for the number of digits ever recorded on a human being. The current official record

holders are two Indian children, Pranamya Menaria and Devendra Harne, who both have 12 fingers and 13 toes.



THE child's right hand before and after this week's surgery



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MAN to host waste seminar

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

THE Manufacturers Association of Nigeria [MAN], has concluded plans to host the Waste to Energy Roundtable seminar as part of its ongoing efforts to tackle the energy crisis facing manufacturing companies in the country.

The seminar will come up on March 31st, this year at the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria [MAN] conference hall in Lagos.

To this end, MAN has invited Engineer Jayesh Tewar, a leading biogas expert from India, Mr Ola Oresanya, Managing Director of Lagos State Waste Management Authority [LAWMA] and Professor Abubakar Sanni Sambo, Director-General, Energy Commission of Nigeria to present papers at the seminar.

Director-General of Manufacturers Association of Nigeria [MAN], Jide Mike, said in Lagos that the roundtable seminar will discuss the use of bio-degradable waste generated by

industries to produce biogas through biomethanation process. Methane gas produced by this process, he said, can be used for generating power and steam thereby converting waste to energy.

According to him, benefits of biogas as a source of energy to companies include, significant reduction of energy cost, production and consumption of clean energy, sustainable and renewable energy production and reduced dependence on expensive conventional energy sources.



THE new breed of public toilets with urinals will allow men to urinate into a funnel that transfers the liquid into a compartment in the base where it is converted into bio-fertiliser

FIRE: FG to pull down structures under bridges

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

THE Federal Government has directed that all structures under bridges in Lagos be pulled down for protection and to ensure sustainability of the bridges.

The order came as a result of fire incident last week Friday that engulfed office of the Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG) Zone 2 and part of the Onikan Bridge in Lagos.

Giving the directive to this effect at a news briefing in Ikeja this Wednesday, the Comptroller of Works in Lagos Engr. Ibemena Ejike explained that the recent fire incident at the Zone 2 headquarters that affect the Onikan Bridge made it the seventh bridge to be so seriously damaged in Lagos.

In his own analysis, the Special Adviser to Lagos State Governor on Works and Infrastructure,

Engr. Ganiyu Johnson explained that officials of the State Ministry of Works and Infrastructure and their counterparts from the federal level last Sunday inspected the burnt bridge.

He said the inspection revealed that the fire incident had affected the surface of the bridge adding that there had been explosion of the surface of the bridge while the pillars are affected.

Pollution of Lake Victoria worsening

POLLUTION in parts of Lake Victoria is worsening so fast that soon it may be impossible to treat its waters enough to provide drinking water for the Ugandan capital, a senior official said on Monday.

The lake, east Africa's largest by area, also supplies water to millions in neighbouring Kenya and Tanzania, and supports fishing communities in all three countries.

Gerald Sawula, deputy executive director of Uganda's state-run National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA), told Reuters that the lake's Murchison Bay, the northerly inlet on which

Kampala sits, was becoming a "dead" zone.

"It is a real crisis, the water has turned completely green with algae blooms swamping the whole place, the water has become so thick from effluent that is being discharged directly into the lake because the wetlands that used to filter it have all been destroyed by developers" he said.

Fisheries experts say heavy concentrations of pollutants are killing certain fish species.

"As more algal blooms, phosphates, nitrates, heavy metals and fecal matter all pile into the lake, it's going to be harder and harder to clean the water," Sawula said.

"It's very obvious that in future the National Water and Sewerage Corporation won't be able to treat water from Lake Victoria to a level safe enough for domestic consumption."

The local daily New Vision reported on Monday that the utility was considering extending intake pipes far out into the lake as pollution near the shore exceeds treatable levels.

Development analysts say the pollution problem will only worsen as Kampala's population, estimated at 2.5 million, expands fast, straining its fragile and perennially underfinanced waste-handling capacity. (Reuters/NAN)

Nigeria's silent energy crisis: The way forward

By Adeola Ijeoma Eleri

NIGERIA is experiencing a silent energy crisis. About 95 million Nigerians depend on wood for their daily cooking. Wood energy constitutes 90% of household energy use and today the demand for wood far outstrips supply, resulting in rising prices. Despite a national policy to promote a transition away from wood energy use, prospects remain bleak. Over 92% of Nigerians – approximately 130 million people live in poverty. Poverty and weak policies present a critical roadblock to fuel substitution.

According to the WHO, Nigeria has the highest rate of deaths attributable to solid fuel use, a staggering 79,000 deaths annually (mainly women and children) and 4% of the national burden of disease.

Though several socio-economic and political drivers of Nigeria's poverty are well known, the role of energy in wealth creation has received less attention. However the fact remains that without access to sustainable energy, the global MDGs and the national seven point agenda of the president cannot be achieved.

The issue of energy poverty in Nigeria and Africa as a whole is not an intractable technical and economic challenge, but a political challenge. What is required is the will to realign governance structures and interests to address energy poverty and empower people to make choices that improve their lives.

The energy sector is ripe for a new wave of reforms. The benefits of 20 years of energy sector liberalization have bypassed the poor. Decentralization of energy gov-

ernance, increased participation of women in energy sector decision-making and budget tracking of energy expenditure to ensure equitable allocation are needed. These elements of energy governance will deliver new opportunities for the poor and address key concerns such as poverty, deforestation and climate change.

Specific steps must be taken to address these issues. First, we can strengthen energy governance reforms by decentralizing energy governance from the federal government to local government levels with a focus on energy services important to the lives of poor people.

Secondly, we must engage the political process. Today, energy governance is sustained by vested interests. What is required is a move from analysis to advocacy, engagement and coalition build-

ing around the right to energy for human development.

Thirdly, we must pursue active market development for efficient wood stoves. This includes creation quality efficient woodstoves, increased promotion, financing and the development of policies that address the energy situation of the poor.

Finally, the role of international development agencies in making the energy sector serve the needs of the poor cannot be over emphasized. Strategies that can be employed include setting global energy access targets, where there is political commitment to reduce, by half the number of people dependent on traditional biomass energy within a decade. The development of energy rights and setting of access targets must begin in Nigeria.

In the interim, quick win areas



ADEOLA Ijeoma Eleri

for Nigeria include rapid scaling up of market development initiatives for the supply of improved efficient wood cooking stoves that reduces by 50% the deaths attributable to solid fuel use in households, address poverty and deforestation as well as provide a role for the poor in climate change mitigation. In that way, we will begin to address Nigeria's silent energy crisis.

Adeola Ijeoma Eleri is with the International Centre for Energy, Environment & Development. adeola@icednigeria.org

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Pollution 'killing 50,000 people a year'

BRITAIN'S filthy air kills 50,000 people a year – more than obesity, passive smoking or traffic accidents, a damning report by MPs has said.

Ministers have been rebuked for failing to tackle the lethal problem, risking millions of pounds in fines for failing to

meet EU quality standards.

MPs on the Environmental Audit Committee warned that climate-change targets were even exacerbating air pollution.

The Government has encouraged people to drive diesel cars which were more fuel efficient but created more particulates,

while the introduction of biomass boilers in urban areas also led to air pollution.

Poor air quality is linked to respiratory illness, heart disease and asthma, conditions which can dramatically lower life expectancy.

On average people across the

UK lose seven to eight months of their lives because of filthy air. But in pollution hotspots, that rises to eight or nine years.

Despite the devastating consequences, the Government is putting very little effort into reducing air pollution compared to its drive to

cut smoking, alcohol misuse and obesity, MPs on the Environmental Audit Committee said.

'In the worst affected areas, this invisible killer could be taking years off the lives of people most at risk, such as those with asthma.'

People living on pipelines in Rivers to be moved

GOV. Chibuike Amaechi of Rivers has directed that all persons and communities living on pipeline right of way be moved.

Mr Kingsley Chinda, Rivers Commissioner for Environment announced this in Port Harcourt on Tuesday while inaugurating an Eight-member Committee for the Preservation of Oil Pipeline Right of Ways in the State.

Chinda explained that the decision to establish the committee was to protect people from dangers associated with living close to the pipelines.

Rivers is one of the major oil bearing states in the Niger Delta with refineries and a petrochemical company and has a lot of oil pipelines running through many communities.

The commissioner said that investigations had shown that many people constructed residential houses and shops on or close to oil pipelines right of ways.

Chinda told the committee members to discharge their assignment with almost transparency and sincerity.

"It is the expectation of government that you carry out this assignment with transparency and sincerity.

"Collaborate with the oil bearing communities and chiefs to formulate a way forward," he added.

The committee, headed by Mr Charles George; a Deputy Director in the Ministry of Environment, has representatives from the Navy, Army, Police, Air Force, NGOs, and the media. (NAN)



OIL and gas pipelines in the Niger Delta

'Nigeria will be among worst hit by climate change'

By Aisha Umar Agaie

FRENCH Ambassador to Nigeria Jean Michel Dummond has said that Nigeria will be one of the most affected in the world in terms of climate change

"We take into consideration that Nigeria is not mainly responsible for the emission of green house gas and even if we take into consideration that Nigeria

is contributing for 40 percent of the emission due to gas flaring of Africa but the part of Africa is very limited and we really want to take that into consideration," he stated.

Speaking at a media chat over the weekend in Abuja simply stated, "We think that Copenhagen was not a success which was hoped for by many but it was not the failure which has been described by other people. In fact

it's the basis for building an agreement for the future and we hope that by the meeting in Mexico we will be able to partner more closely with your country for building this alliance for fighting against climate change".

"For us it's important for example that there are already some binding objectives for 2020 and only for 2050 and we are in favour of special funds for the

transfer of technology and for building capacities for assistance to countries like Nigeria which will be specially affected by Climate Change.

"We believe that France and Nigeria can build strong relations from fighting against climate change, so that is why we want to partner with your country and strengthen the capacity, we help to build this bilateral relations.

Commission harps on energy efficiency, conservation economy

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

THE Director-General of Energy Commission of Nigeria, Prof. Abubakar Sambo, has stressed the need for energy efficiency and conservation in the country.

He disclosed this in Lagos at the official commissioning and the foundation laying ceremony of the National Centre for Energy Efficiency and Conservation.

According to him, energy efficiency and conservation will stimulate economic

growth of the nation by reducing energy cost as well as increase energy access by supplying conserved energy to other consumers.

He also explained that energy efficiency and conservation will enhance production of goods and services, as more businesses will have improved access to energy supply and save on non-renewable resources for future generation.

Prof Sambo said in 2003, the National Energy Policy [NEP] drafted by the Energy

Commission of Nigeria and approved by the Federal government adequately addresses the issue of energy efficiency and conservation in the country.

He also said his commission has initiated programmes and projects aimed at implementing the energy efficiency and conservation component of the National Energy Policy [NEP]

According to him, among the steps taken in this direction is the establishment of the National Centre for Energy Effi-

ciency and Conservation in the University of Lagos.

