

## NNPC GMD sacked after 41 days

By Mohammed S. Shehu & Hamisu Muhammad

AFTER only 41 days in

office, Group Managing Director of the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) Malam

Shehu Ladan was removed by President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday. He was replaced by NNPC's

Group Executive Director, Refineries and Petrochemicals Mr. Austin Oniwon. Jonathan also ordered a

comprehensive audit of the NNPC.

No reason was given for Ladan's removal, but

sources said he may be designated to succeed Kaduna State Deputy Governor

**Continued on page 5**

# Mohammed Namadi Sambo

## From Sir Kashim to Aguda House



**GOVERNOR** of Kaduna State Mohammed Namadi Sambo, expected to be confirmed as Vice President today.

By Turaki A. Hassan & Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

TWO different approaches will be adopted by the National Assembly's two chambers this morning for the confirmation of Kaduna State Governor Mohamed Namadi Sambo as nominee for Vice President of the

Federal Republic.

While the House leadership said yesterday that Sambo will face the 360 members of the House of Representatives in a screening exercise that is the first of its kind in Nigeria's democratic history, the Senate declared that he will not have to appear before it in person.

Jonathan had in a letter addressed to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Dimeji Bankole dated 13th May, 2010 conveyed the nomination of Sambo as vice president. The House leadership met yesterday, during which it worked out modalities on how the screening exercise will be con-

**Continued on page 5**

## The New Vice President

## Sambo: The other goodluck

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

**I**N politics, one day is a long time as scenarios, analyses and projections can change within 24 hours. Architect Namadi Sambo, Kaduna state governor, personified this tendency on two occasions. In 2007, he swapped his pencils, rulers and rotin pens for the hustings when he left private architectural practice for politics. At that time, former minister Senator Isaiah Balat had been campaigning for over a year for the governorship. Also, former commissioner and grassroots mobiliser Suleiman Hunkuyi wanted to re-contest the governorship, having failed in 2003. There was also Lawal Samaila, the rough and ready politician from Yakawada, the deputy governor Patrick Yakowa and a host of other gubernatorial aspirants.

However, like a dark horse, Sambo strayed into the race, defeated those heavy weights and coasted to victory with his deep pockets and support of the incumbent governor. On May 29, 2007, Governor Ahmed Makarfi, Sambo's friend, business partner and benefactor handed over to the genial architect but in no time, they parted ways. Sig-

nificantly, the rift caused bad blood and impinged on governance.

Similarly, in the recent jostle for the vice-presidency, Sambo pulled an upset. More than 12 candidates angled for the job but Sambo's name never featured. They include Sambo's political rival Senator Makarfi, Alhaji Mafimud Yayale Ahmed, secretary to the Government of the Federation; Alhaji Mukhtar Shagari, Sokoto deputy governor, Aliyu Gusau, National Security Adviser; and Alhaji Sule Lamido, Jigawa state governor. Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, the former president, was promoting Shagari and Jonathan favoured Yayale.

**T**he governors, in the jockeying, wanted one of their own and Lamido and Dr Babagida Aliyu, Niger state governor, were highly favoured by their colleagues. Legislators at federal level wanted a senator to become vice president and Makarfi was their candidate. However, like a cat burglar, Sambo sneaked into the race and clinched the coveted prize.

A man about town, Sambo is a happy-go-lucky person whose nature is alien to politics. At best, Sambo is a technocrat in government as he shuns political gath-

erings and the cloak and dagger manoeuvres. But party men accuse him of lack of patronage, reportedly because he never gives contracts to politicians. He is said to be a stickler for due process and best practices.

**D**espite the accusations, Sambo is generally likeable as he is neither mean spirited nor wicked and at a personal level, he is a kind hearted gentleman. Largely, his easy-going disposition, live and let live attitude as well as his cosmopolitan outlook have endeared him to many. Sambo separated political differences from hostility and this attitude, according to an aide, has defused tension and nipped several crises in the bud.

Sambo, born in August 1954 in Zaria, started Baptist Primary school in Kaduna in 1959. At that time, his father worked at the Nigerian Railways and because of frequent transfers, the young Namadi kept changing schools. After leaving Kaduna, he continued in Kobi primary school Bauchi, before ending up in Town school (1) Zaria. From 1967 to 1971, he was in Government Secondary School Zaria, the present day Alhuda-Huda College, and from there proceeded to the School of Basic Studies at ABU, Zaria in 1972. In 1978, he bagged his master's degree in architecture and thereafter did his National Youth Service at the Oyo state ministry of works in 1979.

**S**ambo worked briefly with the Bauchi State Urban Development Board. In 1986, he was made commissioner of Agriculture, and in 1988, he was transferred to the works and transport ministry. In 1990, he went back to his private practice and in 1996, he flirted briefly with politics before retreating to business. In 2007, after an 11-year sabbatical, he returned to the soap box and won the governorship election. Three years later, he is vice president. Sambo's middle name may as well be Goodluck..



ARCHITECT Mohammed Namadi Sambo

“Architect Namadi Sambo, Kaduna State governor, personified this tendency on two occasions. In 2007, he swapped his pencils, rulers and rotin pens for the hustings when he left private architectural practice for politics.”

## Why Sambo beat the crowded field

By Mahmud Jega

**T**HE constitutional criteria for becoming the Vice President of the Federal Republic were only four: the person must be a citizen of Nigeria, must be at least 40 years old, must be a political party member and must have at least secondary school education.

Given Nigerians' convoluted way of political thinking, there were two other criteria which weigh more heavily than the constitutional ones: since the new President of the Federal Republic is a Southerner, the Vice President must be a Northerner; and since the President is a Christian, the Vice President must be a Muslim.

The extra-constitutional political criteria imposed by Dr. Goodluck Jonathan were also two: under pressure from the powerful caucus of state governors, he agreed to pick a sitting governor as vice president, and under pressure from a National Assembly caucus, he also agreed to pick a North Westerner, supposedly to compensate the zone for the loss of President Umaru Yar'adua.

The hushed-up additional criteria for the selection were also two: that the new Veep must be a member of

the ruling PDP, and he must also be loyal to Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, the man who, even as Acting President, reorganised the Federal Cabinet and weeded out all men and women who were not loyal to him.

Most Nigerians having been weeded out, there were only six men left who met most of these 10 criteria. They were Ibrahim Shehu Shema, Mamuda Aliyu Shinkafi, Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko, Saidu Usman Nasamu Dakingari, Sule Lamido and Mohamed Namadi Sambo.

Of these six, two, namely Shema and Lamido, were regularly mentioned in the shortlists for Vice President. Shema looked like a natural because he governs the late President Yar'adua's home state of Katsina. But then, the history of Jonathan's association with the Katsinawa was not a very happy one. Selecting Shema could also have thrown a wedge between Jonathan and one of his recently acquired admirers, the former House of Representatives Speaker Aminu Bello Masari, from whose jaws Shema snatched the governorship election victory in 2007.

As for Lamido, he shared with Jonathan a love for and eternal gratitude to former president Chief Oluse-

gun Obasanjo. Yet, Lamido had recently stated his [qualified] support for the PDP's power rotation principle, an anathema to Dr. Jonathan right now.

For some reason, the governors of the three states of the old Sokoto State were never seriously considered, even though one of them, Shinkafi, is an old friend of Jonathan's right from their days as deputy governors in the Obasanjo era.

That left the coast clear for Mohamed Namadi Sambo, an accomplished career professional, an architect with more than 30 years' experience behind him, a man who built big infrastructure projects all around as a private contractor and consultant, and who ended up as governor of the North's senior state.

Sambo did not seek the vice presidency and his name did not appear on anyone's shortlists. On Tuesday last week, he led a large delegation from Kaduna State to visit Dr. Jonathan at the State House [he did a similar thing for Yar'adua in June 2007]. They prayed for the repose of Yar'adua's soul and for Jonathan's own success in the State House. After everyone left, Jonathan called Sambo into his office and told him he was the new Vice President. Maybe because he never sought it.

## The New Vice President

## The architect's big dream



AN artist's impression of the new Kaduna Millennium City.

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

ON May 29, 2007, like most governors, Architect Namadi Sambo unfolded his mission statement as encapsulated in his 11-point agenda for Kaduna State. He promised security for peace and development, free and compulsory primary education and an intensive agricultural development. Poverty alleviation, youth and women development as well as infrastructural development are also on the 11-point agenda. In addition, Sambo promised housing, improved health care and industrial regeneration, including rural transformation and improved workers and pensioners' welfare.

In the recent past, ethnic and religious riots, including sundry crimes were recurrent in Kaduna State but in the last three years, peace and security have been reigning. Almost always, crisis elsewhere used to have a domino effect on Kaduna but not after Sambo became governor. From Jos, Yelwan Shendam and Bauchi ethno-religious crises, Kano, Borno and Potiskum were rocked by Boko Haram upheavals but Kaduna state was an oasis of peace and security and the reason is not farfetched.

Sambo, upon assuming office, launched his Operation Yaki, a joint police, military and para-military patrol outfit and the team was armed to the teeth and well equipped with 70 Toyota Hilux vans, numerous motorcycles and assorted cars at inception. Significantly, for ease of communications, all patrol vehicles have been linked to the Global Positioning System (GPS). Swift and effective, Operation Yaki is in almost every nook and cranny of the state and its feat has been phenomenal as in 2008, the World Bank applauded the state, describing it as business-friendly. Similarly, Mr Mike Okiro, the then Inspector General of Police, praised Operation Yaki to high heavens in December 2008, when 30 additional Hilux vans, 250 motor cycles as well as 1000 bullet proof vests were given to the joint patrol team.

Elsewhere, government's imprints are evident in sanitisation, the upgrading of facilities and beautification projects as roads, on a daily basis, are being swept in Kaduna town and refuse disposal vans regularly collect the rubbish. Significantly, the sanitisation exercise, in the last two years, has been complementing health care delivery in Kaduna State. Hospitals have been



FLAGGING off the World Bank-assisted rural access road in Kagarko Local Government recently.

upgraded, equipped and stocked with drug and in particular, Barau Dikko specialist hospital, Kafanchan and Zaria General Hospitals have been upgraded to reference hospitals. Similarly, owing to the relocation of ABUTH to Shika, three more hospitals have been established in Kaduna and doctors, nursing staff and para-medics, totalling 1049, were recruited last year. In addition, the allowances of health workers have been reviewed. In all, about N400 million has been spent in either upgrading or contracting new hospitals and right now, the state has 750 hospitals, 28 of which are General Hospitals. In addition, spread across the state, there are 115 health care centres and monthly, in 150 designated hospitals, the government spends N100 million for its free medical treatment for children and pregnant women.

The Sambo administration has also improved the agricultural sector in the last three years. In 2008, over 70,000 metric tonnes of fertiliser was procured at N7 billion and sold to farmers at subsidised rates. In addition, the government bought 60 trac-

tors and for leasing purposes and in Lere, Saminaka and Kafanchan, grain silos were constructed. Last year, despite the economic meltdown, the government disbursed N8.26 billion to various agricultural development programmes in the state. For instance, to ensure all year farming, the government has sold about 7,000 hand pumps, including pesticides, fertilizers and high yield seedlings to farmers at subsidized prices.

Similarly, the government has renovated primary and secondary schools, provided desks and chairs to make learning more conducive. In addition, about 259 select primary schools, spread across the state, enjoy free uniforms and textbooks and more schools, the government promised, will be covered as time goes on. Also, scholarship and teachers' allowances, according to Malam Suleiman Lawal, the commissioner for education, are being paid as and when due and this gesture has paid off. Kaduna state, in 2008 NECO exams, had the second best results throughout the country. In addition, the governor launched intra-state train service, the first of kind. Cheap, efficient and punctual, the

train shuttles from Sabon Tasha to Rigachukun, covering Kaduna town, for N20. Last November, owing to its popularity, the government launched phase two of the programme to cover the entire state.

Governor Sambo's biggest dream was to build a New Millennium City on Kaduna's eastern flank. It is envisaged as a New Dubai, a gleaming new city for a million people. So far, only the massive new hospital is being built there.

However, critics accuse the government of non-performance, especially in infrastructural development. The governor, according to them, has little to show for the statutory allocations, internally generated revenue and excess crude oil allocations. This allegation, an aide told Daily Trust, are "the ranting of the opposition" because Sambo, in the last three years, has been investing in both human and infrastructural development. The government, he pointed out, is not a father Christmas and it wants value for its money. For this reason, "those who want business to continue as usual are crying wolf."

## The New Vice President

# From spare tyre to front wheel

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

HE has been the second fiddle for five years. By tomorrow or so, he would catapult to be the chief executive of Kaduna State. A former permanent secretary and former minister, Mr. Patrick Ibrahim Yakowa became the deputy governor of Kaduna State on May 13, 2005, following the death of the deputy governor Stephen Shekari two weeks earlier. Once again, death is creating room for Yakowa's rise. The death two weeks ago of President Umaru Yar'adua created a vacancy in the vice-presidency, a position being filled with Yakowa's boss, Governor Namadi Sambo. Now, Yakowa is on his way to occupying the Sir Kashim Ibrahim House, Kaduna's seat of power.

Calm, peace loving and experienced, Yakowa was born on December 1, 1948 in Fadan Kagoma, Jema'a Local Government Area. He started his educational career at the St. Paul's Primary School, Fadan Kagoma between 1956 and 1968 before moving to the senior section of the school in Magamiya. In 1961, he completed his primary school education and a year later, he enrolled at St. Mary's secondary school, Fadan Kaje.

Thereafter, he transferred to the famous St. John's College, now known as Rimi College, Kaduna where he completed his senior secondary school education in 1968. He obtained the higher school certificate from the college. In 1972, Yakowa got a degree in Social Science from the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. He went to the Institute of Administration, University of Ife, Ile-Ife for Post Graduate Diploma in Public Administration in 1974. In 1977, Yakowa went to the Institute of



MR. Patrick Yakowa, Kaduna State Deputy Governor

Administration of the Ahmadu Bello University for a Master's Degree in Public Administration.

Yakowa started his working career as an administrative officer in the then North Central State

Civil Service in 1972. In less than two weeks, he became the Assistant Secretary II in the old Kaduna State Sports Council, a position he held until October, 1973. He was moved to ministry of finance and

establishment of the state.

He was later elevated to Senior Assistant Secretary and transferred to the Ministry of Establishment and Training. Yakowa was also a member of the

national committee that drafted the scheme of service for all cadres of staff in the federal and state civil service. He had his first posting to the governor's office during the Obasanjo-led military era in 1979, when he was made under-secretary in the Kaduna military governor's office.

In 1984, he was made the Administrative Officer of the state Agricultural Development Project. In the following months in that position, he was appointed the sole administrator of Saminaka local government, before becoming the chairman caretaker committee. Yakowa, reached the peak of his civil service career in 1987, when he was appointed the permanent secretary, ministry of health and social development. He was later deployed to the ministry of Works and Transport.