"It is believed that with the creation of the Centre, situated in the industrial and commercial centre of the nation, the Energy Centre will stimulate the penetration and acceptance of energy efficiency and conservation practices, as well as develop, on a continuous basis, energy efficiency and conservation methods and technologies for dissemination and application in national energy usage and practices."

labour report

Textile union urges Northern governors to settle retrenched workers

By Francis Okeke

NATIONAL Union of Textile Garment Workers of Nigeria (NUTGWN) has urged the 19 northern governors in the country to pay the benefits of textile workers who lost their jobs some dating back to May 1, 2002.

A press statement signed by the union's General Secretary Comrade Issa Aremu said former staff of defunct Kaduna Textile Limited (KTL) which was owned by the 19 northern governments are owed N687, 073, 346, 00 since 2002.

"The company unilaterally closed down its operations since May 1, 2002 without settlement of workers benefits and other entitlements.

"The gratuities and benefits of the workers amounting to N687, 073, 346, 00 as computed and agreed to by both the union and management arising from the adjudication by the Industrial Arbitration Panel (IAP) have remained unpaid in spite of campaigns and protests by the union."

The statement thanked Governor Namadi Sambo of Kaduna State for his "commitment and dedication" to revive the closed textile companies thereby creating job opportunities in the state, just as it charged other northern governors to take the steps needed to settle the gratuities of the KTL workers. Aremu also appealed to the management of the closed Arewa Textile PLC, Finetex Limited and Nortex Limited Kaduna to settle the entitlements of their workers without further delay.

SSAEAC tasks PHCN workers on productivity

Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

PRESIDENT General of the Senior Staff Association of Electricity & Allied Companies, SSAEAC, Comrade Bede Opara has implored workers of Benin Distribution Zone of Power Holding Company and Transmission Company of Nigeria to increase their productivity and service delivery with a view to improving power supply in the country.

Comrade Opara who was in Benin for Trade Union Congress (TUC) delegates conference advised the workers at the PHCN and Transmission offices in Benin to be prepared to double their efforts in order to earn and retain the confidence of the customers and other stakeholders in the industry just as he commended them for their dedication and commitment to duty.

On monetization and the recent sack of workers, Comrade Opara stated that the National Union of Electricity Employees, (NUEE) and SSAEAC in PHCN and Transmission Company had told the Federal Government and the Corporate Headquarters management of the organizations that workers would hold the authorities accountable if they fail to pay the benefits.

Esele gets second term as TUC leader

By Francis Okeke

PRESIDENT General of the Trade Union Congress (TUC) Comrade Peter Esele has secured a second term mandate to lead the union following its delegates' conference held in Benin, the Edo State capital.

A statement signed by the spokesman of the union Jerry Amah said Esele and almost all the officials were returned unopposed during elections at the delegate conference.

Others also on the executive council of the union are Mr Musa Toli who is first deputy president, Mr Sanni Adesina, second deputy president and Mr Solomon Onaghinon as third deputy president of the Congress.

Mr Tunde Abdulrahman emerged as treasurer, Mr Adesunkanmi Adetunji as financial secretary, Mr Augustin Etafo as public relations officer and Mrs Peace Obiajulu as ex-officio.

Also successful are Gafa Muhammed, Olawale Yusuf and Moshood Akinade all emerging as trustee members. Yakubu Jekere and Emmanuel Jaja emerged as auditor 1 and 2 respectively while Ms Rose Uzor-Kalu was re-elected chairman of the union's women commission.



AN apprentice seamstress at a skills acquisition centre in Turkey

Permsec calls for strengthening of Decent Work Country Programme

By Francis Okeke

PERMANENT Secretary in the Ministry of Labour and Productivity Ambassador Alex Anigbo has called for the strengthening of the processes of implementing Nigeria's Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP).

Ambassador Anigbo made the call during the opening ceremony of a stakeholders' meeting in Abuja for the review of DWCP so as to reposition it to effectively improve working conditions and create better understanding between employers and employees.

He regretted that not much

progress has been made since the ministry and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) as well as other social partners formulated the DWCP for Nigeria in November 2005.

"The reason as we all know was mainly because of the time needed to revisit and to revalidate the agreed priority areas" which necessitated a revalidation workshop in Jos, Plateau State in 2007 where priority areas were mapped out.

The priority areas according to him include "job creation especially for women and youths in three pilot states, reducing human traffick-

ing and child labour and ensuring improved quality of life for working women and spouses of working men living with HIV/AIDS."

He commended the social partners and other implementing agencies for carrying out a number of activities in the agreed priority areas from 2006 to 2009 when the first phase of the DWCP ended.

He urged participants to review and evaluate activities of the last four years, examine performance against set targets as well as assess and discern achievements and challenges faced in the implementation of DWCP 1.

Trustfund Pensions Plc restructures staff

By Francis Okeke

MANAGEMENT of Trustfund Pensions Plc has embarked on a restructuring exercise aimed at repositioning the institution to serve its contributors and beneficiaries by reorganising staff.

A press statement signed by Trustfund's spokesperson Prisca Egede said the exercise became necessary as part of efforts to reposition the organization towards improved efficiency and increased productivity for the benefit of its customers and shareholders.

Egede said the exercise was the outcome of the institution's just concluded staff skills audit carried out by independent human resources consultants hired by the board of directors

to review staff skills and also ensure that workers are well matched according to their skills.

"The audit identified three categories of staff: those with the right skills in the right places, those with the right skills in the wrong places and those that cannot be matched in the new structure" she said.

She added that while some members of staff were moved from one department to another for optimal performance according to their skills, those that could not be matched were disengaged.

However, she added that to ameliorate the impact of the decision on the affected staff, with consideration to their contributions to the organization over the years, the board of

directors put together appropriate severance packages in line with the provisions of relevant labour laws; to enable them pursue other endeavours.

Meanwhile, the management of Trustfund Pensions Plc has also promoted members of staff who have shown outstanding performance while moving some as part of its strategy to improve services to contributors.

According to Egede, the awardees were rewarded for "continuous superior performance, diligence, prompt delivery on all assignments, as well as their willingness to take on additional responsibilities. In addition, they were also commended for being proactive and very reliable all year round."

DAILY TRUST
EDUCATION

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Jonathan tasks wealthy Nigerians on education development

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma

Acting President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan has called on wealthy Nigerians to rise to the challenge of developing the education sector for the benefit of future generations.

Speaking at a Scholarship Endowment Fund Raising of the Afe Babalola University Ado Ekiti (ABUAE), the acting president said there is the need for the well-to-do in the society to match the excellent standards set by the proprietor of the university.

The acting president, who was represented by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education Professor Oladapo Afolabi, said the twin gesture of establishing the university and initiating scholarship

endowment fund represent a new challenge in educational philanthropy.

He commended the founder of the university for his exemplary pursuit of excellent academic and qualitative intellectual research, saying that the gesture is notably one of the most outstanding individual contributions towards the realization of educational projections under Federal Government's vision of becoming one of the 20 largest economies in the world by the year 2020.

He urged beneficiaries of the scholarship scheme to grasp the intrinsic obligation of the endowment to fulfil the dreams of the founding father of the university in sustaining and propagating the philosophy of qualitative intellectualism.

In his remarks, founder of the university Aare Afe Babalola said the scholarship endowment fund was initiated to provide support for the education of talented needy students, adding that even though the university has settled for N500,000.00 tuition fees instead of about N2 million, the reality is that not many parents can pay the subsidized fees.

Mr Babalola also expressed appreciation to the Federal Government for granting the license to run the university and promised to strive to remain a model for other private universities in the country.

He called on the Federal Government not to be in a hurry to license what he called "worthless private universities" in order to avoid bringing down the reputa-

tion of other private universities, saying that government should henceforth make it mandatory for all new private universities should take-off from their permanent sites.

He also called for the phasing out of all private tertiary institutions that are still operating in temporary rented apartments or abandoned secondary school buildings.

Mr Babalola said the university has pegged age limit for prospective students at between 16 and 22 years and will not admit students from other universities as a means of achieving excellent academic standards.

He said the driving force for establishment of the university is personal conviction to give back to the society and the desire to build a new culture among future leaders.

'We've achieved 60% on girl-child education through GEP'

THE Executive Secretary of National Commission for Nomadic Education (NCNE) Dr Nafisatu Muhammad said 60 per cent improvement on girl-child education had been achieved through Gender Education Project (GEP).

GEP is an empowerment programme of the Federal Ministry of Education to give educational access to boys and girls in the southern and northern parts of the country respectively.

Dr Nafisatu, who made this known in Abuja, said there has been some slight change in attitude of girls in the level of participation in education.

She said the "is a very unique and timely intervention by the Federal Ministry of Education" which will accelerate the participation of the girl-child in education.

The NCNE scribe said there should be balance in the enrolment of both sexes in schools across the country, and specifically called for more intervention programmes to improve the life of the girl-child in the region.

She also commended the Education Ministry for its focus the girls who hawk without education which he described as the "marginalised groups."

Kwara poly expresses concern over students hauling problem

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE Rector of Kwara State Polytechnic Alhaji Mos'ud Elelu has declared that inadequate transportation of students to and from campus has always been a source of worry to the authorities of the polytechnic.

Speaking in Ilorin, Alhaji Elelu said the available commercial cabs and buses conveying students mostly from Post Office-Maraba to the campuses are grossly inadequate in view of the students' population.

He also called on well-to-do individuals, corporate establishments and philanthropists to come to the aid of the school in the

provision of water, laboratory equipment and classrooms, saying that government alone cannot do it.

Meanwhile, the Faith Preachers' Ministry International has purchased two buses for the transportation of the polytechnic's students to and from the campus.

The buses were delivered to the polytechnic by the representative of the ministry Pastor Shola Owolabi, who is also an alumnus of the polytechnic.

He said the buses were provided to the polytechnic because the ministry is conscious of the transportation challenges facing, and be conveying students to and from campus free of charge.



MATRICULATING students of the newly established Afe Babalola University.

Perm sec receives panel of enquiry report on UNN crisis

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma

THE Administrative Panel of inquiry set to investigate the remote causes and the extent of damages occasioned by the January 16, 2010 students' demonstration at the University of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN) has submitted its report to the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education Professor Oladapo Afolabi.

Professor Afolabi, who received the report in Abuja yesterday, said the timely intervention of the authorities of the university pre-empted a situation which would have meant a very long time closure of the university.

He said the report will be studied

and all necessary assistance will be given to the authorities of the university with a view to promoting conducive environment that would enhance academic activities, stressing that "we cannot run a lawless society."

"We will make sure you have good control of the University in order that University of Nsukka will be indeed true university of Nigeria so that when counting the first 10 universities in Africa, we will find Nsukka as one of them," he said.