He transferred his service from Kaduna state to the federal government in August, 1990. He was made Director, Ecological Funds in the presidency and later, he was transferred to ministry of Water Resources as the Director of Finance and supply. He was minister of Solid Minerals Development in 1998-1999.

Between 1999 and 2003, Yakowa was a member of the National Economic Intelligence Committee in the Presidency. He returned to Kaduna State in July, 2003 as the Secretary to the State Government in the Ahmed Makarfi administration.

Yakowa has contributed immensely in the development of his people of Fadan Kagoma. He facilitated the first borehole in the area, the electrification and tarring of major roads in the area. He is seen as the jinx breaker for the southern Kaduna people, who had laboured in vain for many years to occupy the topmost political office in the state.

## The race for Kaduna deputy governor

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

WITH the nomination of Alhaji Namadi Sambo as vice president, his deputy Patrick Yakowa would become governor of Kaduna state, leaving the deputy governorship position up for grabs.

In the forefront in the race to replace Yakowa is the decent, reticent Alhaji Yusuf Hamisu Abubakar, the golden boy of Kaduna politics. In 1991, shortly after his national service, he was made commissioner of works and since then, the young man has been rising. In 1993, when the military struck, the Dabo Lere cabinet was dissolved but Yusuf was retained as Director General of Lands, a cabinet position. Thereafter, he shot to national reckoning as Executive Secretary, Petroleum Development Fund. In 2003, Yusuf wanted to contest against Alhaji Ahmed Makarfi, the incumbent governor

of Kaduna State and his intention caused a stir. Significantly, his decision coincided with Eidel-Kabir and Yusuf distributed rams to all nooks and crannies of the state. That act of generosity earned him the name 'Mairago' and since then, the alias has stuck to the bespectacled gentleman.

However, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, the vice president and Mairago's godfather, brokered rapprochement between Makarfi and his protégé. Consequently, Yusuf dropped his guber aspiration and his supporters, as fanatical as they come, turned against him. Since that attempt, Yusuf kept a low profile and in 2007, he left the country as EFCC was on his trail. Last year, without fanfare, Yusuf came back into the country and rekindled his political ambition.

Mairago, before recent events, wanted to go to the Senate and his aspiration resonated with most

politicians. Yusuf, according to reports, was the anointed candidate and the governor's aides lined up behind him. However, with Governor Namadi Sambo's nomination as vice president, Mairago saw another opening. Right now, he wants to be deputy governor of Kaduna state and Mairago, more than anyone else, is working hard, pulling at all stops and reaching out to power brokers to achieve it.

Mairago has reached out to Yakowa's friends, especially Alhaji Nadada Umar, former Secretary to Bauchi state Government. Nadada is very close to Yakowa and their relationship, Daily Trust learnt, dates back to when they were both SSGs. Similarly, the ex-PTDF scribe, by proxy, has lobbied Sambo, Yakowa's boss and benefactor. Particularly, he has gone to Kano, met Sambo's friends and Alhaji Tijani Hashim, Galadiman Kano

and Sambo's godfather and got his blessings. Significantly, from investigations, Mairago seems to be the front runner but several others are in the race, particularly in Kaduna Central to which the position is zoned. As at yesterday, Yusuf was in China but an aide confirmed his aspiration.

Alhaji Saidu Adamu, commissioner of information, Senator Musa Bello, Sambo's friend and business partner, as well as Alhaji Lawal Samaila, a gubernatorial aspirant and Alhaji Hussieni Jallo, Sambo's Political Adviser, all from the central zone, are said to be eyeing the deputy governorship. In a telephone chat, Saidu Adamu denied the speculation, dismissing it as baseless rumour. Musa Bello, through an associate, has reiterated his senatorial ambition but a former aide confirmed Lawal's interest. Jallo or his aides, on the other hand, could not be reached at the time

of filing this report.

The zoning arrangement, from investigations, may be jettisoned as Alhaji Adamu Janfalam, a politician from Soba and Alhaji Ahmed Jumare, the House Speaker who hails from Makarfi, are said to be in the race. Jumare, according to reports, is wooing Yakowa directly and his aides are relying on precedents. From 1999 to 2007, they have argued, a Muslim was both governor and House Speaker and in 2007, the status quo was maintained. The same arrangement, Jumare's supporters argued, should be enacted where their principal will become deputy governor and Nuhu Dogo, the deputy speaker, succeeds Jumare.

A sudden new twist was however added to the race yesterday with the removal of NNPC's Group Managing Director Alhaji Shehu Ladan. It was reported that he is returning to Kaduna to become deputy governor.

# Kaduna residents react to Sambo's nomination

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

As the National Assembly screens Alhaji Namadi Sambo for appointment as vice president, a cross section of people in Kaduna State, where he has been governor for almost three years, react to his nomination.

**It's a surprise, says politician Mrs Karimat Isang**

The elevation of Governor Namadi Sambo is worthy to be celebrated as it was a surprise to all the people of the state. I am commending President Goodluck Jonathan for picking Sambo. He would never regret choosing him. Good things go to people who have good intention even when they don't struggle for it. God chose Namadi because he has a good heart for Kaduna state and Nigeria in general. He is very proactive in doing things.

**I prefer Makarfi—Misbau Kayode Mustapha, lawyer**

It is the constitutional right of Mr. President to nominate a Vice President and he can nominate whoever he feels can work with him and will be loyal to him. But in my own opinion, there is no tangible project Governor Sambo has executed in Kaduna that would warrant him to be elevated to the Vice President. I would have preferred Senator Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi to be nominated based on what he



AHMAD Bello

did in Kaduna state. Makarfi executed a lot of projects while he was the governor of Kaduna state.

**It's God's design, former lawmaker Mrs Florence Aya says**

Our governor's elevation is purely the work of God. He is a man who has capabilities, who has the interest of the masses at heart. God will use him to transform this country for the benefit of the masses. I wish him and the president well as they pilot the affairs of our country.

**He doesn't deserve it - Okada rider**

Ahmad Bello, a Kaduna based commercial motorcyclist, says: I am not in support of him becoming the vice president of this country because he has not done anything good to the masses of the state. All the problems we find



HAJIYA Idiату Idowu

ourselves in Kaduna State are still with us, especially the water problem, you know it. For 10 years I have been riding this Okada but have not benefited anything. And each day, I pay money for ticket to the state. We want somebody that can work for us.

**Sambo deserves to be Vice President - Student**

Danjuma Bello Sarki, Vice President (National Affairs), National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), says: His nomination is commendable and we students of the state are fully in support of it. Our decision to support the nomination is borne out of the level of experience, political sagacity and the achievements so far recorded by him in Kaduna state. The consistency in the allocation of 27% of budget to education in Kaduna State is a great

achievement of this government that is so heartwarming to us students. We believe he can influence the federal government toward implementing the UNESCO recommendation of 27% budgetary allocation to education if appointed the Vice President.

**Sambo should wait and finish his project - Ahmad Salawudeen, Legal Adviser to International Islamic Relief Organization (IRRO)**

When I read about it I was very, very surprised because this is a governor we are hoping to continue with what he has started. The governor himself has been campaigning for the second term. I personally I don't support any governor that has the chance of contesting for second term, to jump to the vice president position only for this little period of time.

So I will prefer Governor Sambo to still remain in Kaduna and contest for second term so that he can know whether his programmes are accepted by the people of the state or not. I don't support him to leave at the middle of his tenure. He has performed above average in Kaduna.

**VP should be for a thoroughbred politician - Unemployed Youth**

Mohammed Nasir, an unemployed graduate of Kaduna polytechnic: I don't think his Vice

Presidency is going to be viable. He is not going to represent the interest of the North. I don't understand this kind of politics we are playing in Nigeria. Who the people want are not the ones that are given position. There are many people who are more experienced than him in the north. Sambo is a fresher as far as politics is concerned. He is a businessman and he has never work with the government. He is not familiar with the grassroots politics. We want a thorough bred politician so that the ordinary Nigerians can benefit from this transition government.

**Lets us pray for good leaders - Market woman**

Idiatu Idowu, a trader based in Chikun local government: It is high time we stop worrying about who gets any position again; we should be praying to our creator to give us leaders that would have the interest of the generality of Nigerians at heart and not their individual or family interest alone.

Many leaders have come and gone without making any serious impact rather they worsen the situation of the masses. We should pray to God to give us leaders that would address the problem of water supply, the problem of electricity and find a means of boosting trade in this country and as well revive all our dying industries.

## Sir Kashim to Aguda House

Continued from page 1

ducted.

Speaking to reporters afterwards, Rep. Ita Enang (PDP, Akwa Ibom), chairman of the House Committee on Rules and Business, said, "We are ready and prepared to screen him. We will suspend order 7 of our rule book in order to allow him into the chamber because according to the rule only a member is allowed to enter into the hallowed chamber.

Members will be allowed to ask him questions. The number of those that will ask questions is the prerogative of the presiding officer."

The nomination is in accordance with the provisions of section 146 subsection 3 which gives the National Assembly the power to approve the nomination. The section states that, "Where the office of Vice-President becomes vacant (a) by reason of death or resignation, impeachment, permanent incapacity or removal in accordance with section 143 or 144 of this Constitution; (b) by his assumption of the office of President in accordance with subsection (1) of this section; or (c) for any other reason, the President shall nominate and with the approval of each House of the National Assembly, appoint a new Vice-President.

However, confirming the receipt of Namadi's nomination letter from the President, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Information and Media, Senator Ayogu Eze (PDP, Enugu North) said the Constitution doesn't require screening for the new Vice President.

He told *Daily Trust* on phone that "He is not going to appear for screening because what Section 146 of the Constitution requires is for us

to approve his nomination. It is not like the case of ministers which requires us to confirm after screening them."

Eze added, "I wish to confirm that the Senate has received the letter nominating Governor Namadi Sambo to the position of Vice President. In accordance with our rules, the letter will be read as an official correspondence from Mr. President in plenary on Tuesday May 18, 2010." He said, "Thereafter, a time and date will be set when the Senate shall approve the nomination in accordance with section 146 sub-section 3 of the 1999 Constitution."

Also speaking to *Daily Trust* on the matter, Vice Chairman Senate Committee on Information and Media Senator Anthony Manzo (PDP, Taraba North) said the nomination of Sambo is to be approved by Senate tomorrow.

He said, "He will not face screening as the case of ministers. After the letter is read by the Senate President then it will be listed on the order paper for Wednesday.

We are looking at conducting the approval on Wednesday because you know there will be FEC meeting that day. This is the first time that the National Assembly is approving nomination of a vice president and it is going to be like approval of Special Advisers to the President. All that is required is for the letter to move the motion and then a question will be put by the Senate President for approval by senators."

Manzo said the approval will be conducted by voice vote.

"All that is needed is a simple majority just like in the confirmation of ministers. There will be no counting because it is not one of the matters that require two-thirds or four-fifth majority votes as contained in the Constitution."

## NNPC GMD sacked after 41 days

Continued from page 1

Patrick Yakowa, who is expected to be elevated to the position of governor in anticipation of the confirmation of Governor Namadi Sambo as Vice President by the National Assembly today. Ladan, who hails from Kaduna State, was appointed following the sack of Mohammed Sanusi Barkindo on April 6. Jonathan also directed Finance Minister Olusegun Aganga to engage the services of "a world class auditing firm to carry out an audit of the NNPC."

The change was contained in a statement yesterday by Jonathan's spokesman Ima Niboro in which the president also announced new appointments. The statement said, "President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan has made new appointments." Mr. Austin Oniwon has been appointed Group Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC. Oniwon, who hails from Okene in Kogi State, was until his appointment, the Group Executive Director, Refineries and Petrochemicals, of NNPC.

"The President has also directed a comprehensive audit of NNPC accounts. The Finance minister is to engage the services of a world class auditing firm to carry out the audit.

"The President thanked the outgoing Principal Secretary to the President, David Edebe, and out-



MR. Austin Oniwon

going GMD, NNPC, Shehu Ladan, for their services and wished them well in their future endeavours." Jonathan also appointed Principal Secretary to the Vice President Chief Mike Oghia-domhe as the new Chief of Staff to the President, Malam Hassan Tukur also replaced David Edebe as Principal Secretary to the President. Niboro, according to the statement, is now Special Adviser, Media and Publicity to the President.

Yesterday's changes reinstated the arrangement in the Presidency during the Obasanjo era, which the late President Umaru Yar'adua modified in 2007. The new Principal Secretary, Malam Hassan Tukur, from Adamawa State, is currently the secretary of the Energy Council of Nigeria. He was a former Foreign Service officer who once served on the Nigeria-Sao Tome Joint Development Zone board.

## The New Vice President

## Kaduna's sudden power shift

By Suleima M. Bisalla

ONLY a few weeks ago, it looked too far away for the people of Southern Kaduna to produce a governor in Kaduna State. But providence has a way of cutting short the farthest distance like it is about to happen in the coming days. Mr. Patrick Yakowa, Kaduna State's Deputy Governor is waiting to be sworn in as the first executive governor of Kaduna State who hails from one of the mainly Christian minority tribes of the south. Yakowa hails from Jama'a Local Government.

Reason for Yakowa's elevation is that the office of the governor is about to be vacant following the acceptance of Governor Namadi Sambo to be Vice President; and in accordance with the provisions of the 1999 constitution, his deputy is expected to step in as soon as he takes oath of office as VP.

At a press conference in December last year, Mr. Yakowa asked his people from the Southern part of the state to forget about their agitation for power shift

in 2011 and support Governor Namadi Sambo's second term bid to help their aspiration in 2015. Perhaps, little did he know that it was not only around the corner but that he is the one to write the history?

The agitation of the people of Kaduna South to be governor has been long and with the approach of every election, the drums for such agitation sound louder than the previous. Perhaps like no other politician from the zone, Senator Isaiah Balat had put up one of the most impressive campaigns in 2007 hoping to secure the ticket of the PDP to run for the office of governor.

Indeed Balat did not just inject the kind of vigour that was shown in his campaign hoping for manner from above. He and many other guber aspirants from the south were said to have banked on an earlier agreement allegedly signed with Makarfi in 2003 that he would hand over power to Southern Kaduna in 2007.

Political observers recall that the block votes from the minority tribes of Southern Kaduna, after



KADUNA State map

the so called agreement, actually saved Makarfi's second term bid from General Buhari's political whirlwind that invaded Kaduna and other parts of northern Nigeria in 2003. But even before the agreement, Makarfi had been extremely popular with the people there.

In addition to the heavy network of roads and rural electrification which Makarfi's government provided to Southern Kaduna during his tenure, he was also known to have freed the

greater part of Southern Kaduna from the Zaria Emirate by creating several chiefdoms. He was also known to have appointed all three Secretaries to his government from Southern Kaduna. First there was Mr. Charles Bonat, and then came Mr. Patrick Yakowa who was later succeeded by Mr. Felix Hassan Hyat when Yakowa became Makarfi's Deputy. He is also said to have appointed several members of his cabinet and personal aides, another rare show of solidarity with their socio-political aspiration.

In fact the former governor had become so popular with the people there that his name featured in songs during celebrations.

However, the big shoe was what they wanted, and they felt betrayed that the former governor could not give it to them as he promised. Makarfi was said to have backed down when he read the political mood, and subsequently told Senator Balat that his candidature might spell doom for the PDP.

But Balat had had a successful

campaign which saw him pulling a second round of election with Governor Namadi who came into the race barely a month to the election.

Namadi is from Zaria, Kaduna North Senatorial zone. With his emergence as governor, the many pressure groups seeking power shift to Southern Kaduna have been on their toes again asking for the governorship slot after Governor Sambo would have been through with his tenure. No doubt, of the three senatorial zones, Southern Kaduna is the only area that has not produced an elected governor for the state. And suddenly, it has come now.

But the big question is whether Mr. Yakowa, and indeed the people of Southern Kaduna will keep the seat beyond 2011.

Will they secure the PDP ticket for 2011? If they do, will the candidate be acceptable to the predominantly Muslim North and Central parts of Kaduna during the general elections? This will definitely be determined by the political permutations of the coming months.

## A new twist to an old quarrel

By Mahmud Jega

UP until 2007, they were the best of friends.

Alhaji Ahmed Mohamed Makarfi was about to complete two very successful terms as Governor of Kaduna State and many people were jostling to succeed him at the Sir Kashim Ibrahim House. The seat that Makarfi sat on was the same old one on which Lord Lugard sat 100 years earlier, and on which a string of pith-helmeted colonial governors, red-bereted military governors and long-capped civilian governors all later sat. No wonder that it was much sought after.

With only weeks to go before the PDP gubernatorial primaries in late 2006, Makarfi suddenly anointed Architect Mohamed Namadi Sambo as his successor. In no time time Sambo won the primaries, beating out a crowded field, and he went on to win the governorship in 2007.

For some time afterwards the two men were chummy. Then they fell apart. Politicians close to the two men began to quarrel in public, at first quietly, then more and more loudly. They traded accusations of manipulation and disloyalty. They soon factionalised the party, and Makarfi's men said they were ejected from leading positions.

The quarrel got worse and worse; they fought over ministerial nominations; they squabbled over local government elections, and they lampooned each other over party offices. Sambo's men alleged that Makarfi was plan-



Senator Ahmed Makarfi (left) and Governor Namadi Sambo soon after they were reconciled in Kaduna. Gen. Ike Nwachukwu (left) and Governor Danjuma Goje (right) led the peace mission.

ning to dislodge him from power in 2011. They coined the battle cry Daram Dam Dam, meaning their man is solidly in power and cannot be dislodged. They also boasted that they will stop Makarfi from returning to the Senate in 2011.

Recently, there was talk of reconciliation when a committee sent by the PDP secretariat forced the two men to embrace publicly, and it set up a committee to give effect

to the terms of reconciliation.

Then the Vice Presidency issue came up. At first, no one mentioned Governor Sambo as a contender, but first the Northern Senate Caucus, then the Northern House Caucus, strongly put forward Makarfi as their candidate for the vice presidency. He quickly shot to the top of the shortlists. If Makarfi had clinched the post, Sambo's gubernatorial

power would have been neutralised in Kaduna State if their quarrel persisted.

Then, overnight, the tables turned. Just like he came from the blues and clinched the Kaduna governorship in 2007, Sambo emerged from the blues last week and snatched away the vice presidency. The big question now is, which one of them will exert the greater influence over the new

governor of Kaduna State Mr. Patrick Ibrahim Yakawa? The new governor is Sambo's deputy and must be grateful that he has been maintained in the position to inherit the post that Sambo is now abandoning. But then, he was Makarfi's Secretary to the Government and later Deputy Governor and was handpicked by the departing Makarfi to remain as Sambo's deputy.

By Habeeb I. Pindiga

**MAHMUD** Yayale Ahmed JUST two days after the death of President Umaru Yar'adua, a vice president emerged in Nigeria's fertile rumour mill. He was Mahmud Yayale Ahmed, the powerful Secretary to the Government of the Federation, whose position careened precariously just before the late president went down with terminal illness.

Yayale reportedly endeared himself so much to Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, the man who held sway while Yar'adua was in his death bed. Among the things Yayale did, according to reports, was he actively canvassed for the declaration of Yar'adua as permanently incapacitated, so that Jonathan would assume full presidential powers.

So in the early afternoon of Friday, May 7, just a day after Jonathan became president, Yayale's name was all over as having been chosen to be vice president. But exactly a week later, when the name was unveiled at the National Assembly, it was not Yayale's.

A senior politician told one of our reporters recently that Yayale's main undoing was that his name came out way too early, giving enough room for his attackers to wage a debilitating campaign and eventually upstage him.

**Mukhtari Shagari**

At a point when the battle for the vice presidency reached boiling point, deputy governor of Sokoto State Mukhtari Shagari was the name around town.

He had only one thing going for him, but that one thing was the strongest pillar a PDP man can have as a support base: former president Olusegun Obasanjo. As chairman of the PDP's board of trustees, and as benefactor to President Jonathan, Obasanjo was considered to be the kingmaker for the VP slot.

So when reports said he wanted Shagari for the position, everybody thought Shagari was the man. Obasanjo was at the Villa few days before the nomi-

**The New Vice President**



ALHAJI Ahmed Yayale



ALHAJI Mukhtari Shagari



AHMED Mohammed Makarfi



GOVERNOR Mu'azu Aliyu

**The biggest losers**

When the Vice-Presidential slot opened with the ascension to the presidency by Goodluck Jonathan, an array of contenders emerged. None of them made it. Instead, the position went to a man who never said he wanted it: Kaduna State Governor Namadi Sambo. Here are some of those who lost the race in a big way.

nation of the new vice president, reportedly to canvass support for Shagari.

In the end, Jonathan appeared to have snubbed the former president and with that, any hope Shagari had to fill the vacant office evaporated.

**Ahmed Makarfi**

A day before the nomination of Namadi Sambo as vice president, former Kaduna State governor Ahmed Makarfi appeared to be the most favoured for the slot.

For one, he had the backing of his fellow senators and the Northern caucus of the House of Representatives. If not for anything, the National Assembly has the prerogative powers to approve or reject any nomination for vice president.

Thus, the lawmakers' endorsement

for Makarfi was thought to be a big boost to his aspiration. Apart from the support at the legislature, Makarfi, being a former governor could have banked on the support of state governors.

But in a sharp twist of events, his political foe Namadi got the job.

**Kanti Bello**

Senator Mahmud Kanti Bello is the highest ranking senator from the Northwest, being the Chief Whip of the Senate.

When the Northern Senate caucus announced their support for Makarfi, Kanti, in his characteristic acerbic manner, dismissed the decision as silly. He said he was in the race, and was even shortlisted for the job, and so why would his colleagues pull

the rug off his feet?

Kanti is from Katsina, and was very close to the late President Umaru Yar'adua. He was therefore believed to be part of the 'cabal' that shielded the late president's true health condition from the public allegedly so as to manipulate power.

But it was this closeness to the former First Family that he was banking on to make his bid for the vice presidency. Eventually both he and Makarfi didn't make it, in spite of the support bases they were relying on.

**Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu**

Outspoken, ubiquitous and abrasive, Governor Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu was among the candidates of the governors for the position of vice president. But he was about the first to declare

his aspiration in a grand way.

As soon as Jonathan became president, Aliyu rallied round the top traditional rulers and government hangers-on in Niger State and transported them to the Villa to congratulate the new strong man.

The ostensible mission was to sympathise with Jonathan over the death of the president and also congratulate him on becoming the new president. But it was clear then that Aliyu had something up his sleeve: he had his eyes on the vacant VP slot.

Among his colleague governors, he jostled for the position alongside at least one other similarly ubiquitous governor. In the end, Aliyu's tactics blew up in his face and the slot went to someone who never bothered to seek for it.

**Jonathan's tricky 2011 calculations**

By Habeeb I. Pindiga

IF President Goodluck Jonathan is interested in having a political asset as a deputy, probably he would not have chosen a relative newcomer as vice-president.

Jonathan's choice, 56-year-old Namadi Sambo, a first term governor of Kaduna State, was virtually out of view in Kaduna's political arena until late 2006 when he sought nomination for the governorship race.

In the jostle for the vice-presidency, following President Umaru Yar'adua's death on May 5, Sambo's name did not feature among the contenders throughout the days preceding the nomination. Most of the names mentioned were of seasoned, influential politicians, with solid support bases. The thinking was that Jonathan needed a strong deputy who would pick the ruling par-

ty's presidential ticket for next year's elections in the event the president himself is not running. Analysts also thought that even if Jonathan would seek PDP's nomination, he would pick a potential running mate who would be able to mobilise the support of the North.

Yet, the president chose Sambo, a rather inexperienced politician and with a lot going for him elsewhere: he has a chance for a second term of four years as Kaduna state governor. His nomination was received by the National Assembly on Friday, and lawmakers are billed to vote on whether to approve his appointment today.

Political analysts say that given his newness in politics, at least in comparison with others jockeying for the position, Sambo is unlikely to have much impact in next year's presidential elec-



PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan

tion, either as running mate to Jonathan or as a candidate himself.

Before becoming governor on May 29, 2007, Sambo, born August 2, 1954 in Zaria, had been agriculture commissioner and also commissioner of works and transport in the state for four years under the military. He left public service in 1990 for private business, where he stayed till 2006 when he sought and got PDP's governorship ticket. He had earlier in 1996 made a brief appearance in politics.

When he suddenly emerged seeking for the governorship ticket among many other stronger candidates in 2006, Sambo was seen as a stranger who could not match the big

names in the race. But with the apparent support of the incumbent governor Ahmed Makarfi, he won the primaries after going through a second ballot against Senator Isiah Balat, and also went on to win the governorship election.

Jonathan is believed to be interested in running for president next year, even though the PDP has said it is reserving its presidential ticket for a northerner in line with the zoning policy. One of his aides said last week that the president would stand in the election, regardless of the zoning. Also, a top former militant in the Nigeria Delta General Boyloaf has pledged to support the president in the presidential poll.

Sambo's nomination has not shown clearly if Jonathan would run or not. Rather, it has kept the presidential race widely open.

# 17 die as Lassa fever ravages Kebbi

From Ismail Adebayo, Birnin Kebbi & Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

SEVENTEEN persons including a former senator and ambassador, Samaila Adamu (Lammen Augie) have died of Lassa fever in Kebbi State, the state epidemiologist, Dr. Shehu Muhammed, told our correspondent yesterday.

The disease which he said started weeks ago was not immediately known until a test conducted by the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LUTH) confirmed it as Lassa fever.

"We did not know it was Lassa fever until a test conducted with blood samples by LUTH", he said.

Dr. Muhammed said the disease is currently prevalent in three local government areas of Kebbi State; Augie, Birnin Kebbi and Kalgo. He noted that Birnin Kebbi has the highest number of

casualties so far as nine out of the 17 were there.

He said the state government had decided to confront the disease head on as medical experts were being invited from South Africa, Holland, and Lagos with the assistance of the World Health Organization (WHO). He noted that the epidemiological unit of the state Ministry of Health in conjunction with relevant bodies were working to ensure that the virus does not spread to other local government areas.

It would be recalled that the Senate in March 2010 urged the three tiers of governments in the country to urgently put in place sustained measures to tackle the annual menace of Lassa Fever.

This followed the adoption of a motion sponsored by Senator Abubakar Sodangi and 10 others in which they noted with sadness, the loss of lives as a result of the outbreak of the deadly

disease in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Nasarawa and adjoining states.

Also, the House of Representatives recently adopted a motion calling for emergency action on the outbreak of Lassa Fever and meningitis in about 10 states of Nigeria as a fresh outbreak of Lassa Fever was said to have claimed about seven lives at the National Hospital, Abuja. The disease had earlier claimed the lives of four of the five patients referred to the hospital for treatment about two weeks ago.

The Chairman, National Lassa Fever Stakeholders Forum Prof. George Akpede said in Abuja recently that no fewer than 51 million Nigerians were at the risk of contracting Lassa Fever which has become endemic in Nigeria annually.

At a news conference in Abuja, Akpede said the number of Lassa Fever-related illnesses might reach three million with

an annual death of about 58,000.

He advised the Federal Government to urgently make budgetary provision for national prevalence and morbidity/mortality to ascertain areas that are at higher risk or prone to the dreaded disease.

He also advised that urgent steps be taken by government to establish control centres and central coordinating agency to help tackle advocacy crusade, preventive and curative assignments on the disease.

"The battle against the disease has been largely hampered by lack of political will, lack of information and adequate funding", he said, stressing the need for adequate awareness campaign especially among the rural dwellers.

The Chief Medical Director of Irrua Specialist Hospital in Edo State, Professor George Akpede said last year that Lassa fever experts were coming to

Nigeria to help tackle the disease. He said in Benin after a meeting of the Lassa fever study group at the hospital that the experts included, Dr Dan Bauseh, the coordinator of the MANO River Union Lassa Fever network and Professor Parris Sabeth of the Harvard University USA.

Professor Akpede said with the equipments recently donated by donor agencies from America on Lassa Fever diagnosis, Nigeria no longer sent samples to South Africa as the country had the capacity to test and diagnose the ailment. He said the number of deaths from Lassa Fever in the country had reduced from 80 percent to about 25 percent but regretted that so far, there had been no increase in funding from either the Federal Government or the Edo State government to the hospital despite appeals from its management.

## All about Lassa Fever

### What is it? Know the facts

Lassa viral haemorrhagic fever is an acute illness of 1-4 weeks duration that occurs in West Africa. Though first described in the 1950s, the virus causing the disease was not identified until 1969. It is an acute viral infection associated with persistent high fever caused by Lassa Virus. Some studies indicate that 300,000 to 500,000 cases of Lassa fever and 5,000 deaths occur yearly across West Africa. The overall case-fatality rate is 1%, up to 15% among hospitalized patients. Death usually occurs within 14 days of onset in fatal cases.

### Where found

Lassa fever is known to be endemic in Guinea (Conakry), Liberia, Sierra Leone and parts of Nigeria, but probably exists in other West African countries as well. It was discovered first in Lassa, Borno State, Nigeria in 1969.

### Who can be infected

All age groups. Persons at greater risk are those in areas of poor sanitation and health workers managing such cases.

### Signs and symptoms

The illness usually starts with fever, general weakness and malaise. Other signs and symptoms are headache, sore throat, pain behind the breast bone, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, cough, abdominal pain and red spots. In severe cases, it may progress to swollen face, bleeding (from mouth, nose, and vagina), gastrointestinal tract and low blood pressure.

People become infected by eating infected bush rat or eating food contaminated with the rat excreta/urine deposited on sur-



A rat, common Lassa Fever vector

faces such as floors, beds, household utensils or in food and water (e.g. grains spread out to dry along the roads by farmers).