In his remarks, chairman of the panel Chief Patrick Adaba said the recommendations when implemented would contribute immensely to the achievement of a better teaching

and learning environment at UNN.

Briefing the permanent secretary earlier, Pro-Chancellor of the university, Professor Samuel O. Igwe, said the peaceful demonstration by the students against rumoured increase in school fees was hijacked by some disgruntled to settle their grievances against the authorities.

He explained that volume one of the report contains the panel's full report of investigations and recommendations while volume two contains 34 memoranda received by the panel, saying that the university has already commenced implementation of the recommendations of the panel.

11 year-old boy wins mathematics prize

By Maureen Onochie

AN 11 year-old primary six pupil of Olumawu Basic Education School, Master Arinze Owoh, has emerged the overall winner in the just concluded National Mathematics Annual Competition organised by the Nigerian Turkish International

Colleges.

Master Owoh got 98.3 percent to beat other pupils from over 300 schools across the federation in the seventh edition of the competition which took place in Abuja.

He was presented with a cash prize of N150,000 while his teacher Mr. Kennedy Owusu Ansah got a

cash prize of N50,000.

"When my name was announced, I was so happy and surprised. I couldn't believe that I had done so well. I would like to thank my teacher, Mr. Kennedy Owusu Ansah, my parents and the school for their support and encouragement," he said.

DAILY TRUST EDUCATION

Islamic schools reject introduction of English syllabus

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THE 30 schools for Higher Islamic Studies (SHIS) of the Jama'atul Izalatul Bid'ah Wa Ikamatu Sunnah (JIBWIS) across the country have expressed concern over attempt to introduce a new English syllabus by the authorities of Ahmadu Bello University (ABU).

This was contained in a state-

ment issued by the Sarkin Mangu principal of School for Higher Islamic Studies Ustaz Muhammad Nasir Abdulmuhyi shortly after a meeting of secretaries JIBWIS Directorate of Education.

The statement said authorities of the Ahmadu Bello University are trying to introduce some English related syllabus as replacement for some Arabic courses that have been taught in

the schools for long, adding that such attempt will hinder studies in the schools.

According to the statement, introduction of English syllabus will affect learning of Arabic and Islamic studies in the schools, which are the primary focus of learning in the schools.

The statement said also that introduction of the proposed syllabus will make reading and com-

prehension in the schools practically impossible because the foundation for the students is mainly on Arabic studies.

The schools also expressed worry over attempt to equate their certificates with that of conventional secondary schools, saying that a higher Islamic graduate is equal to an Islamic cleric that can teach, lead a congregational prayer as well as preach.

"Therefore, it is not proper to equate the two," the statement said.

The statement also commended management of ABU for its role promoting Islamic and Arabic studies in the country, and called on institution to ensure downward review of registration fees which were recently increased from 100 percent to 700 percent.

FG, firm organize scholarship competition for students

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

AS the country celebrates her golden jubilee independence anniversary this year, the Federal Government Golden Jubilee Committee in partnership with the Bridge Concept Nigeria Limited has begun a national scholarship competition targeted at young Nigerians in primary, secondary and tertiary institutions.

Speaking in Lagos at a press conference to unveil the 50:50:50 Project, the Managing Director of Bridge Concept, Mr. Bimbo Daramola said the pre-qualification condition for the scholarship competition "is to write a poem, essay or present a concept or idea to be analyzed and adjudged by a group of eminent Nigerians with payment of a token."

He said 50 best young Nigerians will emerge in each category and three winners will be picked from each category, adding that the 50 final winners would participate in a reality show in Abuja later in the year.

He said another nine final winners would emerge and receive prizes ranging from N250,000 to N2 million in addition to the 50th anniversary commemorative gold coin.



DIRECTOR General of Nigeria College of Accountancy Professor A. Okwoli (left) and the chairman of Education and Training Committee of Association of National Accountants of Nigeria (ANAN) Professor A. Okoye at a function organised by the college in Jos recently.

COE Zuba matriculates 1,400 students

By Maureen Onochie

THE management of College of Education Zuba, Federal Capital Territory (FCT) has matriculated 1,400 students for various National Certificate of Education (NCE) courses.

THE matriculation exercise was conducted the Provost of the College Professor Tijjani Ismail.

The provost also inaugurated Deans of Schools, Heads of Departments and various standing committees.

He called on the newly inaugurated Deans, Heads of Departments and committee members to strive to contribute towards the development of the college.

"This college is among the fastest growing institutions in the country. Thus, it is our collective responsibility to justify the confidence repose on us by the Federal Capital Territory Administration and the general public," he said.

Academics win N3m NMC, RMRDC research grant

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma

THREE academics from the university sector have emerged winners of the 2009/2010 Research Grant for Mathematical Modelling of Raw Material Processing Equipment organised by the National Mathematical Centre (NMC) and the Raw Material Research and Development Council (RMRDC).

They are Mrs Taiwo Ademiluyi of the Department of Chemical and Petrochemical Engineering of Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Mr Nwankwojike N. Bethrand of the Department

of Mechanical Engineering of Michael Opera University and Mr Olufemi A. Koya of the Department of Mechanical Engineering of Obafemi Awolowo University, who came first, second and third respectively.

The winners, who were yesterday presented with a grant letter by the Director General of Raw Material Research and Development Council Professor Peter Onwualu would receive N1 million each to carry-out the research programme.

The projects for Mrs Ademiluyi, Mr Bethrand and Mr Koya are entitled "Mathematical Modelling for Design and Fabrication of Cassava

Drying Rotary Dryer," "Modelling of Palm Nut Pulp Separator Surface Analysis" and "Mathematical Modelling for Communication by Hammer Mill" respectively.

Speaking at the award ceremony in Abuja, Director-General of National Mathematical Centre Professor Sam Ale urged the beneficiaries to make effective use of the grant for the purpose for which it was released.

He commended the Raw Materials Research and Development Council for instituting the award, saying it will go a long way in promoting mathematical modelling for processing equipment.

Odediran now provost, as FCE Kontagora

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan has approved the appointment of Dr Nathaniel Olaitan Odediran as the new Provost of the Federal College of Education, Kontagora.

A statement by the Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the college Mr. Abdullahi N. Kawu said Dr Odediran's appointment took effect in February and that he has since assumed duty as the provost of the college.

Born on June 6, 1955, Dr Odediran started his academic career at the Niger Baptist College Minna and

later moved to Ahmadu Bahago Teachers College Minna and Kwara State College of Technology, Ilorin.

Meanwhile, the Governing Council of the Federal College of Education Kontagora has approved the appointment of Hajiya Aisha Bukar and Alhaji Haruna Abdullahi Kumbashi as the registrar and bursar of the college respectively.

Their appointments were confirmed at the last governing council's meeting held on March 12, 2010. The appointments are for a five-year term in the first instance.

CAMPUS ROUNDUP

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FCE dismisses 74 students over poor performance

From Mansur Yusuf, FCE

ABOUT 74 students of the Federal College of Education (FCE) Katsina were dismissed for poor academic performance, provost of the college Dr Magaji Dansarai, has said. HE said in Katsina that the affected students had

already been served with their letters of dismissal, adding that 15 other students were expelled for indulging in examination malpractice during the last semester examinations. ACCORDING to him, the college would not lower its academic standard or compromise the national policy

on the three-year minimum and five-year maximum period recommended for obtaining NCE certificates. HE reiterated the institution's commitment to academic excellence, and warned that any student who failed to measure up to its standards would be shown the way out.

Novena varsity graduates 84 students at maiden convocation

A total of 84 students graduated at Novena University, Ogume in Delta State after a successful completion of their educational career in the institution.

Miss Obodo Nneamaka Ijie of the Department of International Relations and Strategic Studies was adjudged the best graduating student during the convocation exercise.

The ceremony was presided over by the newly installed and first Chancellor of the university King Alfred Diете-Spiff Seriyei II, Amanayabo of Twon Brass ably assisted by the chairman of the Board of Trustees Ambassador Hassan Adamu and the chairman of the Governing council and Pro-Chancellor Mr Chuks Ochonogor.

Three students distin-

guished themselves with first class division while 31 students finished with 2nd Class Upper. Also, 46 students landed in 2nd class lower division just as the third class division has four students to complete the numbers.

However, in the presentation of prizes for the 2008/2009 session, Imo Daniel of Energy and Petroleum Studies had CGPA 4.64 followed by Obodo with CGPA 4.55, and closely followed by Imo Gold from Mass Communication with CGPA 4.53. Also, George Agbolanhor was adjudged the best student in the college of management and social science.

Delivering the convocation message, King Diете-Spiff advised the graduating students to be at their

resourceful best to the society, adding that gone are the days when university education guaranteed an executive profiles with the accomplishment of plum job, new car, an expensive accommodation, a bulging wallets and a huge financial shoulders to bear all the burdens of a typical African family.

"Today, you need a university education to begin life. However, the good news is that you can still achieve all you want in life, even in these days. I encourage you therefore to be strong, focused, confident and hardworking. If you do this, you will be successful, remember that all learning you have received in this great institution and it will be well with you all," he said.

Man kills 8 children at east China school

EIGHT children were stabbed to death and five others were injured at a primary school in east China's Fujian Province on Tuesday, local authorities said. POLICE have arrested a man in connection with the attack.

He was identified as Zheng Minsheng, a former community doctor in Nanping City, said Huang Zhongping, spokesman with the city's public security bureau. He was said to have a history of mental health problems.

The attack happened at 7:20 a.m. at the entrance of Nanping Experimental Primary School, when stu-

dents were arriving school.

The suspect was subdued by a passerby and school security guards, said Wu Jiachong, the owner of a nearby store who called the police. The school was closed after the attack and all students were taken home by their families.

The five injured children were being treated in hospital. Liu Luyi, 12, was still in the intensive care unit of Nanping People's Hospital, while his father was waiting anxiously outside the ward on Tuesday.

The boy's mother, Lu Yanping, said, "my mind went blank when my son's teacher called me at 8 a.m.,

saying he had been stabbed.

"Doctors said my son is still in a critical condition. I hope he recovers soon," she said. Lu said she hoped that security around schools could be tightened in order to prevent such tragedies from reoccurring.

The school with more than 2,000 students has a high reputation in Nanping, a city with about three million people.

Liao Hanren, deputy head of the municipal education bureau told Xinhua, that normal classes for the school would resume on Wednesday and psychological counselling would be provided for the students.



KANO STATE GOVERNMENT, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

2nd Floor Gidan Murtala, P.M.B 3042 Kano

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACT FOR ETF 2009 INTERVENTION PROJECT

Further to the release in principle by the Education Trust Fund (ETF) to embark on the year 2009 project the ministry wishes to invite suitable qualified contractors for pre-qualification to execute the project.