Person to person spread also occurs by direct contact or inhalation of infected body fluids such as blood, urine, saliva, throat secretions etc. Humans usually become infected with Lassa virus from exposure to excreta of infected Mastomys. Both direct exposure, (touching the excreta) and Lassa virus may also be spread between humans through direct contact with the blood, urine, faeces, or other bodily secretions of a person with Lassa fever. Person-to-person transmission occurs in both community and health care settings, where the virus may be spread by contaminated medical

equipment, such as re-used needles. Sexual transmission of Lassa virus has been reported.

Because the symptoms of Lassa fever are so varied and non-specific, clinical diagnosis is often difficult, especially early in the course of the disease. Lassa fever is difficult to distinguish from many other diseases which cause fever, including malaria,

### Prevention and control

- # Avoid contact between rats and human beings
- # Keep your house and environment clean
- # Cover all foods and water properly
- # Discard any food part-eaten by rats
- # Cook all foods thoroughly
- # Block all rat hideouts

- # Stop bush burning
- # Do not spread food where rats can have access to it.

Family members and health care workers should always be careful to avoid contact with blood and body fluids while caring for sick persons. Routine barrier nursing precautions probably protect against transmission of Lassa virus in most circumstances. However, for added safety, patients suspected to have Lassa fever should be cared for under specific "isolation precautions," which include the wearing of protective clothing such as masks, gloves, gowns, and face shields, and the systematic sterilization of contaminated equipment.

### Treatment

Early treatment with Oral Ribavirin is recommended. In severe infection, injection of Ribavirin is used. Barrier nursing is highly recommended. And as soon as you suspect Lassa fever, or you have persistent fever not responding to the standard treatment for malaria and typhoid, report to the nearest Health facility.

Sources: World Health Organization Federal Ministry of Health/NEMA

Studies indicate that 300,000 to 500,000 cases of Lassa fever and 5,000 deaths occur yearly across West Africa

# We shall not fail on electoral reform - Jonathan

By Francis Okeke

PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan yesterday reiterated his commitment to ensuring credible elections by 2011 promising that he will not disappoint Nigerians and friends of Nigeria in the area of electoral reform.

Jonathan stated this during the opening session of a three day regional conference of Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management (CAPAM) holding in Abuja.

He said that his government is convinced that the best way to start is "to accord priority attention to electoral reforms."

"This is to ensure that winners in the forthcoming 2011 elections, at all levels of government, can exercise legitimate authority, having been freely elected by the people through an honest and transparent process of free and fair elections in

which every valid vote counts.

"Let me assure you that we shall neither fail our nation nor our admirers all over the world who are counting on us to make a significant difference" he said.

Jonathan stated that leaders in various spheres of life need to take effective steps to improve the quality of public administration and management in order to ensure substantial improvement in the quality of livelihoods in their respective countries.

Represented by the Minister of Interior Captain Emmanuel Iheanachor, Jonathan added that one of the ways to achieve that in Nigeria is by inculcating the habit of respect of the sanctity of elections.

On his part, the keynote speaker at the conference, former Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Chief Emeka Anyaoku tasked Jonathan to appoint people of "acknowledged integrity" as

Chairman and Commissioners of the Independent National Electoral Commission [INEC].

The conference which has the theme; Good Governance, Accountability and Trust was organized by the Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation [OHCSF] in conjunction with CAPAM and aims to boost public trust on the ability of the civil service to deliver on its mandate.

It has in attendance over 1000 delegates from the 54 member nations of the Commonwealth and was also attended by top government officers, members of the academia and students from selected Nigerian universities.

Anyaoku condemned cross carpeting by politicians, just as he called on the National Assembly currently amending the Electoral Act to make it mandatory for politicians who cross carpet to resign from their posts and seek a fresh

mandate on the platform of their new party.

He said "I must appeal to our legislature which is currently reviewing our electoral act, to recognize among other desirable changes, that if the essence of credible elections is to endure, all elected representatives and office holders should not be allowed to change their political parties without first resigning and going back to the electorate to seek a fresh mandate.

"There is also the challenge of tackling corruption and its pervasive effects on all the institutions and instruments of governance, and reducing the role of money in our electoral process," he said.

Earlier, Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, Mn Steve Oronsaye in his welcome address, said low ethical standards in the business of governance in the both the private and public sectors has

led to a high degree of mistrust of those saddled with the responsibility of leading, adding that efforts are however on to regain the long-lost trust the citizenry had on their leaders.

He urged the public service to therefore mobilize the required policy intelligence to ensure that it earns the trust of the citizenry and aid the state to record quick wins in the war against poverty and disease, "despite the worrying prognosis of by the International Monetary Fund [IMF] and the World Bank that Africa's chances of achieving the MDGs is bleak."

Conference chairperson and former Head of Civil Service of the Federation, Ms. Amal Pepple and Vice President of CAPAM, Paul Zahra said CAPAM's conferences aid the exchange of ideas toward creating and sustaining trust between governments and their citizens



PIC: NAN

ORILE Iganmu pedestrian bridge being demolished to give way to a ten-lane Expressway in Lagos yesterday

## Guild of Editors wades into Kano govt/Freedom Radio face-off

From Auwalu Umar, Kano

THE Nigerian Guild of Editors (NGE) has waded into the long standing misunderstanding between Kano State government and Kano-based Freedom Radio with a view to resolving the protracted crisis.

The crisis began last January when Kano government directed all its officials and its allies not to patronize the private radio station again in adverts placements and other transactions following what the government described as perceived negative reports against it being dished out by the radio. The situation degenerated into a deep seated animosity between the two parties. Several efforts made by well meaning citizens of the state to broker peace failed.

The government's decision to sever ties with the most listened radio station in the state was said to have been taken at the Obudu retreat organized by Kano government for its key officials.

The guild's intervention followed a report to the guild by management of the radio outfit on its stance over the face-off between it and the government.

A four-member team from the guild was in Kano yesterday to meet with the two warring parties with a view to resolving the crisis once and for all. NGE's former president Garba Shehu led the delegation to Kano with guild's deputy president Tukur Abdurrahman, vice president north Aisha Sule and secretary general John Nduka Uba as members.

Guild's deputy president Tukur Abdurrahman told Daily Trust after the guild's meeting with Governor Ibrahim Shekarau at Government House that they were intervening in the interest of the larger society. He said there were prospects in resolving the crisis.

## PDP NWC holds emergency meeting ...as Nwite, Izuogu declare interest in Ogbulafor's job

By Muideen Olaniyi

MEMBERS of the National Working Committee (NWC) of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) yesterday held an emergency meeting following the resignation of the party's National Chairman Prince Vincent Ogbulafor.

Ogbulafor, who resigned last week because of the ongoing trial over corruption allegations, was believed to have succumbed to pres-

sure from the Presidency.

Several meetings are being held in Enugu, Owerri, Lagos and Abuja to shop for his replacement between the South East Eminent Leaders Caucus and the prospective aspirants.

Daily Trust however gathered that all the meetings being held without recourse to the representative of the party in the NWC are not recognized by the party's National Vice Chairman (Southeast) Chief Olisa Metuh

who it was learnt was not happy with the ongoing effort to get Ogbulafor's replacement from the zone.

Meanwhile, the former Special Adviser to late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua on Political Matters Polycarp Nwite and former All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) governorship candidate Dr. Ezekiel Izuogu yesterday declared interest in taking over the job left by Prince Vincent Ogbulafor.

Dr Izuogu in a statement said his

interest was precipitated on political party administration and organization experiences which he possessed having been an active participant in political process for over 20 years.

He said: "I possess the necessary anti-corruption pedigree to fix our party and produce the new PDP of our dream. No one can give what he hasn't got. With me as Chairman, our party men and women cannot take internal democracy in the party for granted."

## Robber, 5 others killed in Lagos

AT least six persons, including a suspected armed robber, died in the last four days in different parts of Lagos, the police said.

The Lagos State police spokesman, Mr Frank Mba, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) yesterday, that some of the deaths

recorded were as a result of road accidents and fighting.

Mba said that on May 14, a truck with Reg. No XL 324 EKY, allegedly ran over a 43-year-old man, Ismaila Idris of 323 Road, G Close, Festac Town at Agboju Bus Stop, Lagos.

He said that the victim died on

the spot.

Similarly on the same day, a tipper with Reg. No. XB 847 KTP, loaded with sand somersaulted at Igbonla Road in Epe, killing two of the loaders; Adamu Luhudu, 18, and Mani Kamara, 30," Mba said.

The police spokesman said that

two others, who sustained injuries, were admitted in a private hospital.

Mba said that one Daniel Bassey-Ede of Oloti Village, Ikeja was allegedly, stabbed to death by one Francis Kingsley during a fight under yet to be determined circumstances.

## World Cup: Zuma invites Jonathan

By Mohammed S. Shehu

SOUTH African President Jacob Zuma has formally invited President Goodluck Jonathan to attend the official opening ceremony of South African FIFA World Cup tournament, which kicks off on June 11, 2010.

Fielding questions from State House correspondents, after paying a condolence visit to President Jonathan on the death of late President Umaru Yar'adua, at the Presidential Villa, Abuja yesterday, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, minister of international relations of South Africa, said the strategic nature of Nigeria in the continent would be a booster during the tournament.

Harping on the existing cordial relations between both countries, the visiting minister said President Zuma would be delighted to personally host President Jonathan during the football fiesta stressing that though South Africa is the venue of the tournament, Africa is the theatre where the event would be hosted.

Nkoana-Mashabane who said concerted efforts should be made to ensure that the football trophy remained in Africa said if the Bafana Bafana of South Africa failed to carry the trophy at the end of the day Nigeria should aspire to carry the trophy.

While congratulating President Jonathan on his elevation as the new president following the death of President Umaru Yar'adua, the South African minister said President Zuma was desirous of strengthening the bilateral relations between Nigeria and South Africa.

## Police accused of brutality

By Misbahu Bashir with agency report

A group, Open Society Justice Initiative, has accused the police of brutality and abuse on suspects and detainees.

The report, according to the Associated Press, claims that police sexually abuse and torture suspects to force them into dubious confessions. The report alleges other suspects that officers describe as "armed robbers" often die in execution-style shootings. The group said its agents monitored a number of police formations and compiled information on police approach to suspects before the report was prepared and made public.

But, the Police Force Public Relations ACP Emmanuel Ojukwu said the report of the civil liberty advocates has not been seen by the police. "I will comment on the report when I read its content," he said.

The group said it based its report on field monitoring and investigation at more than 400 police stations and posts visited from February 2007 to January 2009.



FROM left: Deputy Director, Nigeria Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA), Malam Mohammed Kassim, Chairman, Exam Ethics International, Mr. Ike Onyechere, and representative of All Nigeria Conference of Principals of Secondary Schools (ANCOPSS), Mr. Saliyu Yahaya at a news conference on defending the integrity of education in Abuja yesterday.

# EFCC quizzes Oyo SSG

By Boco Edet

SECRETARY to the State Government (SSG) of Oyo State Layiwola Olakojo was interrogated by operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) in Abuja yesterday over alleged diversion of N8.2billion local government funds.

Earlier, all 33 local government chairmen were invited by the Commission in connection with various petitions on the mismanage-

ment of council funds through the state Joint Account Committee.

Some of the projects raising suspicion are the tarring of five kilometre roads by each of the councils at the cost of N250million and the purchase of drilling machines at alleged exorbitant rates.

A source in EFCC said after quizzing the local government bosses, some state government officials were indicted and operatives had sent invitations to them as part of ongo-

ing investigation.

The source said a total N8.2billion meant to finance council projects was unaccounted for and accusing fingers pointed at some state officials alleged to have partook in the fraud.

Daily Trust also learnt other executive council members would be quizzed as "the investigation has gone beyond the local government" said the source.

EFCC's spokesman Femi Babafemi confirmed Olakojo was quizzed yesterday.

## Salary committee: FG tasks workers on productivity

By Francis Okeke

THE Federal Government yesterday urged workers not only to concentrate their energies on demand for improved salaries but should be committed to optimum productivity in the discharge of their duties.

The charge was made by Head of Civil Service of the Federation (HOS) Mr. Stephen Oronsaye during the inauguration of the "Negotiating Team to Discuss Areas of Dispute between the Federal Government and the Joint Public Service Negotiating Council" (JPSNC).

Oronsaye said "whilst the specific term of reference for the negotiating team (government and trade union side) is to resolve the issue of wage increase, it is not limited to it."

He said "negotiations must also dwell on the issue of productivity. Ordinarily, a wage increase should be concomitant to improved level of productivity, but this has not always been the case."

He regretted that "many employees of the Federal Government have often carried on as though they owed no obligation to their employer" adding that "without prejudice to the decisions to be reached at the end of this negotiation, it is expected that the report will include a workable plan on how best to deal with this challenge for the ultimate good of the service and indeed our country."

The committee, inaugurated by the Minister of Labour and Productivity Chief Emeka Wogu has the Permanent Secretary in the Min-

istry of Education Professor Oladepo Afolabi as leader of the government team.

Others on the government team include permanent secretaries in the ministries of Finance, Labour and Productivity and that of Establishment and Records in the office of the (HOS). Also on the government team are Chairman of National Salaries and Wages Commission and Director General of the Budget Office.

Those on labour union side include the leader of the unions Comrade Olakunle Olaitan, Peter Balogun, Sylvester Ejiofor, Solomon Onaghinon and Kiri Mohammed.

Demands by the workers also include a salary hike of 75.37% but so far, government only agreed a 10% agreement.

## EU to reward best state in water sector £9million

By Aisha Umar Agaie

EUROPEAN Union has set aside £9 million to reward the best performing state by increasing investment in the water sector, EU delegation to Nigeria, Mr. O. Augustine has said.

In a workshop on Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) held yesterday in Transcorp Hilton Hotel Abuja, Augustine said EU intervened in the reform of Public finance management, by assisting six

focal states and 39 selected local government authorities in these states through Support to Reforming Institutions Programme (SRIP)

The states are Anambara, Osun, Cross River, Kano, Jigawa and Yobe, chosen on the basis of the outcome of the 2005 SEED benchmarking exercise carried out in Nigeria's 36 states by the federal government with support from development partners, the criteria used in the exercise are similar to PEFA assessment criteria.

"We would undertake in the coming

months, in the collaboration with the National Planning Commission, Public Expenditure Management and Financial Accountability Review (PEMFAR) as well as public Expenditure Review (PER) in the rural water sector in six states" he stated.

He said the outcome of the two studies will be used to determine, proportionally the level of investment each state will receive and also to determine which amongst them could benefit further from EU support to governance reforms under the 10th EDF.

## NUJ set to defend journalists

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

THE national secretariat of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) has said it would no longer tolerate acts of aggression against media practitioners in the country.