The projects include,

- a- Library development
- b- Construction of 9 Nos, 2 classroom blocks
- c- Construction of 1 No laboratory block
- d- Furnishing of 2 Nos Chemistry and Biology laboratories
- e- Fabrication of 3,450 seats of 3 seater students' furniture

The projects are spread across the senatorial districts of the state.

Pre-qualification requirements

Prospective contractors are expected to submit companies corporate profile containing the following information/document-

1. Certificate of Incorporation
2. Evidence of registration with the state works registrations board in relevant category
3. Company audited account for 3 years including tax clearance certificate
4. Evidence of financial capability and or banking support
5. Evidence of experience and technical qualification of key personnel
6. Record of similar previous project executed and evidence of knowledge of the industry
7. Equipment, plant and technology capability
8. Evidence of settlement of PAYEE and other withholding taxes due to Kano state
9. Annual turnover
10. VAT registration and evidence of past VAT remittance
11. Local resources utilization
12. Community and social responsibility support would be an added advantage

Pre-qualification document should be submitted to the office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Kano not later than (10) ten working days from the date of this publication.

Important notice

This advertisement should not be considered as a contract award or any commitment binding on the part of Ministry of Education nor shall it entitle any contractor or company to make any claims whatsoever from having responded to this advertisement.

Signed
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Education Kano

CITY NEWS



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In-laws allow widow to perform rituals

By Romoke W. Ahmad

IN-LAWS to a police widow recently told an Abuja Upper Area Court that the woman will be allowed to perform her late husband's rituals.

Mrs Elejo Ali, who married her husband in 1999 under Igala customs and traditions, has been battling with her late husband's family so that she performs the 'breaking of kola nut' tradition for her husband's spirit.

She petitioned the area court stating that when her husband died in 2004, her husband's family, especially his brother who is a policeman, took her children from her and ordered her to pack all his property to the village as well as prevented her from performing rituals.

Our reporter learnt that the rituals will enable her to remarry and prevent her children from untimely death as a result of her decision to remarry.

An official of the area court said after the court's warrant for the arrest of Ojonime Ali (the woman's in-law) was executed, her in-laws came to court and promised that they will allow the woman perform the rituals immediately as well as settle issues relating to her husband's property.

"The court is still expecting the petitioner (Mrs Elejo Ali) to brief her on the outcome of the meeting at home," the court official stated.

Sidi Ali accuses area councils of misappropriation

By Turaki A. Hassan

SENATOR Adamu Sidi Ali has expressed concern over the where about of money for the accumulated arrears of teachers in area councils and accused the area council's management of misappropriation.

He said the area councils collect such money direct from the federation account, adding that such funds meant for teacher's arrears are sometimes diverted in security.

"The council chairman takes off that money for his security and if you go through the records, you will see him again going into the main account to take money for security meeting as even the police guiding him is paid salaries taken from the council's purse.

Senator Ali also criticised council chairmen that take delight

in building schools and said to build primary schools is not their responsibilities.

"The budget for such projects was presented to us and we approved it so that these schools can be built by the FCT School's Management Board," he disclosed.

Senator Ali said the only business a council chairman has in primary schools is to pay the teachers and he decried situations where such council bosses donate books worth millions to school pupils.

"Recently we read from the newspapers that one of the area council chairmen awarded a contract for drilling three boreholes at N80 million and this has never happened in this country where N80 million will be spent for three boreholes or are we building a dam? The senator wondered.



ACTION Congress members campaigning at Abaji recently.

DRTS to enforce special trade license

By Ogechi Ohalee

THE FCT Directorate of Road Traffic Services (DRTS) is set to fully enforce the special trade license to ensure quality control of spare parts being sold in the FCT.

DRTS Spokesman, Mr. Alex Okereke, said the enforcement is one of the ways DRTS wants to ensure good qualities of spare parts sold in the auto market in order to enhance safety of motor vehicles plying in FCT roads.

He disclosed that it is within the mandate of DRTS to regulate the sales of spare parts and the activities of auto mechanics within the FCT, adding that it will help control the unwholesome activities of spare parts dealers.

Mr Okereke stated that the FCT will no longer be a heaven for spare parts dealers, who sell substandard spare parts and short changed the unsuspecting members of the public.

He explained that henceforth, all spare parts dealers in the FCT are expected to register with the DRTS to ensure that their activities are closely monitored, warning that any spare parts dealer who goes against the dictates of the regulations will face the full weight of the law.

He also admitted that Section 24 of the FCT Road Transport Act supports the licensing for motor vehicle dealership and licensing for motor vehicle mechanics before they engage in the business of motor vehicle repairs as well as the licensing of spare parts dealers to engage in the sale and distribution of genuine spare parts.

Man nabbed with fake cheque in bank

By Gladys Nworgu & Tina A. Hassan

A middle-aged man was on Tuesday arrested with a fake cheque leaflet of Diamond Bank Mararaba branch.

The man was picked up after he attempted to withdraw the

sum of N50,000 with the cheque.

Our reporters learnt that the man told the bank cashiers that the cheque was given to him by one Emeka Okpara but when he was asked to contact him on phone for proper identification he declined, saying his phone

credit had run down.

"The cashier later called Okpara and he told him that he never gave his cheque leaflet to anybody to cash money," a bank official said.

Some bank customers around called for proper prosecution of

the suspect because of rampant cases of such frauds in banks.

Chidi Nwogu said he was one duped of N200,000 through Automated Teller Machine, while another customer lamented that he lost N400,000 in a bank fraud.

PIC: ABUBAKAR SADIQ ISAH



FRCN'S Marketing Manager, Malam Musa Yahaya in hospital after robbers attacked him at Gwagwalada last Wednesday.

Abuja school celebrates 'Africa Day'

By Maureen Onochie

ROYAL School Kuje in the Federal Capital Territory at the weekend celebrated this year's 'African Day' that had the theme 'Treasure base of the world'.

The school's Proprietress, Mrs. Felicia Mustapha, said the school set aside the day to tell the world that Africa is not a home of corruption, poverty as well as diseases.

She explained that an African person has courage and urged Africans, especially Nigerians to look up to great men like Jaja of Opobo, Shaka de Zulu and Nelson Mandela, who fought against colonialism.

Speaking earlier, Obiajuru Iwerumor, a presenter with Ray Power said she was impressed with the school's pupils for reciting the National Anthem and the National Pledge in their various dialects.

Iwerumor also used the forum to condemn parents who leave their children at the mercies of house helps while they toil day and night in search of their daily bread.

Gwamna's murder: Ashara praises court for ruling

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

THE suspended Vice-Chairman of Kwali Area Council, Alhaji Saidu Adamu Ashara, yesterday said he has been vindicated by a recent High Court's ruling discharging him in a case instituted by the police over the murder of his late boss, Samuel Gwamna.

Justice Talba Abubakar had last week

discharged and acquitted Ashara for lack of proof and evidence during a one year trial.

Alhaji Ashara disclosed that even when he was accused of the murder, he prayed to God fervently as he was shocked by the allegation because he never quarrelled with his boss and worked harmoniously with him.

"We did a lot of things together and I

do not know why the issue that I quarrelled with him came about, let alone masterminding his death," Ashara stated.

He praised the court's ruling and said he is not deterred with the appeal of the prosecutor as God will see him through.

The suspended vice-chairman said he has forgiven those behind his travails, during the murder case.

Motorist charged with careless driving

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

THE police yesterday arraigned a 38-year-old motorist before an Abuja magistrate court for alleged inconsiderate driving.

The motorist, Adewale Adesuji of Gosa village, Abuja, was accused of committing the offence on March 7 along Shehu Shagari way, Abuja.

Prosecutor Isiaka Rahman Adoche told the court that on March 7, the accused drove a Nissan Sunny car with registration number XD927AB carelessly and caused an accident when he drove from a minor road into a major road without giving consideration to incoming vehicles.

"The accident the

accused caused led to the damage of an Audi A6 car with registration number BD300GWA that was driven by one Monday Onah," the prosecutor stated.

He said the offence committed by the accused is punishable under Section 29 of the Road Traffic Act.

When the charge was read to the accused, he denied it and requested for bail.

In her ruling, Magistrate Ann Akobi granted the accused bail in the sum of N50,000 with a reasonable surety in like sum, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction and swear to an affidavit to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to March 30 for hearing.

Bwari council donates to corps members

By Mustapha Suleiman

BWARI Area Council recently donated one cow, foodstuff and fifty thousand naira to the Batch 'B' corps members presently camped in FCT National Youth Service Corp (NYSC) Kubwa Orientation Camp.

Chairman of the council, Isah Dara, said the donated items are to augment the food being served the corps members in camp.

He urged the corps members to imbibe the culture of hard work, transparency and determination in order to make a lasting change.

"Today is designated

Bwari Day in the camp and as always, our advice to you, is to shun any acts of negative behaviour," he said.

He said that the area council is ready to give automatic employment to corps members that get married within the council during their service year, while assuring them of regular allowance, security and accommodation.

Responding, FCT NYSC Coordinator, Obong Paul Ata thanked the council chairman for the support given to the corps members posted to the area council and called for continuous partnership between the council and the FCT NYSC.

Hawkers decry AEPB's harassment

By Romoke W. Ahmad

HAWKERS in Abuja at the Weekend decried continued cases of harassment and intimidation by officials of the Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB).

They said some street hawkers arrested Tuesday did nothing wrong but engaged in businesses of their choice.

Blessing Anene, whose wares were seized by AEPB officials, lamented that that was the fourth time of her goods being seized.

"Since I came to Abuja, I have been struggling to earn a living but it seems the FCTA does not appreci-

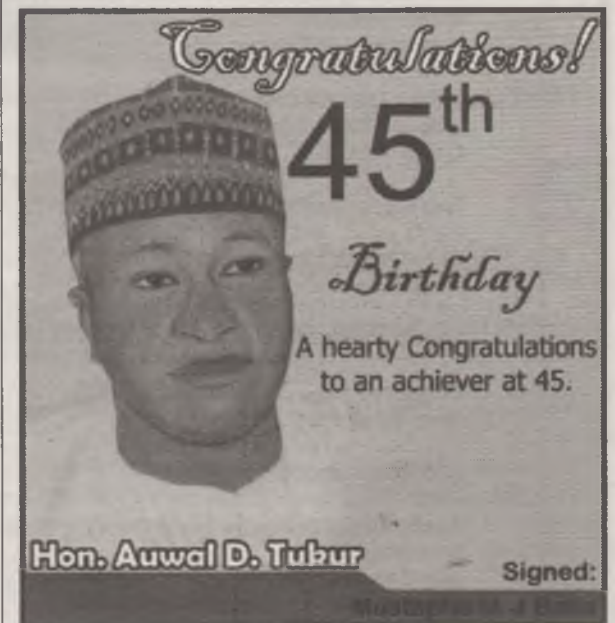
ate our efforts," she said.

Emmanuel, another hawker, said he is confused as his wares were confiscated and he does not know where to begin from.

He lamented that government has denied him as well as his partners the right to do legitimate business on the streets of Abuja.

"Instead of chasing hawkers, government should create job opportunities in order to remove such able bodied youths from of the streets," he reasoned.

It would be recalled that AEPB's management warned street hawkers to stop their business or risk arrest and prosecution.



NATIONAL METALLURGICAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE [NMDC], JOS
P.M.B. 2116, JOS
PLATEAU STATE NIGERIA

ADVERTISEMENT FOR STAFF VACANCIES

National Metallurgical Development Centre is a Federal Government Parastatal under the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development. It is a Research Organization with the mandate to undertake researches aimed at upgrading the qualities of Nigeria Ores for Steel and other Metallurgical productions, particularly through beneficiation of Local Iron Ore and other Solid Minerals.

The Centre invite applications from suitable qualified candidates to fill the vacant positions as stated below:

DIRECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Planning Officer I CONTISS 8:
Qualification:
Job Responsibilities: | Number Required (1)
B.Sc in Economics or B.Sc in Business Administration with at least three (3) years work experience.
To take part in drawing up plans, strategies and techno/economic analysis of research projects. |
| 2. Public Relation Officer I CONTISS 8:
Qualification:
Job Responsibilities: | Number (1)
B.A in MASS Communication/Journalism with three (3) years experience.
-Publicity for the Center's activities |

MINERAL PROCESSING DEPARTMENT:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Deputy Director Mineral Processing CONTISS 14:
Qualification:

Job Responsibilities: | Number Required (1)
PH.D. In Mineral Processing Engineering or Chemical Engineering with at least sixteen (16) years cognate work experience or M.Sc with 20years
Draws up research projects for the processing of raw material for the Metallurgical Industry |
| 2. Senior Mineral Processing Engineer I CONTISS 9:
Qualification:

Job Responsibilities: | Number Required (1)
B.Sc with three (3) years working experience.

Research into the development of designing process flowsheet for beneficiation of metallurgical ores. |
| 3. Mineral Processing Engr. I CONTISS 8:
Qualification:

Job Responsibilities: | Number Required (1)
M.Sc in Mineral Processing or Chemical Engineering with at least three (3) years cognate work experience.
Mineral- Beneficiation studies. |
| 4. Mineral Processing Engineer II CONTISS 8:
Qualification:
Job Responsibilities: | Number Required (1)
B.Sc in Mineral Processing Engineering
Mineral beneficiation studies. |
| 5. Senior Metallurgical & Material Engineer CONTISS9:
Qualification:
Job Responsibilities: | Number Required (1)
M.Sc in Metallurgy with at least five (5) years cognate work experience.
Research into production of metallurgical coke |

ANALYTICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Senior Chemist CONTISS 9:
Qualification:
Job Responsibilities: | Number Required (1)
M.Sc. in Analytical Chemistry with at least three (3) years cognate experience.
Chemical analysis of solid minerals and effluents |
| 2. Chemist I CONTISS 8:
Qualification:
Job Responsibilities: | Number Required (1)
B.Sc. in Chemistry with minimum of 2 nd class upper.
Chemical analysis of metals and alloys |
| 3. Chemist II CONTISS 7:
Qualification:
Job Responsibilities: | Number Required (1)
B.Sc. chemistry with minimum of 2 nd class upper
Monitoring and chemical analysis of toxic/Hazardous waste. |

RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION & CONSULTANCY DEPARTMENT:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Programme Analyst I CONTISS 8:
Qualification:

Job Responsibility: | Number Required (1)
B.Sc. in Computer science with a minimum of 2 nd class lower division and at least 3years cognate work experience.
Development of computer programmes for research activities. |
| 2. Senior Marketing Officer CONTISS 9:
Qualification:
Job Responsibility: | Number Required (1)
MBA in Business Admin with specialization in marketing with at least 4 years experience.
Design marketing strategies for Research products and services. |
| 3. Marketing Research Officer I CONTISS 8:
Qualification:
Job Responsibility: | Number Required (1)
B.Sc. in Business Admin or HND Marketing with two (2) years experience
Conduct market survey |

METALLURGY DEPARTMENT:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Deputy Director CONTISS 14:
Qualification:

Job Responsibility: | Number Required (1)
PH.D in Metallurgical Engineering/Metallurgy/Material Science and at least sixteen (16) years cognate work experience.
Design of research projects in the metallurgical field. |
| 2. Chief Metallurgists CONTISS 12:
Qualification:

Job Responsibility: | Number Required (2)
M.Sc. in Met. Eng. With thirteen (13) years cognate working experience. (Specialization in Physical Metallurgy is an added advantage)
Supervision & participation in research in the areas of Foundry Technology: |
| 3. Chief Metallurgists CONTISS 12:
Qualification:

Job Responsibility: | Number Required (2)
B. Eng (Met. Engr)/B.Sc. (Metallurgy) At least Thirteen (13) years experience in Metallurgical research. (Specialization in process metallurgy is an added) advantage.
Supervision & coordination of research in ferrous & non ferrous Extractive Metallurgy |
| 4. Assist Chief Metallurgists CONTISS 11:
Qualification:
Job Responsibility: | Number Required (1)
M.Sc. in Met. Eng. With thirteen (13) years cognate working experience in relevant field.
Undertake research in physical Metallurgy |

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

- 5. **Assist Chief Met. Engineer CONTISS 11:**
Qualification:
Job Responsibility:
Number Required (1)
 M.sc in Met. Engr. With thirteen (13) years cognate working experience. Specialization in Mechanical Metallurgy is an added advantage.
 - Supervision & coordination of Research and Tests in mechanical metallurgy.
- 6. **Metallurgist I CONTISS 8:**
Qualification:
Job Responsibility:
Number Required (1)
 B.Sc in Metallurgical Engineering/Metallurgy/Material Science plus three (3) years cognate work experience
 Take part in Metallurgical Research
- 7. **Metallurgist II CONTISS 7:**
Qualification:
Job Responsibility:
Number Required (1)
 B.Sc. Metallurgy
 Research Assistant in Metallurgical Research.

UTILITY AND MAINTAINCE DEPARTMENT:

- 1. **Electrical/Electronics Engineer I CONTISS 8**
Qualification:
Job Responsibility:
 B.Sc in Electrical/Electronics with 2nd class lower division with minimum of three years cognate experience.
 Installation and maintenance of electrical/electronic equipment.
- 2. **Pattern Maker, CONTISS 7:**
Qualification:
Job Responsibility:
Number Required (1)
 HND with three (3) years working experience in pattern making.
 Pattern making for sand moulding in the foundry shop.
- 3. **Safety Officer II CONTISS 7:**
Qualification:
Job Responsibility:
Number Required (1)
 A degree in Building, Mechanical or Electrical Engr. Or HND (industrial safety)
 - In charge of safety
- 4. **Craftsman (Welding) CONTISS 6:**
Qualification:
Job Responsibility:
Number Required (1)
 Trade Test I, II & III
 - Welding & fabrication works.

Applications are to be forwarded to

The Director General/Chief Executive
NMDC, P.M.B 2116,
JOS, Plateau State.

To reach the Director General/Chief Executive not later than six (6) weeks from the date of this publication.

G.T. Got (Mrs.)
For: Director General/CHIEF EXECUTIVE.



AREWA CONSULTATIVE FORUM

No 11A Sokoto Road, P.O. Box 1149, Kaduna-Nigeria. Tel: (062) 218007, 218009, Fax: 218004
Website: www.arewaconsultativeforum.org
E-mail: info@arewaconsultativeforum.org

NOTICE OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

There would be a meeting of the National Executive Council (NEC) of the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF)

The meeting is scheduled as follows.

DATE: Wednesday, 31st March, 2010

VENUE: ACF Conference Hall, No. 11A Sokoto Road, Kaduna

TIME: 11:00am

Please endeavour to attend as crucial issues would be discussed

Signed:
Colonel Musa Shehu (rtd)
Secretary – General



Lagacies of **J.S. Tarka**

By Simon Shango

BOOK PRESENTATION

To Mark 30 Years after JS Tarka

Under the Distinguished Chairmanship of
Senator Dr. Joe Wayas
Former Senate President

Distinguished Guest of Honour
Senator David Mark
Senate President

Special Guests of Honour

His Excellency,
Gen. Dr. Yakubu Gowon
Former Head of State

His Excellency,
Dr. Alex Ekwueme
Former Vice President

His Excellency
Alh. Atiku Abubakar
Former Vice President of Nigeria

His Excellency,
Chief Dr. Solomon Lar
Former Governor Plateau State

Dr Iyorchia Ayu
Former Senate President

Sen. Dr. Olusola Saraki
*Former Senate Leader/
Chairman, Northern Union*

Gen. Aliyu Mohamed Gusau
National Security Adviser

Hon Justice Katsina-Alu
Chief Justice of Nigeria

Chief Launcher
Alhaji. Dr. Aliko Dangote
Chairman BCC, Plc. Gboko

His Excellency,
Alh. Aliyu Shehu Shagari
Former President

Alh. Dr. Umaru Dikko
Former Minister

Alh. Dr. Bamanga Tukur
Chairman, African Business Roundtable

Gen. IBM Haruna
Chairman, Arewa Consultative Forum

Hon Justice Alfa Belgore
Former Chief Justice of Nigeria

Alh. Isyaku Ibrahim
Frontline Politician

Chief Sen. Jack Tilley-Gyado
Second Republic Senator

Gen. Adeyinka Adebayo
Former military Governor

Chief E.K Clark

Chief Anthony Enahoro

First Co-Launcher
Chief Dr. Mike Onoja

Guests of Honour

- ▶ Past and serving State Governors & friends
- ▶ Past and serving Senators
- ▶ Past and serving Members of the House of Reps
- ▶ National and State Party Leaders
- ▶ Present Members of State Houses of Assembly
- ▶ Past & serving Chairmen/Councillors of Local Government Councils
- ▶ Rt. Hon. Ugba Uye

Royal Fathers of the Day

HRH Dr Alfred Akawe Torkula
Tor Tiv IV

HRH Elias Ikoyi Obekpa
The Och'Idoma

2nd Co-Launcher
Alhaji A.S.A Dantata
Chairman Dantata & Sawoe

Book Reviewer
Hon. Dr. Terhamba Shija
Nasarawa State University

Chief Host
Rt. Hon Gabriel T. Suswam
Executive Governor, Benue State

Date	TIME	Venue
Tuesday, 30th March 2010	10:00 AM	Akiga Conference Hall, Royal Choice Hotel, Makurdi

Hosts: Rt. Hon. Isaac Shaahu *Former Minister* Rt. Hon. Terseer Tumba *Speaker Benue state House of Assembly* Hon. Simeon Tarka *Former Member House of Reps.* Chief Dr. BAI Gemade *Former National Chairman PDP*

Amb. Dennis Ukume, Chairman Planning Committee

08130760276, 08065629290

Inside Politics

PDP raises alarm over plot to truncate 2011 poll

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) yesterday raised an alarm over what it called a plot by some members of the party operating under 'faceless groups' to truncate the 2011 general elections long in advance.