NUJ national President Comrade Garba Mohammed stated this yesterday in Jos at a rally in remembrance of eight journalists who died in the convoy of former Plateau State governor, Joshua Dariye in 2007.

The NUJ president who spoke on the killing of journalists across the country said it was high time the killers were brought to book to serve as deterrent to others and urged security agencies in the country to rise up to their responsibility of protecting the lives and property of citizens.

He said if the killers of Dela Giwa had been found, the lives of seven journalists killed recently across the country would have been spared.

"We are unhappy, because up till this moment the security people are yet to fish out the killers of these journalists," he said.

# Customs to shoot fleeing smugglers

From Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

FOLLOWING constant refusal of smugglers on the borders between Nigeria, Cameroun, and Niger Republic to stop as requested by men of the Nigeria Customs service for checks, the Borno and Yobe states Area Command has said that those who refuse

to obey stop orders would be risking their lives as their men are ready to shoot any fleeing smuggler.

The Area Comptroller, Ikpebe Ataa Lawrence, revealed this in Maiduguri yesterday during a chat with journalists. He said though his men would be cautious with using their firearms,

they would use it when provoked as the last resort to demobilize the smugglers in order to arrest and arraign them before a competent court of law.

He said the command was adopting the drastic measures because it was finding it difficult to arrest smugglers in the route because they had

devised means of escaping arrest by deliberately refusing to obey stop and search. The situation, he said, is further worsened by inadequate patrol vehicles that could withstand the tough terrain.

Mr. Ikpebe said it is an offence for anyone to refuse to stop at the border when a security officer requests the

person to stop, saying people should blame themselves for any eventuality or learn to obey constituted authority. He added that between January and April 2010, the command realized over N53 million revenue for the government, saying it was a sign that it would meet the N180 million target set for it this year.



PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE

FROM left: Secretary to the Government of the Federation Alhaji Mahmud Yahaya Ahmed, Minister of Water Resources Chief Obadiah Ando and Minister of State for Water Resources Mr. Humphrey Abba, during a national stakeholders' forum on water resources in Abuja yesterday.

## Low quality education worries Kogi commissioner

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

KOGI State Commissioner for Education Sylvester Onoja yesterday decried the poor standard of education in the state.

Onoja was speaking at the seminar organized by the state House of Assembly's Committee on Education. The theme of the seminar was, "Repositioning Education in the State".

The commissioner said it was unfortunate that the quality education for which the state was known had eroded.

According to him, the fast degenerating standard of education in the state is evident in the mass failure of secondary school students in public examinations, the high level of examination malpractices and the turning out of half-baked graduates.

He said the current administration in the state would continue to address the numerous challenges confronting the education sector.

Earlier, the chairman, House Committee on Education Yakubu Yunusa said the House would not relent in passing bills that would complement stakeholders' efforts to improve the standard of education in the state.

## Oyo distributes seedlings to fight food scarcity

From Yemi Bamidele, Ibadan

WORRIED by the negative effect of the recent strike by food stuff dealers from the northern part of the country, the Oyo State government is distributing seedlings of high-yielding varieties of pepper, vegetables and onions to farmers in the state to ensure food security.

The state Commissioner for Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development Mr.

Kunle Ishola disclosed this in Ibadan yesterday while briefing journalists on activities of his ministry.

According to him, the seedlings which cost the state government about N20 million, were being given to leaders of the apex farmers unions in the state for onward distribution to members in all the 33 local government areas.

The commissioner added that the state government was also embarking on extension of irrigation

to the various local government councils to enable the farmers boost production.

He reiterated the determination of the present administration in Oyo State to establish agriculture as the bedrock of the state's economy for attainment of self-reliance in food, employment opportunities, raw materials for industries and an enabling agricultural environment for a virile and strong economic base.

To this end, he explained,

an additional farm settlement has been established on a large expanse farmland of about 9,000 hectares at Ido Local Government Area while partnership arrangements were also being put in place with agricultural companies at Iwajowa, Ibarapa North and Atisbo Local Government Areas, for the cultivation of cassava and sugarcane for bio-diesel.

Speaking on the FADAMA 111 project, the commissioner said N235 million had been disbursed

to farmers in the state with 18,738 farmers benefitting.

He stated that during the period under review, the state government released N76.38 million as commitment fund for the FADAMA 111 project. He added that the FADAMA 111 dove-tailed into FADAMA 111 with employment of the State Project Coordinator [SPC] and nine key officers, followed by the appointment of 80 community facilitators.

## Electricity workers back leaders

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THE North East zone of the National Union of Electricity Employees (NUEE) has passed a vote of confidence on their union leaders on the recent agreement reached between the union and the government where government promised to pay arrears of their monetization benefits.

The agreement stopped the May 17th strike planned by the workers.

NUEE had last week threatened to embark on

strike if the management of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) failed to pay its members the monetization arrears and the balance of 137 per cent of their salaries before that date.

North-East Coordinator and Information Officer of NUEE Comrade Musa Y. Ayiga said in an interview with newsmen in Jos yesterday that the union leaders had tried their best for the union, adding, "We thank God we have the union at the national

level, President Comrade Mansur Musa and the General Secretary Comrade Joe Ajeoro have tried their best, they made sure that they reach an agreement on the union's struggle. Whatever they agree on, we as members have to succumb because we trust them, we know what they are doing, ordinarily, this organization would have been sold for a long time if not for God and the union, we would have been like NITEL and other organizations," he said.

# SANYO

## AIR CONDITIONERS

... Japanese Perfection

Proudly Associates in Kaduna with:

### Alh. J. Suleiman & Sons Nig. Ltd.

Tel: 08034087000

## EXTENSION OF SUBMISSION DATE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (re-advertisement)

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Nigeria would like to invite registered Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) for Pre-qualification and possible inclusion in a database of NGOs specialized in the following areas:

**Elections**  
**Media**  
**Conflict Management**  
**Political Parties**  
**Gender**  
**Human Rights, Rule of Law and Access to Justice**  
**Youth**  
**Other Democratic Governance areas not specifically mentioned above**

The United Nations Development Programme in Nigeria, through the Democratic Governance for Development (DGD) project is looking to complete a comprehensive roster of NGOs working in the area of democratic governance in Nigeria.

Interested NGOs must meet the eligibility requirements for consideration which can be downloaded at the following UNDP websites: [www.ng.undp.org](http://www.ng.undp.org), [www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org). The application template can also be downloaded from the websites.

### SUBMISSION DETAILS:

The EOI and supporting documents must be received not later than the 30 May 2010 by 3:00 PM (local time) and must be forwarded to the address below in a sealed envelope clearly labeled "EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PRE QUALIFICATION OF NGOs IN NIGERIA" PLEASE INCLUDE THE NAME OF THE NGO AND THE GEO-POLITICAL ZONE OF INTEREST.

**OPERATIONS MANAGER**  
**UNDP/DGD 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR**  
**ELIZADE PLAZA, OPPOSITE BOLINGO HOTEL**  
**CENTRAL AREA, GARKI (ABUJA)**

All NGOs that have already submitted applications need not re-apply

**The EOI submissions that are not in compliance with the requested information as outlined above will be not be considered eligible to be included in the next stage in this process.**

This EOI does not amount to a commitment on the part of UNDP, either financial or otherwise. UNDP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOI without any obligation to inform the affected applicants of the grounds for acceptance or rejection.



UN  
DP

# Nigeria, Ghana should develop W/ Africa, says Atta-Mills

By Mohammed S. Shehu

GHANAIAN President John Atta-Mills has called for concerted effort between Nigeria and Ghana in the social, economic and political development of the sub-region.

Speaking to State House correspondents, during a condolence visit to President Goodluck Jonathan, at the Presidential Villa, Abuja, yesterday, President Atta-Mills said the strategic position of both countries in the West African region placed them in very crucial position to bring about the needed development.

"Ghanaians and Nigerians are brothers and sisters, we have a lot in common and this is the time we should demonstrate to the whole world that we are capable of taking our destiny on our hands.

"When we are given the chance, we will indeed ensure that we have raised the living standard of our people and that we fulfill the mandate and promise and the vision for which we all believe God had made it possible for us to become leaders of our nations,"

he stated further.

"I have come here as the head of a powerful delegation made of ministers, chief Imam of Ghana and other representatives to convey our deepest condolence to the people and government of Nigeria, president and especially to the family of former President Umaru Yar'Adua.

"We in Ghana will continue to pray for his soul. He has left records and it is our good prayer that the Lord gives him eternal rest," he said.

Atta-Mills also congratulated Jonathan on his assumption of office as president and commander-in-chief of armed forces of Nigeria.

"He is no stranger, having been a vice president and acting president he is only going along the path on which he has already begun to progress. We wish him all the best," he said.

He assured that his administration would continue to support and cooperate with the new government in Nigeria. The Ghanaian leader has since returned to Accra.

## Group rallies support for Ohakim

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE IMO Rebirth Group has called on politicians in Imo state to work with Governor Ikedi Ohakim to ensure that peace reigns in the state.

A communiqué issued after a recent meeting of its members in Abuja titled "Saving Imo from political locusts" observed that Imo state is lacking behind in development, in the infrastructural, economic and educational fields despite its great potentials.

The communiqué signed by its National Coordinator, Ibegbulam Eke Nwadike, and the National Secretary, Dr. Nelson Anyanwu, attributed the trend to lack of political stability, politi-

cal harmony and cooperation among politicians in the state since the advent of the administration of Chief Ikedi Ohakim.

The group blamed politicians in the state who are still contesting the outcome of the 2007 governorship elections won by Governor Ohakim for the unpleasant situation, adding that it is sad that elections which took place in 2007 are still in contention among politicians in the state while their counterparts in other states are preparing for 2011 elections.

The group condemned a situation where Governor Ikedi Ohakim has been forced to move from one court to another to attend to 'endless' litigations imposed

by his political opponents rather than be allowed to settle down in Owerri, the State capital, to attend to the peoples' need for good governance and development.

It called on the former governor of the state, Chief Achike Udenwa, to assist his successor, whom he help bring to power to enjoy peace the way he did and thereby give good governance to the people of the state.

The group called on the governor's perceived opponents including Chief Udenwa, Chief Alex Obi, Senator Ifeanyi Ararume, Chief Martin Agbaso and Chief Rochas Okorocha, to withdraw all cases in court against the Governor in the spirit of brotherhood.

## Nigeria to meet 2015 potable water target – minister

By Tina A. Hassan

THE minister of Water resources Obadiah Ando has said the ministry would work towards the realization of the Millennium Development Goal (MDGs) of ensuring water sanitation in the country before 2015.

Speaking at a two-day National Stakeholders Forum and Emergency meeting on Water Resources, Ando said the ministry is developing strategies for the three tiers of government to work together for the actualization of clean and hygienic water for Nigeria.

He said the 'Water for the People, Water for Life'

project of the ministry is one that they would pursue seriously because it would have an impact that would be felt by the majority of Nigerians when executed.

The project is designed to provide access to safe drinking water to three quarters of the people living in urban and semi-urban areas and two thirds of people in rural communities.

According to him, "The true position in Nigeria is that there is scarcity of good fresh or wholesome drinking water for the people in our country so we must conserve, preserve judiciously what we have and our water resources must be properly assessed to know how much

surface and ground water is available."

Addressing participants at the forum, Country representative of WaterAid, Joe Lambongang said there is a looming crisis of water sanitation in Nigeria because access to safe water and improved sanitation continues to be a big challenge not only in Nigeria but the whole of Africa.

He said thousands of children in Nigeria have died because of water complications because Diarrhea and other water sanitation related diseases is the second highest killer of children under the age of five, after Malaria.

# Court commences hearing on Plateau Okada ban

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

HEARING has commenced in the suit filed by commercial motorcycle operators popularly known as Achaba operators against the Plateau State government and others, challenging the ban on their

operation within Jos and Bukuru metropolis. The case was initially scheduled for March 9th, but later moved to May 17. In his submission yesterday before the Federal High Court in Jos, counsel to the state government and the state's Attorney General, Edward Pwa-

jok requested the court to consider the counter affidavit as well as the preliminary objection which were filed out of time as duly served. Counsel to the Achaba operators, Barrister Muhammad Lawal Ishaq, represented by Barrister Sani Abdul - Aziz, did not object

to the state Attorney General's prayers, but said he needed time to reply to the counter affidavit served by the respondents counsel.

The court presided over by Justice Binta Aliyu ordered counsel to the applicants to file the reply on the counter affidavit before the

next hearing which has been fixed for June 8th. It would be recalled that the commercial motorcyclists through their counsel Barrister Muhammad Lawal Ishaq went to court in February to challenge the ban on their operation by the state government.

PIC: NAN



CHIEF of Army Staff Lt.-Gen. Abdulrahman Dambazau condoling with Governor Danjuma Goje of Gombe State over the death of his younger brother and two Senators from the state, yesterday.

## Judge gives Prisons ultimatum to transfer Boko Haram suspects

From Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

JUSTICE Abdullahi Sanya Yerima of the Borno State High Court 9 has given the Nigerian Prisons Service, Borno Command, two weeks to bring back two suspected members of the Boko Haram sect who were transferred from the Maiduguri prison. The judge gave this order yesterday when the prison officials were unable to present the two suspected members of the group who are among 11 persons from Biu Local Government Area of the state currently standing trial over last year's uprising.

Due to the absence of those suspects, hearing in the case could not hold yesterday, though the other suspects were present in court. The case has been adjourned to 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th of June.

## Zamfara to procure rice for workers

From Sadeeq Aliyu, Gusau

THE Zamfara State government is to procure 250,000 metric tonnes of rice at N4.5 billion for civil servants in the state, Special Adviser to the Governor on Commodity, Marketing and Distribution, Alhaji Rilwanu Nagambo has said. Nagambo who said this yesterday in Gusau said 200,000 bags would be distributed to civil servants, 100,000 to be allocated to workers in the 14 local governments areas while 100,000 bags would be reserved for the feeding of secondary school students.

He added that 50,000 bags would be set aside for the annual Ramadan feeding and another 50,000 bags for emergencies such as victims of disasters. He said the rice would be sold at a subsidized rate to civil servants, saying the aim was not to make profit, but to cater for the people of the state.

## Lamido appoints 6 new perm secs, DG

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

GOVERNOR Sule Lamido of Jigawa State has approved the appointment of six new Permanent Secretaries and a Director General. He has also redeployed seven Permanent Secretaries.

The appointment of the new Permanent Secretaries was contained in a statement from the office of the Head of Service signed by the Permanent Secre-

tary in the HOS, office, Alhaji Ado Yusuf Karkarna. The new Permanent Secretaries are Alhaji Aminu Zakar Umar, Alhaji Bala Ibrahim Abubakar, Alhaji Hamza Ibrahim, Alhaji Sabo Adamu Babura and Engineer Datti Ahmad while Alhaji Ibrahim Muhammad Kazare was appointed Director General, Protocol. It added that the former Permanent Secretary in the Ministry for Local Government Alhaji Garba Auyo had been

moved to the Ministry of Works and Transport while that in Ministry of Water Resources, Alhaji Adamu Mu'azu was posted to the Ministry of Finance.