The party raised the alarm amid reports of disconnect between the Presidency and the leadership of the PDP and the purported move to remove its National Chairman Prince Vincent Ogbulafor on account of weak leadership.

National Publicity Secretary of the party Professor Rufai Ahmed Alkali said those behind the various groups that are planning to undermine the stability of Nigeria are now known, promising to reveal their identities.

Alkali said the plan is to weaken the resolve of the Ogbulafor-led National Working Committee (NWC), distract it from the reforms made in the last two years and further create division at all levels of government with a view to achieving 'pre-determined objectives'.

He said further said that "the attempt is to discount the role of the party in the resolution of the recent national challenge that led to the proclamation of Dr. Goodluck Jonathan as Acting President of Nigeria by the National Assembly."

"The PDP has always maintained that the Presidency is one and we have at every given opportunity pledged our loyalty and cooperation to the Acting President who has been discharging his duties with distinction. At no time has there been a gap between the party and the Presidency."



PRINCE Vincent Ogbulafor

Will Abdullahi Adamu make it to Senate?

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

FORMER Nasarawa State governor and Secretary of the Board of Trustees (BOT) of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu, has been on the news recently. Shortly after he declared his intention to run for the Senate, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) came knocking on his door with charges of corruption which he was said to have committed when he was governor. Giving the timing, his political associates concluded that the arrest and subsequent prosecution in Lafia, the state capital, was calculated to cast a dent on his image and destroy his political career.

Adamu made the formal declaration to enter the race for the Senate for Nasarawa-West on Saturday, February 20, saying he had responded to mounting pressure from people of the zone. At the moment, the seat is being occupied by Senator Abubakar Danso Sodangi who has been in the Senate since 1999. Senator Sodangi is once believed to be Adamu's closest ally in the zone. Many still believe he was a political godson of the former governor.

Adamu's declaration appears to have attracted into the race other political figures in the zone who are believed to be his political godsons. They include Barrister Mohammed Abdulahi who served during Adamu's regime as Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice before he was sacked midway into achieving some political goals; Barrister Tanimu Adamson who replaced Mohammed but was also sacked midway, and Alhaji Ishaq Bala Ahmed who also served as Commissioner for Works and later Finance.

But apart from Adamu, none of these politicians have publicly declared for the race even though their presence in terms of posters and feelers from their associates leave no one in doubt that the journey to the Senate had long begun.

The race is already a tough one, observers said, but Adamu told a large and cheering crowd at the Emir of Keffi's Palace, venue of his declaration, that the pressures for him to contest was brought to bear since 2007 when he was leaving office after his eight years as governor.

Adamu whose declaration attracted local and national politicians including a former minister, Barrister Musa Elayo, said he could no longer resist pressure on him to contest. However, the state government, which is believed to have helped to install did not send

representatives to the declaration, fueling suggestions that not all is well between him and Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma.

"I resisted these pressures because I felt it would be morally wrong for me to use my office as governor to muscle my way into that position", Adamu said, explaining that contesting for the Senate seat at that time was against his political philosophy since doing so would have denied other contenders the level playing ground.

"Democracy thrives best on a level playing ground. If our democracy is to thrive, then a level playing ground must be sacrosanct. It is a philosophy I could not jettison despite the pressures", he told the crowd.

Daily Trust recalls that a renowned clergy, Reverend Ken Madaki led the movement that led to the declaration. Madaki who led prominent politicians and community leaders of the zone including a former deputy governor of the old Plateau State, Alhaji Halilu Bala Usman, drove the project through a pressure group called *Katsaya*.

The clergy said the *Katsaya* undertook a tour of the zone with success and got a "positive response of the people." He said the decision to call on Adamu to come out was taken after members of the group x-rayed his performance during the two terms he served as governor.

Adamu promised he will not fail the people's aspiration for qualitative representation at the Senate. "I will provide selfless and qualitative representation and advance their social, economic and political interests in the larger context of our national politics", he added, insisting that having accepted the challenge, "the people must also accept the challenge of giving me your mandate."

The BOT scribe who lost the bid to be president in the build up to 2007, said he is anchoring his Senate bid on the same dream he had for Nigeria while running for the presidency. "I stand on that platform today in my race to the Senate", he said naming the platform as "building bridges of ethnic and religious harmony and mutual understanding."

"Our country has passed through trying political and religious times since independence nearly fifty years ago. The fault is in us because we neglected to build bridges of understanding and brotherhood. Recent events in Borno, Bauchi and Plateau states show clearly that there is no better time than now to commit ourselves to building those bridges. With your support, I will go to the senate as a bridge builder."



ABDULLAHI Adamu

We must build such bridges in the national assembly in particular and the nation in general," he said.

But Adamu's bid for Nasarawa West is being viewed as a bid to take the seat from Senator Sodangi whose hands Adamu raised on the podium to solicit for votes on three previous elections.

A close associate of both leaders and a stakeholder in the zone, Alhaji Shamsudeen Abubakar described Adamu's declaration as a "political misadventure and an attempt to take food from one's son's mouth", querying "how can Adamu who vied for presidency in 2007 come back to vie for Senate in 2011, or how can Adamu who raised Sodangi's hands to the people in previous elections come back to take Sodangi's job." Abubakar asked further: "are there no political godfathers again in our dispensation?"

But Adamu answered these questions in a chat with *Daily Trust*. He first denied he is Senator Sodangi's political godfather, putting to rest speculations that he is about taking his god son's job. "I am nobody's godfather", he said, insisting that godfatherism in politics is a Nigerian media coinage, and does not apply in actual situations like his relationship with Sodangi.

He admitted holding out Sodangi's hands to the people for their votes, but insisted that coming out for the same Senate seat

does not amount to a godfather taking away the job from his godson.

"I worked for Sodangi, gave him my support and the people supported and elected him. As far as I am concerned, I worked for him. By the time I am elected Senator of the federal Republic of Nigeria, I will still work for him and I will expect same from him", Adamu said.

The former governor added that Senator Sodangi "has represented this senatorial district since 1999. He served eight of his twelve years mandate so far in the Senate while I was governor. Senator Sodangi and I have worked closely together since 1999 to advance the political, economic and social interests of our people. We will continue to do so in the years ahead as compatriots and as members of the same party, PDP."

To his political opponents, adamu said: "I offer my hands of friendship and a firm promise on my honour to run a fair and civilized electioneering campaign, free from mudslinging. To my political detractors, I offer my goodwill. To the people of Nasarawa West, I offer my sweat and my service."

For now, many are waiting to see how the politics will play out among the political leaders who only a few years ago were singing the same tune.

Inside Politics

INEC accuses PDP of plans to scuttle council polls

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

THE Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) yesterday accused the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) of plans to scuttle the forthcoming councils' polls slated for April 10.

FCT Resident Commissioner Dr Stephen Many, who spoke at the stakeholders meeting organised by

the commission in Abuja yesterday alleged that there were plans by the PDP to breach the peace during the election because of candidate substitution.

He said when the party applied for substitution, it was granted, but that it wanted another substitution after the period had elapsed, saying INEC activities were time bound and

guided by law therefore, the second request could not be granted. He urged the party to settle the matter internally. INEC Chairman Professor Maurice Iwu said those planning to use violence to derail the system would be dealt with. He called on Nigerians to frustrate the efforts of those he called "enemies of democracy".

Group wants second term for Iwu

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

A group known as the Alliance for Defence of Democracy (ADD) yesterday stormed the National Assembly asking for a second term for Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Prof. Maurice Iwu. Leader of the group, Mr. Ikenga Imo Ugochinyere, said some politicians were plotting to stop the con-

duct of the 2011 elections by pushing for the removal of Iwu at the expiration of his first term in June. Speaking during the protest march to the National Assembly, Ugochinyere said for stability of the democratic process in the country, Iwu should be allowed to conduct the 2011 elections.

The protesters called for electoral reforms and added that Iwu should be

commended for his efforts at improving the country's electoral process. ADD insisted that Iwu's removal as being canvassed by some people was not the solution to electoral problems in the country.

Addressing the group, Chairman Senate Committee on Electoral Matters, Senator Isiaka Adeleke (PDP, Osun) said the Senate would look at the matter.

Kogi 2011: You're on your own, Gov Idris tells aspirants

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

KOGI State Governor Ibrahim Idris on Tuesday said he is not sponsoring or backing any of the aspirants in the state for the 2011 general elections.

Idris said this while receiving the management team of Media Trust Limited, publishers of Trust newspapers, led by its Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer Alhaji Ishaq Ajibola.

The governor, who said he might play an advisory role, said he did not have the power to ensure their victory.

"This is a very difficult time for politicians. They are all working tirelessly for the coming general elections. Many of them in Kogi State have declared their intention to contest various elective positions. Some of them are even giving people the impression that I



GOVERNOR Ibrahim Idris

am their sponsor. I have said it several times that I am no longer interested in any elective position after my tenure expires. I am not sponsoring or supporting any of the aspirants", he

said. He assured that his major role in the next general elections would be to ensure a level playing ground for all aspirants and candidates.

Katsina chairmen adopt Shema for 2011

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

CHAIRMEN of the 34 local government areas of Katsina State Tuesday adopted Governor Ibrahim Shehu Shema for governorship in the 2011 general elections. In a communiqué read by the state Chairman of the Associa-

tion of Local Government of Nigeria (ALGON) Aliyu Haruna Jani, the chairmen said they resolved to endorse his candidature to save the state. They said as critical stakeholders, it was expedient to speak out ahead of 2011 elections. They said the governor had performed well in all

ramifications, especially by giving them full control of local governments' funds.

They said their resolution did not preclude other contestants who may be interested in vying for the governorship position, saying theirs was a mere expression of political opinion.



INTER-FAITH ANTI-CORRUPTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IAAC)

C/o SARU, EFCC Hqts (Block C), 5 Formella Street, Off Ademola Adetokunbo Crescent, Wuse 2, Abuja
Email: iaac@yahoo.com, Phone: 09-6713877, 09-6717959, 08032405670

CALL FOR CONSULTANTS

BACKGROUND

The Interfaith Anticorruption Advisory Committee of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) in its bid to promote/inculcate anti-corruption teachings through religious organizations intends to prepare and publish a teaching/preaching manual on anti-corruption in Nigeria for each of the two major faith communities (i.e. Islam and Christianity).