Other Permanent Secretaries affected include Alhaji Ado Ahmed in the Local Government Service Commission, who was moved to the Ministry for Local Government, Alhaji Iliya Ado of Ministry of Special Duties who was also moved to the Civil Serv-

ice Commission.

Alhaji Abdulhamid Ali of the Civil Service Commission was transferred to the Chieftaincy/Religious Affairs Directory while Alhaji Muhammad Musa of the Research Evaluation and Political Appointment (REPA) was swapped with that of Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Ahmad Rufa'i Inuwa. The statement also directed that the hand-over should be completed no later than May 31, 2010.

## Task Force provides medical services, water for Jos communities

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THE Special Task Force in Plateau State at the weekend provided medical services and water to various communities within and around Jos metropolis. Speaking to our correspondent at the Dutse Uku area, Acting Commander Medical, 3 Armoured Division

Major Folarin Orolugbagbe said the exercise was to enhance the existing relationship between the civilians and military personnel.

Orolugbagbe added that the exercise was also to let the people know that the task force was not only in the state to restore peace, but to also reach out to the people wherever necessary.

He expressed delight over the number of people that turned out for the exercise.

Speaking to newsmen at Anguwar Rukuba where residents were provided with water from a mobile water tanker, Navy Lieutenant Akano Bidemi who was supervising the distribution said, "Subsequently, we will see

how we can provide boreholes in areas where they don't have adequate water supply".

Most of the residents who spoke to our correspondent commended the task force for the gesture, saying it would strengthen the existing relation between the civilians and the military.

# NDE trains 150 widows, orphans in Yobe

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

THE National Directorate of Employment (NDE) in Yobe State says it has trained 150 widows and orphans and provided them with working tools. NDE Coordinator in the state Alhaji Adamu Ba'aba who spoke in

Damaturu yesterday, said the beneficiaries were now self employed and were contributing to the economic development of their families and the society.

"Some of the graduate trainees have been settled with a loan of N2.9m and they have gone into livestock farming including cattle,

goat and sheep rearing as well as fish farming," he said.

Ba'aba said the directorate trained 30 people in rural agricultural development training Scheme, 50 in sewing, 10 in waste management, 50 in ICT and 10 in interior decoration.



PIC: NAN

FROM left: Deputy Governor of Niger State Alhaji Ahmed Ibeto, Governor Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu and Minister of Information and Communications Prof. Dora Akunyili, during the minister's visit to the Government House, Minna, yesterday.

## Kogi reiterates commitment to child dev

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

THE Kogi State government has reiterated its commitment to child development in the state by encouraging programmes and projects aimed at equipping children for the future.

The state's Commissioner for Budget and Planning Adamu

Sani who spoke yesterday at the opening ceremony of the 11th High Level Advocacy meeting of Secretaries to State Governments, commissioners and the United Nations International Children Education Funds (UNICEF) in Lokoja, said the present administration had a lot of programmes for young

children in the state.

He maintained that Kogi is one of the very few states that were working hard to ensure the passage of the Child Rights Acts bill which he said had scaled through second reading at the state House of Assembly.

Adamu added that the meeting was convened to evaluate the

Federal Government/UNICEF programme of cooperation, take stock on the progress in the programme's implementation and raise awareness on issues affecting children.

The three-day meeting drew participants from Kaduna, Katsina, Kebbi, Kwara, Niger, Sokoto and Zamfara states.

## Association tasks Jonathan on education

From Yunus Abdulhamid, Lagos

THE National Parent Teacher Association of Nigeria (NAPTAN) has congratulated President Goodluck Jonathan on his assumption of office as President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

NAPTAN in a statement by its National Secretary Laja Idowu Taiwo urged President Goodluck to use his charismatic leadership qualities to solve the

myriads of problems plaguing Nigeria, especially in the education sector.

While pledging its support to the president, the association prayed God to guide him in all his endeavours.

The group also mourned the death of former President Umaru Yar'adua, describing him as a hardworking, devoted, sincere and pragmatic leader, who dedicated his leadership to the economic, social and political development of the country.

## Jonathan orders NTA to commission 23 TV stations before Dec

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan has ordered the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) to commission the remaining 23 television stations out of the proposed 101 television stations across the country before December. The Minister of Information and Communication Professor Dora Akunyili who was in Minna yesterday to commission the 78th television station said, "President

Goodluck Jonathan has given us till December this year to ensure that we commission the remaining 23 television stations which is part of the 101 we planned to commission," she said.

She said the move to upgrade television stations across the country is to make them powerful enough to link with the central station in Abuja.

She appealed to the people to take care of the station, urging them to consider it a general

## Ambassador decries poor infrastructure in Owerri

From Johnkennedy Uzoma, Owerri

THE Nigerian Ambassador to Ireland and Iceland Mrs. Kema Chikwe has lamented over poor infrastructure and high rate of unemployment in Owerri zone of Imo State. Chikwe in a paper delivered yesterday at the Owerri political summit, said the zone had the worst roads in the state.

She lamented that the water schemes which were functional in the 70s and 80s were no longer functioning. She pointed out that hospitals and schools in the zone were not well equipped and that children from the zone were neither getting good education nor employment.

While calling for action to reconstruct the political culture for a better future, she said politics in the zone had been characterized with deep hate, lack of vision coupled with selfish perspective and devoid of genuine consideration for the future of the people. Chikwe said it was the duty of government to provide quality leadership for the people. She advised the people of the zone to change their priorities by going back to the drawing board in order to produce an effective document for the sustainability of the zone.

## New rural roads to cost Nasarawa N1bn

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

THE Nasarawa State government has approved the construction of six rural roads to run through the three senatorial zones of the state at N1 billion.

The roads, Garaku-Dari-Amba-Kandare-Bassa is expected to cost N316 million, Panda-Kube road, N83 million, Andaha junction-Ancho-Bayan Dutse, N80 million while the New Karshi-Old Karshi-Takalafia road is expected to cost N190 million, according to the state's Commissioner for Information Mamman Alakayi.

Alakayi told our correspondent yesterday that the approval had already been backed by contract awards. The commissioner said the new projects are part of the administration's efforts to boost agricultural produce and accessibility to markets.

property. "I want to appeal to the people of Niger State to regard the television station as their own, to protect it from vandals. I also call on staff of the NTA to have a good maintenance culture", she said.

The Governor of Niger State Babangida Aliyu who commissioned the station, said television broadcast had been taken to the next level in Nigeria. He added that the impact of democracy would not be felt without a well positioned broadcast institution.



The Nigeria Export Promotion Council (N.E.P.C) and the Manufacturers' Association of Nigeria (MANEG) in collaboration with the ECOWAS Commission, Nigerian Association of Small Scale and Medium Enterprises Development Agency (SMEDAN) and the Nigerian Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (NASME) cordially invite the Business Community to a one-day Workshop on the Effective use of the ECOBIZ and NEXPORTRADE initiatives to grow businesses.

- **Theme:** "Harnessing Business Opportunities in Regional and Global Markets"
  - **Topic:** Presentation/demonstration ECOBIZ, as a West African Business Opportunities management system.
  - **NEXPORTRADE** initiative as a tool to facilitate regional trade in West Africa
  - **SME**, a new Financing window for Small and Medium Enterprise in Nigeria
- **Workshop Objectives:** Facilitating the Management and exchange of information on Business Opportunities in the Goods and Services among Exporters and Importers of the ECOWAS Region
- **Who should attend:** Manufacturers, Exporters, Importers, Service providers, other Businesses and the media

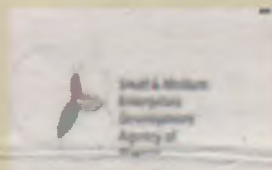
The sensitization workshop is slated to hold in the three locations below;

Venues:	Dates:	Time:
Ilorin Kwara Hotel, Ilorin - Kwara State	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> May, 2010	9.00am - 4.00pm
Port Harcourt Presidential Hotel, Port Harcourt - Rivers state	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> May, 2010	9.00am - 4.00pm
Maiduguri International Hotel, Maiduguri - Borno State	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2010	9.00am - 4.00pm

For further details contact:

<b>ECOWAS Commission:</b>	Limane Barage	08022085260
<b>NEPC :</b>	Tijani K. Zakari	08033496409
<b>MANEG :</b>	Gabriel Ekpo	08032204667
<b>NASSI :</b>	Rose Gyar	08036253839
<b>NACCIMA :</b>	Sale Ya'u	08059615883
<b>SMEDAN :</b>	Tunde Olovede	08035042220
<b>NASME</b>	Garba Ibrahim. FR,mni	08065901832

Note: Participation is free and Registration starts by 8.00am in each of the three locations.



## APPRECIATION

I humbly wish to express my profound gratitude to all the concerned well-wishers, who out of no time endeavour and graced my turbaning ceremony.

Again, those who identified with us through various publicities and the general public are equally appreciated.

Indeed, my sincere appreciation goes to **HRH Aih. (DR) SHUAIBU MAMMAN LAFIA (OON, MNI)** (The Ohimege- Emir of Koton-Karfe, Kogi State) who facilitated the accomplishment of the ceremony.



Signed:

**Aih. SHUAIBU ISA (ASIO)**  
**Sardauna Koton-Karfe**

CEO/MD ASIO & SONS NIG. LTD

# Nigeria, Ethiopia to strengthen cooperation

By Misbahu Bashir

MINISTER of Defence Adetokumbo Kayode yesterday said Nigeria and Ethiopia will strengthen military alliances.

The minister told the Ethiopian Ambassador to Nigeria Suleman Dedefo who visited the Ministry in Abuja that both countries will sign a military pact that will improve

military training and defence industries among other things. He said Ethiopia since 2005 had proposed a military pact with Nigeria and Nigeria will certainly accept the request.

He said both countries have exchanged military ideas and Nigerian air forces have been trained at a military school in Ethiopia. Apart from defence alliance both coun-

tries are engaged in cultural exchanges.

The Ambassador said the relations between the two countries have been robust in the last 15 years and currently a Nigerian military delegation is in Ethiopia.

He said both countries have sent large military troops to keep peace in various parts of Africa. Ethiopian military officers are being trained in Nigeria.



## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Management Sciences for Health (MSH) saves lives and improves health, especially among the world's poorest and most vulnerable people, by closing the gap between knowledge and action in public health. We live our mission to save lives and improve the health of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people by closing the gap between knowledge and action in public health.

### POSITION: Associate Director For Public Sector Institutions

#### Location: Abuja

The Associate Director for Public Sector Institutions works closely with other members of the Project Management Team to plan, organize, implement, monitor and evaluate the work of PLAN Health with Public Sector Institutions assuring the attainment of anticipated project results.

#### Responsibilities:

- Serve as a member of the Project Management Team
- Supervise the work of up to three multi-functional teams (MFT) who work with public sector clients
- Maintain regular contact with client institution counterparts as part of the continuous quality improvement process
- Work closely with the MFT team leaders, public sector institution counterparts and the M&E Associate Director to deliver quality products and outputs
- Regularly monitor the progress of work with public sector clients to ensure effective work plan implementation
- To the extent possible anticipate problems in work plan implementation and participate in addressing them
- Participate with the other Associate Directors and the Deputy Project Director in developing monthly calendar of activities

The Associate Director will exercise impeccable professional ethics, and will be aware of and adhere to MSH's procurement integrity standards in all activities.

#### Supervision:

Supervised by: Deputy Project Director

Supervises: 2-3 Technical Advisors/Multifunctional Team (MFT) Leaders

#### Qualifications:

- University graduate - preferably in social sciences, business or health
- Minimum of five years experience in capacity building in Nigeria
- Experience working in or with public sector organizations, particularly in the health field
- Experience in supervising other professionals
- Experience in project management
- Experience in supervising other professionals
- Knowledge of PEPFAR-funded programs and experience in managing relationships with USAID missions preferred.
- Ability to work as a member of a team, and to contribute to developing a new project in a dynamic environment.
- Significant senior level work experience in institutional capacity building across the areas of finance, human resources, governance, and planning, organizational development, and program management.
- Strong facilitation skills
- Strong interpersonal, verbal and written communication skills.
- Ability to produce results in diverse cultural, social, and language contexts.
- Demonstrated computer skills in MS Office Suite applications, including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.
- Willingness to travel within Nigeria regularly and potentially outside Nigeria, as required.

### POSITION: Technical Advisor (2 Positions)

#### Location: Abuja

The Technical Advisor will provide focused, high-quality institutional capacity building assistance for clients of the PLAN Health program in addition to leading project technical staff to strengthen organizations' systems towards greater sustainability and achievement of their missions. It is expected that technical assistance will focus both on building stronger organizations and on developing individuals to lead them to achieving results.

#### Responsibilities:

The Technical Advisor will accomplish these through

- consultations with managers of client organizations
- leading and supervising a multi-functional team implementing technical assistance
- plan and execute strategies for technical assistance
- monitor quality, progress and results
- identify needs for and supervise short term technical assistance.

The Technical Advisor also serves as a resource for identifying best practices, lessons learned, and innovative approaches to institutional capacity building, and for disseminating this information both internally and externally. The Technical Advisor will exercise impeccable professional ethics, and will be aware of and adhere to MSH's procurement integrity standards in all activities.

#### Supervision:

Supervised by: Associate Director

Supervises: 2-3 Technical Officers

#### Key Qualifications:

- Graduate degree - preferably in social sciences, business or health
- Minimum of five years experience in capacity building in Nigeria
- Experience in supervising other professionals
- Experience in project management

- Experience working in or with public sector organizations, particularly in the health field
- Knowledge of PEPFAR-funded programs and experience in managing relationships with USAID missions preferred.
- Ability to work as a member of a team, and to contribute to developing a new project in a dynamic environment
- Significant senior level work experience in institutional capacity building across the areas of finance, human resources, governance, and planning, organizational development, and program management.
- Proven programmatic, technical, and managerial ability and interpersonal skills to collaborate effectively with professional colleagues in a broad range of indigenous governmental organizations and NGOs.
- Strong interpersonal, verbal and written communication skills.
- Strong facilitation skills
- Ability to produce results in diverse cultural, social, and language contexts.
- Demonstrated computer skills in MS Office Suite applications, including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.
- Willingness to travel within Nigeria regularly and potentially outside Nigeria, as required.

### POSITION: Technical Officers Governance or Human Resources Management Or Quality Assurance Or Supply Chain (5 Positions)

#### Location: Abuja

The Technical Officer will work as a member of a multifunctional team led by a Technical Advisor to provide integrated technical assistance for the capacity building of CSO and government partners in strengthening their leadership capacities and management systems. Specific areas include project management, Grants & Procurement Management, Proposal Development, partner collaboration/coordination, strategic and operational planning and leadership and general management in order to enable the partners to be more programmatically, institutionally and financially sustainable.

The technical officer will required to have specialized training and experience in one of the management areas mentioned above and should be familiar with PEPFAR and HIV/AIDS service delivery in Nigeria. Good knowledge of the expectations and demands of USAID and other international donor agencies will be an added advantage. The TO is expected to have strong facilitation skills and able to work to train staff of partner organizations. The TO will work under the supervision of the LMS Capacity Building Senior Technical Advisor but will be expected to work closely in a team and other colleagues in LMS Nigeria.

#### Responsibilities:

The Technical Officer will meet two broad responsibilities to be able to achieve the functions of the position.

#### To PLAN Health Clients

- Participating with clients in identifying needs, defining end results and developing workplans to achieve the results
- Implementing technical assistance in a manner that leads to adoption and sustainable use of MSH tools and approaches by building client awareness of current gaps, achieving buy-in on the viability and need for an MSH tool or approach, and training client staff on the use of MSH and other appropriate or approaches.
- Building and managing professional relationships with key stakeholders.
- Providing reliable, high-quality follow through on all obligations to clients and other parties.
- Bringing pending needs for contracted work or short term technical assistance to the attention of the team leader.

#### PLAN Health Internal Responsibilities:

- Provide support to Technical Advisors and other staff on integrating clients' needs for institutional capacity building into project work plans and budget projections.
- Drafting internal reports and/or communications as needed.
- Submit requests for contracts or STTA, and all administrative items (e.g., expense reports, timesheets, travel requests), in a timely manner.
- Make the PLAN Health management team of opportunities to expand PLAN Health's impact through new client engagement.

#### Key Qualifications:

- Graduate degree - preferably in international public health, international development, public policy, public administration, management, social sciences or a related discipline.
- Nigeria-specific experience required.
- Ability to work as a member of a team, and to contribute to developing a new project in a dynamic environment.
- Proven programmatic, technical, and interpersonal skills to collaborate effectively with professional colleagues in a broad range of indigenous governmental organizations and NGOs.
- Strong facilitation skills
- Strong interpersonal, verbal and written communications, teamwork and partnering abilities.
- Demonstrated computer skills in MS Office Suite applications, including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.
- Fluency in oral and written English required.
- Willingness to travel within Nigeria regularly and potentially outside Nigeria, as required.

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

Interested persons may send comprehensive resume with a brief cover letter as ONE MS Word document to [msnigeria@msh.org](mailto:msnigeria@msh.org), not later than May 28, 2010. If you wish to be considered for a post, please specify the position for which you are applying in the subject line. Note that if the underline instructions are not followed application will not be considered.

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



# FASTER THAN YOU CAN SAY NEW YORK-JFK

How's this for fast? On June 3rd, Delta's flight Abuja to New York-JFK becomes a speedy nonstop service. A new service in addition to our Lagos to Atlanta flight created to get you to the USA fast and comfortably. Right on time for your connecting flight.

For further information, contact your local travel agent, call Delta at 09 875 2799 and 09 872 5038 or visit our offices at the Sheraton Abuja Hotel & Towers, Tower 3 Sheraton Building, #1 Ladi Kwali Way.



---

---

## NIGERIAN ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

---

---

### INVITATION TO STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATION WORKSHOP ON THE ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE MULTI -YEAR TARIFF ORDER (MYTO)

In line with section 5, Sub-sections 5.1 and 5.3 of the 2008 Tariff Order, the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission invites stakeholders and the public to the annual review of the Multi Year Tariff Order (MYTO) consultation workshop.

The annual review will address significant changes in the following macro- economic variables as it affects the wholesale price of electricity in the year under review;

- Inflation
- Exchange rate
- Gas Price

**DATE:**

Thursday, May 20, 2010

**VENUE:**

Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja

**TIME:**

9:30am prompt

All licensed Generation, Distribution and Transmission companies, Independent Power Producers, Consumer Associations, relevant Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies are expected to attend.

*For further enquiries, please contact*

**Dr. Haliru Dikko,**

The Head, Market, Competition and Rate Division on 08033352982.

**Announcer:**

**MANAGEMENT**

# Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON [www.dailytrust.com](http://www.dailytrust.com)



**KANO State Governor Ibrahim Shekarau**

## Sack scare for Shekarau's aides over Takai

MALAM Shekarau, we are solidly by your side but please step slowly and gently.

**Alkasim Wudil**  
[alkasimhussien@yahoo.com](mailto:alkasimhussien@yahoo.com)

Haba Sardauna! We thought everyone has the right to express his personal opinion on the choice of who to be the Governor in 2011 just the same way as you said when you publicly declared your support for Takai. If you feel Takai is good there are others that have different opinions about him. Removing them from office will not help the situation. We want you to leave a good legacy as Governor and Sardauna. Please watch your steps.

**Mukhtar Musa**  
[elmukhtar\\_musa@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:elmukhtar_musa@yahoo.co.uk)

The people who Shekarau is removing from power are those who promised to give their support to whoever he chooses but are now unfortunately betraying him.

**Abdullahi Kankarofi**  
[amdulkarofi76@yahoo.com](mailto:amdulkarofi76@yahoo.com)

## Sultan: No crisis over Christian governor

IT is so unfortunate that because a Christian will become the governor of a Muslim dominated northern state and some Muslims see this as a threat. Let's not forget that the state belongs to both Christians and Muslims. Those clamoring for a Muslim governor are self serving and short sighted. Do we need to remind them that power belongs to God and not any Muslim or Christian?

**Alexander**  
[coolwater885@yahoo.com](mailto:coolwater885@yahoo.com)

I suggest the title of this God-sent Sultan should be modified to 'Sultan of Nigeria'. He is the type of leader we want. He is a real Muslim and I pray that God grants him long life to witness the Nigeria of his dreams. Long live the 'Sultan of Nigeria'!

**Senator Ejembi**  
[senator002@yahoo.com](mailto:senator002@yahoo.com)

Love thy neighbor as ye love thyself. That is what our respected religion of Islam taught us. This is the time to demonstrate that...this is the time to show that love and the time to embrace it. If God's will comes to pass and Namadi Sambo is made Vice President, then so be it. I want the strength of that unity and brotherhood that we always proclaimed demonstrated by accepting and rallying around the would-be Governor, Patrick Yakowa, our brother from the Southern part of Kaduna. After all, Kaduna State belongs to all of us, Christian and Muslims alike. Who knows? There may be something good that we are trying to deny our people because of sheer religio-ethnic chauvinism. Every-



**SULTAN of Sokoto Alhaji Muhammadu Sa'ad Abubakar**

body in Kaduna State deserves to rule and be ruled. There is time for everything. That time may be now. We should never interfere with God's decree. We should learn to accept things the way God wants them to be.

**Salisu Umar**  
[salisgaladunci@yahoo.com](mailto:salisgaladunci@yahoo.com)

How did religion divide us in Northern Nigeria? Where is the might of AREWA? The word 'brother/sister' in Northern Nigeria now signifies religious affiliation; blood-ties no longer count! How would we fare if all indigenous Northerners belong to just one religion? Maybe Ghaddafi is right.

**Ningi**  
[zfreespit8@yahoo.com](mailto:zfreespit8@yahoo.com)

I am optimistic of the fact that the God that created us will never leave us to our whims and caprices; therefore, I join the noble Sultan in advocating for peace and tolerance in Nigeria at large. I know we shall

be delivered.  
**Egiyaya, Bala A.M**  
[egeeyayaadee@yahoo.com](mailto:egeeyayaadee@yahoo.com)

I pray that Nigerians will wake up to the reality that religion, tribe, region and others are not our problem. Our problem is having good and God-fearing leaders. Our leaders, both religious and political have failed us. What they say in secret is different from what they say in public. May God deliver us.

**Shuarome**  
[joshndak64@gmail.com](mailto:joshndak64@gmail.com)

Our father the Sultan, May almighty Allah continue to bless and guide you.

**Saliu**  
[salupot@gmail.com](mailto:salupot@gmail.com)

I don't think there is any cause for alarm for Muslims in the elevation of Yakowa to the office of Governor of Kaduna State. I am not supporting Namadi but it is very clear in our constitution that the deputy

should take over in such a circumstance. A similar case happened in Adamawa when Atiku was picked to deputize Obasanjo. Boni Haruna took over and nothing happened to Muslims. This is a country of multi-ethnic and multi-religion coloration. Everybody has the right to rule irrespective of his/her ethnic or religious affiliation. The religions we have in Nigeria are free for anyone to practice without hindrance. So please let Yakowa rule and everyone should practice his religion.

**Zanna Baruwa Gashua**  
[bukar.zanna@yahoo.com](mailto:bukar.zanna@yahoo.com)

Let the justice be told, Nigeria is a multi-ethnic and multi-religious country. Nobody can claim birth right in any of the multi religious states like Kaduna, Adamawa, Plateau, Gombe, Taraba, Kogi, Kwara, Niger, Nasarawa etc. Any person, irrespective of his religion or ethnic background, can be elected or nominated to serve in any political office. Kaduna State cannot be an exception.

**Naziru Bello**  
[nazeer\\_bello@yahoo.com](mailto:nazeer_bello@yahoo.com)

The tension generated by the appointment of Sambo as Vice President and the expected resumption of Patrick Yakowa as Governor is unnecessary and the handiwork of religious bigots. Some people have arrogated to themselves 'rulership' rights over others and cannot imagine otherwise. However, in the new emerging Nigeria, they must learn to accept that a time comes when the unthinkable becomes the inevitable. It is always only a matter of time!

**Pita**  
[justpita@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:justpita@yahoo.co.uk)

## IBB defends self on corruption

I do not want to be seen as defending IBB but a lot of his accusers are still hiding those facts that could easily land him in prison and if they do not have the facts, why won't they keep quiet and join me and many others who believe in prayers as capable of shaping things for the better?

**Egiyaya, Bala A.M**  
[egeeyayaadee@yahoo.com](mailto:egeeyayaadee@yahoo.com)

Well, we have heard him and I will like to advice all Nigerians to give him their support in the 2011 general elections.

**Ababaka Sadiq Audu**  
[sadiqaudu85@yahoo.com](mailto:sadiqaudu85@yahoo.com)

How I wish Babangida will go back to his hilltop mansion in Minna and keep quiet. He sold the nation through his unpopular SAP policy that made the poor masses more wretched. Please IBB leave our Nigeria alone.

**Kabiru Danladi**  
[kblondon2003@yahoo.com](mailto:kblondon2003@yahoo.com)

I agree one hundred percent



**FORMER President Ibrahim Babangida**

with Babangida's comments about corruption in this country now compared to his regime and we need people like him now who know all the secrets of the nation to come back to power in order to help Nigeria and Nigerians out of the current situation we are experiencing.

**Abubakar Chika Maru**  
[abubakarsuleiman2009@yahoo.com](mailto:abubakarsuleiman2009@yahoo.com)

We agree you fought corruption in your own way. Thank you but please leave us alone. I think Nigeria has grown beyond you and your ideas.

**Senator Ejembi**  
[senator002@yahoo.com](mailto:senator002@yahoo.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

I would not believe you IBB. The only corruption-free Government was Buhari's which you toppled and the freest election was June 12 which you annulled. Now we need people like General Buhari - the Man of WAI - for his honesty and credibility. I am not casting aspersions against your honesty but please remain in your hilltop mansion and let Nigeria Prosper.

**Zanna Baruwa Gashua**  
[bukar.zanna@yahoo.com](mailto:bukar.zanna@yahoo.com)

If he fought corruption, nobody knows about that but the fact that is without doubt is that his administration was a significant step towards the policy of "chop-I-chop" which is the basis for the country's corruption index today. Things started falling apart with him in charge and our Naira went.

**Chukwudozie Duru**  
[chidoduru@yahoo.com](mailto:chidoduru@yahoo.com)

## Nyako rejected Jonathan's offer to be VP

THANK u Mr. Nyako for taking an insightful look into the offer of the office of Vice President. You have shown that you approach your politics with intelligence.

**Kabir Akaj**  
[abdullahikabir\\_muhammad@yahoo.com](mailto:abdullahikabir_muhammad@yahoo.com)

Governor Nyako is indeed a very considerate man who would not leave his supporters high and dry just because a carrot had been dangled before him.

**Abubakar**  
[aibrahim44@hotmail.com](mailto:aibrahim44@hotmail.com)

This is all about unwilling

candidates who never sought office but were imposed and also about minority tribe deputies not supported to rule by the so-called majority. What a shame.

**Fola**  
[folasade197@aol.com](mailto:folasade197@aol.com)

Please, our beloved Governor (Murtala H. Nyako), stay behind and continue the good work because we in Adamawa can now say one or two things about development, unlike how it was some years back. There is nothing special in the office of the Vice President sit. Thank you.

**Umar Dahiru Abba**  
[umardblues@yahoo.com](mailto:umardblues@yahoo.com)

## FCT Minister set to decamp to PDP

WHAT is your political ideology? You said Mal. Isa Yuguda deceived the people of Bauchi state by dumping the ANPP. Aren't you

doing the same thing?  
**Abdulqadeer Y. Giade**  
[aygyd@yahoo.com](mailto:aygyd@yahoo.com)



By Baba Ari Bukar

## Roads: Changing Yobe's landscape

**Y**obe State was until recently the worse casualty in the country when it comes to benefitting from new federal roads or maintaining and rehabilitating existing ones. To make matters worse, successive governments at the state level devoted little attention to the road sector.

The situation subjected the agrarian population to untold hardship and deprivation, and slow pace of social and economic activities. No more.

Since the advent of this democratic dispensation following the resolve of Governor Ibrahim Gaidam to embark on extensive construction of urban and rural roads, including federal ones, things have changed for the better.

Damaturu, the state capital which was hitherto a glorified local government with only one roundabout is now a befitting city, beautiful to behold. In the first phase of the urban renewal programme embarked upon by Governor Gaidam, a total of 15km road which traverse through Sabon Feggi, Commissioners quarters and New Jerusalem have been completed. The roads were accompanied by 30km drainage for easy passage of water.

Similarly, the eighteen kilometre

Similar road revolution is going on at the 300 housing unit along Maiduguri road and also at the 256 housing units along Gashua Road

ring road in Damaturu has also been completed and complemented with four beautiful roundabouts, 36 kilometre drainage system and solar energy street lights.

This development has drastically reduced traffic congestion and recurrent accidents in the state capital because commuters including articulated vehicles approaching Damaturu from any part of the country will conveniently follow the bye-pass and proceed with their journey without necessarily going into the capital city.

**T**he second phase of the urban renewal road construction is now ongoing following the approval of over three billion naira by the state executive council for the construction of 17 new roads.

The project consists of three lots and will cover a distance of 16.8 kilometres.

The first lot of 5.520km will gulp N445, 591,605.90k and will see the emergence of asphalted roads along Gwange and Njiwaji layouts all in Damaturu.