In the light of the above, the IAAC is requesting the services of consultants to undertake the following:

1. Prepare a detailed manual (within twenty (20) working days) for teaching and preaching against corruption in Mosques and Churches nationwide.
2. Develop a manual (incorporating relevant scriptural references, illustrations and teaching aids). The themes are expected to capture the various anticorruption laws in Nigeria generally, and particularly reflect the provisions of the EFCC Handbooks.
3. Submit a proposal for the job which will include methods to be adopted, experience of related works, and budget.
4. Facilitate meetings of relevant stakeholders towards validating the draft manuals.

Proposals are here requested from individuals and corporate bodies with requisite qualifications and experience to effectively undertake the assignment.

Prequalification Requirements:

Minimum of Higher University Degree in Developmental Sciences, Religious Studies or any other relevant Social Sciences. Minimum of six (6) years professional experience, Excellent Spoken and written English and Evidence of similar works experience.

Interested candidate(s) should forward their resume to EFCC Head Office, Plot 5, Block C, 5 Formella Street, Off Ademola Adetokunbo, Wuse II, Abuja or mkareem@efccnigeria.org, misbaudeennq@yahoo.com, 08032405670, 07028182155 for prequalification within 14 days from the date of this Publication.

Only pre-qualified candidates will be contacted.

Signed
Management

SPORT

Messi now world's costliest footballer

Page 56



West, Odiaka plead with Lagerback...

Throw Eagles' camp open



WITH less than three months to the kick-off of the World Cup, former Nigeria internationals Taribo West and Monday Odiaka have advised Super Eagles handler, Lars Lagerback to throw open the Super Eagles' camp in order to get competition among the players.

West, who played for senior national team from 1994 to 2002, said it is the only way that the best players can be picked for Nigeria.

"We should throw the camp open because it would bring the desired zeal to fight for places in the team," West said on Metro-Sports.

"It should not be a question of

relying on godfathers to make the team. When there is tough opposition among the players, it would lead to the transformation of the team.

"There is the need to also encourage our home-based players to be part of the team. After all, we saw how Egypt won the last Nations Cup in Angola with a collection of players mostly from the local league," he said.

Odiaka, another former international, also harped on the need to throw the Eagles camp open so as to engender competition for places in the team.

He said a selection of Nigeria's

best players from the local league and abroad will work the magic of stopping Argentina and other opponents at the World Cup.

"The Argentines have big names and very good players, just like we do too, but in this era of football, big names no longer play football. If we prepare well with the right players, I think we stand

a chance of overcoming the likes of Argentina, and even advancing to the knockout stages," Odiaka said.

"Three months is not a short time to prepare in football. And with the way the new coach [Lars Lagerback] is going about the preparations by saying you must be a regular to play for the Eagles, I think he started his job on the right path.

"I believe he [should] bring in new players from the domestic league also to beef up the team. If he gets Nigeria's best players to fight for places in the Eagles, I don't think even Argentina will stop us," he said.

Lagerback has been given the mandate of delivering a semi-final finish in the summer.

Lagerback outlines selection process

By Ismaila Lere, with Agency reports

WITH Nigerians waiting to see the quality of players the Super Eagles would parade at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, Lars Lagerback has hinted that he will submit his list to Nigeria Football Federation in May.

The Eagles tactician, who has been studying Nigerian players in Europe, said he will commence serious compilations after the home

based Eagles' 2011 African Nations Championship qualifier against Niger Republic in Kano on Sunday.

"We have all seen the games on television or DVD. What we know is that Nigeria has many players to select from and we are studying many of them.

"There are many Nigerian players in Europe and at home. We will watch the match on Sunday to get another view. We have to finalise things, but you have to wait and see.

"By May, we start our programme for the World Cup," Lagerback promised.

Meanwhile, there are strong indications that Bolton's Danny Shittu may not make the trip to the World Cup because of a lack of playing time.

Sources close to the Eagles coach claim that defenders Shittu and Obinna Nwaneri, formerly of FC Sion, will not be included in the final list of 23 players because they are not

playing regularly for their teams.

The names of the two players have been omitted from a list of players to be invited for the friendly matches against North Korea and Colombia.

In their place, Lagerback is said to be in favour of an otherwise unknown Nigerian Michael Odibe, who plays for Siena in Italy. Odibe is a central defender.

In the recent past, Lagerback has also mooted plans to call up Eng-

land U-21 international defender Nedum Onuoha, who is still qualified to represent the country of his birth. The backline of the Eagles has been a source of worry for Lagerback since he took over the job in February.

Other players that seem to have caught the attention of the Swedish coach are Monaco's midfielder Lukman Haruna and local side Bayelsa United's defender Chibuzor Okonkwo.

Kanu's Portsmouth get transfer reprieve

- EPL gives Pompey permission to sell players
- Club aiming to replace current squad with free transfers

THE administrator at Portsmouth, Andrew Andronikou, wants the club to start next season with an entirely new team after they were given permission by the Premier League to sell players outside the transfer window.

Andronikou also revealed that 10 first-team players are up

for sale, while several more will leave Fratton Park in the summer when their contracts end, as the club attempts to both raise £30m and reduce their wage bill. The club will then bring in players on free transfers in the summer.

“We will have as many again who will be coming to the end of their contract

for sale, while several more will leave Fratton Park in the summer when their contracts end, as the club attempts to both raise £30m and reduce their wage bill. The club will then bring in players on free transfers in the summer.

Andronikou told ESPN: “First of all, I must reassure the supporters that we will start next season with a completely new team, one that we believe will be able to compete, but most importantly we will have secured the future of the club for next season and the season after that, at least.

“We have got to be clever in the way we maximise the value of the clubs greatest asset, the players themselves. We need to sell between eight and 10 of our first-team squad. We currently have a

first team squad of 28, we have 40 players at this club.

“We will have as many again who will be coming to the end of their contract, and we will be letting them go. The reason is that the game as a whole will be shedding hundreds if not thousands of players this summer, and we can pick up some top talent on free transfers.”

The Premier League has agreed that the club may sell players outside the transfer window but only under certain conditions. Portsmouth will only be allowed to sell a player to a rival Premier League club under the condition the player does not play first team football for their new side before the end of this season. However, they will be able to negotiate “lease-back” deals that allow the players to see out the season at Fratton Park despite being sold.

Andronikou said: “We cannot sell to our Premier League rivals, of course, but with the Premier League giving us the concession to sell outside of the transfer window, we can sell players now and keep them.” He added: “It is not just realising a capital gain from the sale of players but we will also be reducing our overheads – we will be making big inroads into reducing a monstrous wage bill.

“The object is to raise between £20m and £30m in player sales, and we know we have 10 players who will attract clubs and are already attracting clubs.”

The club will be allowed to sell players to Football League or foreign clubs but only with Fifa approval. “There are also some markets whose windows are open,” said Andronikou, “such as Russia and the Middle East, and we are already negotiating to



NIGERIA'S Nwankwo Kanu of Portsmouth, in action during the English Premier League match against Hull City at Fratton Park in Portsmouth, England on Saturday. The London club has earned the permission to sell players outside the transfer window.

sell one player to the Middle East, although not for a great deal of money.”

Portsmouth have already been

deducted nine points for going into administration and their relegation from the Premier League is all but assured. They had pre-

viously appealed to be able to sell players outside the transfer window last month but were turned down.

RESULTS

La Liga

Tenerife 2, Villarreal 2
Valladolid 0, Espanyol 0
Santander 0, Mallorca 0
Barcelona 2, Osasuna 0
Almería 1, Zaragoza 0

Coupe de France

Monaco 4, Sochaux 3

Premiership

Portsmouth 0, Chelsea 5
Man City 0, Everton 2
A. Villa 1, Sunderland 1
Blackburn 2, B'ham City 1

Arshavin: Arsenal need more good players

ANDREY Arshavin believes Arsenal's lack of strength in depth will hamper their Premier League title challenge.

The Gunners sit second in the table, two points behind Manchester United and two ahead of Chelsea.

But the Russia forward believes Arsenal's lack of summer signings – along with injuries to Robin van Persie, Kieran Gibbs and Aaron Ramsey – leaves them disadvantaged.

“I am still of the opinion that to win trophies Arsenal needs more players,” Arshavin is quoted as telling Russian television by the Sun.

“There is the simple fact that last summer we sold two players and bought only one. So there is an obvious deficit of at least one.

Then we lost Van Persie, Gibbs and Ramsey for a long time. So for me it is natural we need new players.

“Without the variety of players we have less diversity in attack. That allows our opponents to read our combinations more easily. Finally, it results in less ball possession for us and our defence comes under more pressure.

“The Premier League is very interesting, at least as long as we continue fighting to win it. But without new experienced players, real stars, it will be difficult to achieve success.

“Ideally we need three or four such experienced players and then among our youths there should be guys who are not only good at playing football but have real character.”



ANDREY Arshavin believes Arsenal could do with more 'real stars'

SCHOOLS Sports

Indomitable Eagles win maiden inter-house meet

By Ibraheem A. Fatai

THE Indomitable Eagles (Blue House) has emerged winner of the maiden inter-house sports competition of St. Augustine Royal Academy, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja.

Blue house did it in a grand style by securing 73 points, while The Super Stars (Red House) secured 63 points to come second, The Royal Treasure (Yellow House) got 61 points to come third and The Future Champions

(Green House) came last with 54 points.

Activities competed for included blind race, sack race, fashion parade, basket race, relay race, ball race, sprint, egg race, football and match pass.

The boys from the Blue House were head and shoulders above other houses in football as they won the final match to win the first ever football competition organised in the school.

The Eagles showed why they are called Indomitable by dominating most of the races with its priceless athlete and House Captain, Paul Okolo, distinguishing himself by taking other competitors to the cleaners.

When *Trustsports* caught up with the young athlete, he attributed his impressive outing to hard work and prayers, saying he spent several hours to train both in school and at home just to ensure that he did not disappoint his house.

"I spent many hours to train both at home and in school just to ensure that I come top. I must be grateful to my parents who gave me the necessary supports and encouragement. Having won most of the competitions I entered for, I feel fulfilled and I am very sure that my parents will be very proud of me," Okolo said.

Another outstanding athlete, Elia Emmaelia Lafebra, a citizen of France, was full of thanks for her house masters for their patience and encourage-



PAUL Okolo, middle, lifting the gold trophy for his house, the Indomitable Eagles, in the maiden Inter-House Sports Competition of St. Augustine Royal Academy, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja recently.

ment, saying if not for them, she would not have been able to summon courage to come out to participate in any of the races.

Lafebra brought the spectators to their feet with an excellent display during the fashion parade competition, where she left nobody in doubt as to who the winner was going to be. She also came top in the blind race.

Some of the parents who spoke to *Trustsports* expressed satisfaction at the performances of the pupils, saying with incorporation of sports in the curriculum of the school, their children will benefit mentally and physically.

The proprietor of the school, Mrs. Mercy Babadiya, in an interview, promised to make the sporting meet

a yearly event, adding that efforts are on to improve on the sporting facilities of the school to ensure better outing in subsequent editions.

She, however, expressed disappointment at the attitude of some of the parents who failed to bring their children to compete, saying the absence of such students adversely affected the performances of some of the houses.

"Nowadays, it is very difficult to divorce sports from academic as both work hand-in-hand to ensure total development of the child. It is in on this note that we call on parents to allow their children take part in sports. They should not think that children's participation in sports is a waste of time," she counselled.



ELIA Emmaelia Lafebra

800 students for Army Schools' Games

MAJ.-GEN. Benjamin Aindigh, Commander, Nigerian Army Education Corps, said no fewer than 800 students across six divisions of the Nigerian Army are taking part in this year's army school games.

The competition, the 9th biennial Command Secondary Schools/ Nigerian Military School Games is holding in Enugu.

Briefing journalists on the event at the Headquarters of 82 Div. Nigerian Army, Enugu, Aindigh said the games were aimed at producing "a complete student that is academically sound and physically vigorous".

"Over the years, we used this forum to promote socialisation among students of different socio-cultural backgrounds.

"This will enable them to sustain the 'esprit-de-corps' among themselves. The games are designed to create an enabling environment for students to interact through healthy competitive sporting events," he explained.

According to him, the event which was first staged in 1993 at Ibadan while this year's games is featuring 19 schools over four days.

"Before now, the competition was structured along individual schools but now they have been group into divisions, all in an attempt to make judicious use of available resources".

Aindigh said the event would also be used for talent hunt in view of the principle of "catching them young".

"The sole idea is to make sure that national sports development begins at the grassroots," he said.

The event, which started on Wednesday, March 24 will end on Saturday, March 27.

I want to play for Manchester United- Okolo

By Ibraheem A. Fatai

PAUL Okolo distinguished himself in the St. Augustine's Royal Academy maiden inter-house sports competition held in the school playing field. In a chat with *Trustsports*, the Edo-born pupil reveals that his dreams are to play a professional league for Manchester United and play like the Real Madrid super star, Cristiano Ronaldo. Except

How did you manage to win most of the races you took part in?

Okolo: It was as a result of hard work and prayer. I trained very hard for the inter-house sports compe-

tion. Also, my mother encouraged me a lot, telling me competition is not always very easy and that I must excel today, I have to prepare very well and pray. Both worked for me and I am very grateful for doing well in most of my races.

You appear to be very good and interested in sports, what would you like to become in future?

Okolo: Although I would like to become a politician in future, I like football a lot. I played for my house in the football event where we defeated Green House 1-0 in the final. I will like to play professional football for Manchester United. I love the club

a lot and one day I hope to play for them, because they are a very good side.

Who is your role model in football?

Okolo: It is Cristiano Ronaldo. I love his style of play and would like to play and be known like him one day. He wears plays as a right winger and I would like to play in the same role for Manchester United in the future.

How do you want to realise your dream?

Okolo: I will continue to work very hard and pray to God. By this, I believe that one day I will realise my dreams.

Do your parents encourage you to engage in sports?

Okolo: They do encourage and support me. Anytime I am playing football, they do not discourage me at all.

My mother supports me a lot; she is even present in today's inter-house sports to give me moral support.

How do you think your mother will feel seeing you winning gold medal today?

Okolo: Oh! She will be proud of me. And when I get home, my father also will congratulate me and be proud of me for what I have done today.



PAUL Okolo

THE THURSDAY COLUMN

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Gaddafi: A maverick's bizarre suggestions

Last Wednesday, the President of Nigeria's Senate, David Mark described Muammar Gaddafi, the dictator of Libya, as "a mad man who should not be taken seriously by any right thinking man", as reported by *Daily Trust* of Thursday, March 18, 2010. David Mark had made the comment during a debate at a plenary session of Nigeria's Senate. The reported went further that "Mark berated the Libyan leader over his recent comment that Nigeria should be divided into two to avoid the incessant ethno-religious crisis which has claimed thousands of lives in the country".

Nigerian newspapers of Wednesday, March 17th, 2010 had all reported Muammar Gaddafi as suggesting that Nigeria be divided into two to avoid further bloodshed between Muslims and Christians. The Libyan dictator canvassed the model of the Indo-Pakistan division of 1947, led by Mohammed Ali Jinnah. "The only thing that could put an end to the bloodshed... is the appearance of another Mohammed Ali Jinnah, who established a state for the Muslims and another for the Christians", according to Gaddafi. Furthermore, the Libyan maverick suggested that Obasanjo should lead the effort to achieve a Christian state in the south, with Lagos as capital, while Abuja should be the capital of a Muslim nation in the north.

The suggestion angered David Mark and it outraged many quarters in Nigeria. Nigerian recalled its ambassador from Libya, to express its disgust. It is clear that Gaddafi's suggestion is very absurd and simplistic, because it does not understand the complex dynamics which underline Nigeria's history and the various ways that Nigerian people are inter-related, despite the killings harvested in recent years, and most tragically on the Plateau, in recent months. A neat line of division cannot be drawn through the fault lines of Nigerian political, economic, cultural or even religious life. There are huge populations of Muslims and Christians in the North and South. But far more importantly, is that these various areas of life have welded us together, despite some absurd readings of history which try to reduce Nigeria to just a colonial geographic expression. If Nigeria is convulsing and tearing at the seams today, it is not because the peoples of our country are aliens but because the political economy choices of the ruling class have made the life Hobbesian for the people and the entire project of leadership, starting from recruitment to governance, has not been responsible or responsive to the people.

The Libyan dictator is looking from the outside and in his typically confused and muddled manner, prescribes a simplistic division of Nigeria along confessional lines as the panacea to the problems of a complex country trying to grapple with nation building. Given the huge upheaval and crisis which followed the partitioning of the Indian subcontinent, and the unending problems of Pakistan, which is the "Muslim" model he asked for Nigeria, it is clear that Gaddafi's suggestion is the typical ranting of a muddle headed maverick and of a dictator that has over stayed his shelf life. Gaddafi is as confused today as he has always been, and if you think I am exaggerating, please go and read the eclectic "Green Book" that is supposed to be the distillation of his world view (or weltanschauung). For too long, progressive forces over-rated Gaddafi, but his record of support for reactionary causes around the continent, tell the real story of the Libyan dictator.

But the fundamental lesson of his suggestion must not be missed. Nigeria is in very deep crisis and Nigeria's

ruling class must take the responsibility for the deep rot we are inside today. If we needed a very urgent reminder that we are in a country whose present has been stolen and the future compromised, it came in the shape of the 2009 November National Examinations Council (NECO) examinations. The registrar of NECO, Professor Promise Okpala, revealed that only 1.80 percent of the candidates (4,223 of the 236,613) "passed with five credits including English and Mathematics". There was a failure rate of 98.2 percent. This was not too far from the results during the May-June, WAEC results. There was a failure rate of 84%, with only 25.99 percent of the candidates passing with five credits, including English and Mathematics. This is a very serious situation indeed, never mind that it does not seem to be cutting ice with the people who rule us.

The ruling mantra is "Visioning"; but how can we take any national vision forward, when the educational basis is none existent? Where is the platform to produce the Engineers, Scientists, Philosophers, Sociologists and Doctors of the future? Certainly not on a platform of a failure rate of 98.2 percent! The educational system, especially the public school system, is in despair. Even the most advanced capitalist country, the USA, valorises the public school system as an essential foundation to produce the children who will

be the builders of the future. This is increasingly slipping through the hands of Nigeria and the quality that gets out of the schools is so poor, it is not good enough for the world of work. In any case, the jobs are not even there! So when Gaddafi or any other maverick for that matter, asks for Nigeria's dismemberment, it is not enough to call them "mad" as "super patriots" like David Mark did; we should work to remove the tensions which lead to tragic killings in the body politic!

Profiling, the filbe and the tragic killings on the Plateau

Last week, I sent lengthy text messages to some of our colleagues in the Lagos media, about the systematic profiling of Fulbe nomads

(and Muslims), in the wake of the latest tragic killings on the Plateau. The Fulbe suffers multiple jeopardizes in the hands of profilers. On the one hand is the disdain that people from settled agricultural backgrounds have for Nomads. Then there is the response to history, especially the Jihad of Shehu Usmanu Dan Fodiyo, which has been a source of a peculiar hatred amongst sections of the political and media elite of the Southwest. Sam Omatseye, last Monday described the Fulbe nomad as "rootless"; he "did not go to school"; "he therefore acts as though he has a right to wherever he is"; and he extends the narrative to "the Southwest where the Bororo Fulani have inaugurated orgies of murder and rape". Finally, "the issue in Jos is the caveman versus the city man". Felix Oguejiofor-Abugu, wrote in *The Guardian* of Saturday, March 13, 2010, "On the Barbarians' Invasion of Jos South". The killings, in his words, were "another clear instance of the barbaric inclinations of these inferior, cave-men... who continue to assault our decency..." Femi Orebe in *The Nation* of Sunday, March 14th, quoted an "internet rebuttal" of the Human Rights Watch report of Killings of Hausa and Fulbe people in January at Kuru Karama, "where it was alleged 150 people were thrown into wells.... How many wells and why was the evacuation not shown on the now 'popular' Aljazeera which made a hatch [sic] of Boko Haram people being killed by Nigerian soldiers..." These are just a few of the incredible examples of profiling that I am talking about.



The Libyan dictator is looking from the outside and in his typically confused and muddled manner, prescribes a simplistic division of Nigeria along confessional lines as the panacea to the problems of a complex country trying to grapple with nation building

SPORTS REPORT



IOC President Jacques Rogge

Rogge eyes age cheating, doping at Youth Games

International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge says close attention will be paid to athletes suspected of lying about their age at the first Summer Youth Games in Singapore.

Rogge said at a news conference in Singapore on Wednesday that the IOC was aware of past

age cheating by athletes. He said the IOC will act if any fraud is suspected.

The Youth Games on Aug. 14-26 will feature some 3,600 athletes from 205 countries, competing in 26 sports. They will range in age from 14 to 18.

Rogge said the IOC would apply the same anti-doping measures at the Youth Games.



LIONEL Messi

Messi tops Beckham to become best-paid footballer

Barcelona's Lionel Messi has deposed David Beckham to top France Football's list of the highest-paid players.

The Argentina forward is said to have made \$33 million (\$44 million) last year.

Beckham, who has been first or second in each of the last nine years, took home \$30.4 million (\$40.5 million) in 2009, according to the report.

Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo was third with \$30 million (\$40 million), while teammate Kaka was a distant fourth with \$18.8 million (\$25 million). Thierry Henry was fifth with \$18 million (\$24 million).

France Football, which has ranked the best-paid players since 1999, calculated the figures based on salary and endorsements.