Nayinawa and Bindigari layout, two slumps with large concentration of people would also have a taste of Governor Gaidam's roads revolution drive because construction of 6.150km of roads have reached advance stage. When completed, it is expected that people living around the area would say good bye to perennial flooding.

Another 5.150km road network is also going through Tsangaya settlement with a spur around Potiskum road. To the residents of both areas, it is a new era of hope and prosperity because many of them never thought that such development will be at their door steps this soon.

Similar road revolution is going on at the 300 housing unit along Maiduguri road and also at the 256 housing units along Gashua Road. The two estates are expected to be commissioned during the third year anniversary of Governor Ibrahim Gaidam which also means more affordable houses for the populace.

The Yobe State government has also joined hands with local government councils to ensure the provision of vital road networks at the grassroots in which local councils are regularly encouraged to liaise with their various communities in identifying and recommending viable projects for execution either with funds allocated to the local government councils or through the joint state/local government account.

**S**everal road construction projects are currently ongoing across Yobe State's rural areas totalling over 400 kilometres under the state's Rural Road Construction Programme.

Part of them includes the 118 kilometres of roads being executed at the total cost of N4.8 billion. Some of these roads include Babbangida-Chirokeusko 17 kilometre road; 35 kilometre Babbangida-Mashio-Koriyel road; 13-kilometer Dogon Kuka-Daura road; the 13-kilometer Ngelzarma-Genshengele road and the 17.5 kilometres Ngelzarma-Mashio road. Others are the 4.5 kilometre Kusur-Azbak road; the 6-kilometer Bukarti-Azam road, and the 7-kilometer Dogon Kuka-Wachakal road.

In other parts of the state, the reconstruction of the 155-kilometer Potiskum-Jakusko-Gashua road which was awarded to EEC Limited at the cost of N5.2 billion has gone far while the Gaidam-Bukarti road has also been awarded to CGC Nigeria Limited at the cost of N4 billion and work has reached over 50 percent.

Similarly, the rehabilitation and asphalt overlay of the 109-kilometer Kaliyari-Bayamari-Gaidam road which was awarded to Bukham Engineering Services at the cost of N3.8 billion has been completed. Though a federal road, Governor Gaidam saw the need to make it motorable because its greatest beneficiaries are Yobe people whose livelihood would be greatly improved.

By and large, the state government under the leadership of Governor Ibrahim Gaidam had promptly intervened by rehabilitating the critical portion of the Gashua-Nguru federal government highway which was hitherto not better than a dead trap.

Another 63km road linking the Machina town with Nguru has also been completed. This is a development which has brought succour to the people of the area and the teeming visitors and tourists that always visit the ancient town of Machina.

Bukar wrote from Gashua Road Damaturu, [babaaribukar2@yahoo.com](mailto:babaaribukar2@yahoo.com)



By Bukar Usman

## Nigeria's renewal of international engagement (III)

Cont'd. from yesterday.

**T**he basic point at issue is how best foreign concerns could interact with existing leadership to further their interest. Nigeria should therefore expect such ebbs from time to time in its foreign relations. At one time, it was the perception of Nigeria's lack of drive to deal with drug traffickers and financial crimes. At another it was the mere fact that it failed to embrace international prescription on how to handle its economy. The latter was evidenced by the introduction of the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) whose legacy of serious devaluation of the Naira the country is yet to recover from.

So, Dr. Jonathan's visit must not only be viewed against this background but also in the context of recent developments in Nigeria's domestic and foreign policies. Nigeria seems to have fallen short of US expectations on several fronts. But the visit seemed to have repaired the sour relationship between the two countries.

It is equally significant to note that the visit was undertaken shortly on assumption of full presidential powers conferred on Dr. Jonathan by the National Assembly under the "Doctrine of Necessity." Earlier, the country hosted two very important visitors, namely former US President George

In the final analysis, a lot of the perception of a particular country depends on what the international media make of it

W Bush Jr. and Mr Tony Blair, the former British Prime Minister. Both visitors paid a joint courtesy call on the then Acting President Jonathan.

**D**r. Jonathan's visit to the US was neither a state visit nor an official visit in the classic sense. State visits are pre-occupied with pomp and pageantry to celebrate exceptionally warm relationship, while official visits are business-like affairs, fashioned between two sovereign nations. Dr. Jonathan's was a hybrid of the two in that he went there ostensibly to attend nuclear talks in a multilateral forum. The bilateral talks which ensued were somewhat side shows which were fully exploited by both countries to sort out issues. Indeed, eyebrows were raised as to the place of Nigeria in the nuclear talks when suspect countries, which seem to possess nuclear capabilities, were not invited or declined to attend.

Several weeks after Dr. Jonathan's historic visit, its significance in Nigeria-US bilateral relations and the issues are becoming clearer as they come into proper context. On

the Nigerian side, it is gratifying to note that Dr. Goodluck Jonathan and entourage were received with pomp and pageantry in the US, thereby enhancing legitimacy in the eyes of some Nigerians and in the international community. That perhaps explains Farouk Kperogi's conclusion to the effect that the whole point of the visit "was to impress Americans and buy himself and Nigeria legitimacy in the process..." (P.42, *Weekly Trust*, April 24, 2010). Many would hardly contest that conclusion. But there are many more matters arising. The US has delisted Nigeria from the list of suspect terrorist countries much to the relief of both countries in the conduct of their bilateral and multilateral relations. A bilateral commission was also given a new impetus.

**V**iewing former Acting President Jonathan's US visit as a renewal of engagement with the international community may not be wrong, but it should be understood that it has a price. A country pays a price when in an interdependent world its policies and actions worthwhile as they may be to its own interests run counter to foreign concerns and such established formidable international organisations as IMF, World Bank, OECD, WTO and UN Commission on Human Rights which were set up by or subject to remote control by some powerful countries or groups of them with similar orientation or ideology.

In the final analysis, a lot of the perception of a particular country depends on what the international media make of it. A country has had it when it comes under media search light. Nigeria is currently passing through that phase. As a matter of fact, the disconnection is not only with the international community but also with the citizens of the country. The disconnection is the product of cumulative failures in its domestic and foreign policies.

It needs to be emphasised, in conclusion, that in the short and long run, for government in Nigeria to fully reconnect with its citizens and the international community, it requires not only a higher level of transparency in elections but also improved power and energy supplies. The twin problems have not only seriously retarded Nigeria's progress in many areas of endeavour and the full exploitation of our great potentials, but are also largely responsible for the maladies the country is suffering. Nigeria needs to be in a more liveable condition for all.

With the demise of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua on May 5, 2010 and the swearing in of Dr. Ebele Goodluck Jonathan the following day as the President, Commander in Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the nation naturally looks up to him for solution to the internal problems and consolidation of the international engagement.

Concluded.  
Usman, a former Federal Permanent Secretary, wrote from Abuja.



By Rufa'i Khalid

## Yar'adua: And the crocodile tears flowed

Cont'd. from yesterday.

Are they to use voice vote for the passage of the proposed amendments as one single item? Are they to vote on the amendments clause by clause and with the option to accept and reject some clauses? Are civil society groups and organisations comfortable with the amendments that will go to the State Assemblies and are in a good stead to canvass for their adoption by the State Assemblies?

Coterminous to this is to engage both Houses of the National Assembly as they consider amendments to the Electoral Act, 2006. The Nigerian people and indeed civil society groups and organisations paid so much attention to the amendment to the Constitution. This is understandable as the Constitution is the fundamental law of the land and straitening loose ends of the Constitution and making it people friendly will go a long way in firming up constitutional democracy and putting Nigeria on the path of democratic growth and progress.

However, attention must be paid to the amendments proposed to the Electoral Act, 2006. The Electoral Act, 2006 establishes the electoral management body and regulates the conduct and organisation of various categories of elections. It defines offences and prescribes punishment for them.

The huge challenges that have threatened the electoral process especially during the build up to the 2007 elections arose from the interpretation and or wrong interpretation and application of the Electoral Act, 2006. These challenges revolved around the substitution of candidates, the qualification and disqualification of candidates, the registration of political parties, the role of Presiding Officers, the voters register and electoral dispute resolution. Hence, the consideration of amendments to the Electoral Act, 2006 is a very important assignment and if we get both documents right, we can then focus properly on the integrity and morality of the political elite in Nigeria.

We must therefore on no account presume that that all is well with the electoral process and then go to bed expecting free, fair and transparent elections in 2011. There are things to be done to get the electoral process on the path of healthy growth.

We must fashion ways and means of preventing the political elite from recruiting criminal gangs to terrorize the voters and snatching their votes from them. This is because the business of recruiting criminal gangs for unwholesome electoral purposes is not limited to a single political party.

We must carry out a comprehensive audit of the staff of the electoral management body in the 774 Local Governments in Nigeria. Who are they? What are their qualifications? Who recruited them and how were they recruited? How did they perform in previous elections? These are pertinent questions as they are the ones that really conduct elections. They are the ones that receive sensitive and non sensitive materials. They are the ones that hire vehicles for the transportation of election materials. They are the ones that collate the votes at the base level. We must pay serious attention to what they do and whether they are in the payroll of anti democratic forces.

We must acknowledge the challenge of lack of democracy in the existing political parties. A party and some of their members who do not respect or abide by the Constitution of their parties may not have regard for the Nigerian Constitution and the Electoral Act, 2006. We must review the processes of party primary elections and allow the people to decide rather than the Governors and god father making a choice and giving them a choice less choice.

We must re-engage the constitutional and electoral reform and review process. Time is really of the essence in the whole issue of constitutional and electoral review and reform. The 2011 election is around the corner. Politicians are already strategizing and positioning for the 2011 elections. The issue of constitutional and electoral reform is gradually slipping off the agenda.

Unless we regain the momentum and force the political elite to re-focus on constitutional and electoral reform, the amendments being proposed if eventually made can only be of use and relevant for the 2015 elections.

We must remain focused, vigilant and creative and not despair. Despair is the enemy of democracy and as a developing democracy; we cannot afford the luxury of despair. The future of free, fair and transparent elections lies in a credible constitutional and electoral framework as well as a political elite ready and willing to embrace the concept of one man, one vote and one woman one vote.

Concluded.

Okoye, a lawyer, was a member of the Electoral Reform Committee.

## Your Letters

Send your letters to [letters@dailytrust.com](mailto:letters@dailytrust.com)

## Re: Illegal operators in the financial sector

With reference to your publication in the *Daily Trust* of Monday 12th April 2010 on the prevalence of illegal operators in the financial sector we, on behalf of some hundreds of thousand Nigerian investors, humbly seek your indulgence to save our souls from imminent extermination as a result of our innocent investment made into these investment houses, that were on the application of the Securities and Exchange Commission, restrained from carrying on business as fund managers by the Investment and Securities Tribunal in case No. ST/OA/17/07 on the tribunal judgment dated 3rd

day of July 2008.

For almost three years now, we went through the struggle and pain of wanting to hear a favourable pronouncement on refund of our hard-earned money tied down in the name of assisting us, but to no avail.

Today we have recorded not only liquidation of businesses, loss of consciousness, paralysis, but death! When has it become a crime to invest in a company that not only paraded their certificates of incorporation from CAC but also used national dailies to publish their adverts without any reaction from the regulatory bodies!

While we are not against these companies doing their business the way the regulatory bodies want it done, our concern is our held-up investments, as there will be no justice in waiting for the discovering of new ones after the first 37 wonder bank issue has been ascertained and determined.

I don't represent any 'wonder bank' or regulatory agency. I sup-

ported the SEC against the activities of the wonder banks during proceedings of the tribunal that handled their case.

We have severally, since the case was completed, been to both the regulatory bodies and the inter-agency committee assigned with the responsibility of refunding the confirmed investors. But we have always been told that the money is there, frozen in their accounts and that they have completed their scrutiny, and awaiting CBN to give them the financial backing and directive to start the payment.

Despite numerous correspondences to the CBN, SEC, the tribunal itself, Senate Committee on Capital Market, IG of Police on the matter, we only got silence in response.

We are asking for justice. It is not fair that years after the matter had been settled, our money is still being withheld.

Musa Alkali, [investorsforum-bida@yahoo.com](mailto:investorsforum-bida@yahoo.com)

## Text us on 08 131 8000 30

## Why make it religious matter?

I wonder why political issues should be merged with religion. Must Kaduna State be governed only by a Muslim? We are all Nigerians, for crying out loud! SARATU Galadima, Abuja, 08083141784.

## Learn from Edo

GOVERNANCE is now religious affair. Please leave religion out of politics. There are more Christians in Kaduna than there are Muslims in Edo State, where Adams Oshiomhole, a Muslim, is Governor. Nobody raised eyebrows when he was declared winner by the court. FRANCIS, Abuja, 08034513289.

## Wrong, Idang Alibi

IN your open letter to Goodluck Ebele Jonathan on Thursday, May 13, 2010, you said you "hate presidential zoning of the PDP". I ask you, Don't you know that without PDP's zoning Goodluck Jonathan wouldn't have been Deputy Governor of Bayelsa state, without zoning he wouldn't be Governor of Bayelsa, again without zoning he wouldn't be vice president of the federal Republic of Nigeria, talk less of the President of the country? SHERIFF Modu Maiduguri, 08063660211.

## Immortalizing Yaradua?

PROVIDE 6000 megawatts of electricity and dedicate it to his memory. IBRAHIM Garba, 08063421886.

## Re-Water supply scarcity in Gashu'a

WHICH Gashu'a? In Yobe? No such thing is being experienced in Gashu'a. EL-ZAGATAM Katuzu, Gashu'a, Yobe State, 08036890970.

## What's good for OBJ is good for comedians

OBASANJO should be left alone. I believe he love Jesus Christ more than so-called pastors do. In public shows, comedians display and call the name of Jesus carelessly; no one among men of God rebukes them. 08033217468.

# DAILY TRUST

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

## Lessons from British election

**B**ritons went to the polls earlier this month to elect a new parliament. The outcome was a defeat for the Labour Party that had been in power for most of thirteen years. Failing to secure the number of seats required to retain its headship of the government of the United Kingdom, Prime Minister Gordon Brown of the Labour Party stepped down, not only as head of Her Majesty's Government, but also as Labour leader. In the polls conducted May 10, the Conservative Party was tops with 37 percent of the total votes cast, with 306 seats in parliament, followed by Labour which moved from its 2005 comfortable lead to a second position with 258 membership seats or 30% votes.

The Liberal Democrats which came third had only 57 seats in parliament or 24% of the votes cast. Others shared 10 percent of the votes. With the first hung parliament since World War II, a coalition government was the most likely outcome, and the liberals were the most sought as partners by both the Conservatives and Labour. The Liberal Democrats' decision to join the Conservative Party in the coalition led to the downfall of Brown and Labour.

**P**undits ascribe Labour's failure to the backlash of the financial scandal that trailed the allowances for Members of Parliament months before the elections. Although the scandal smeared all the political parties, the British electorate believed that Labour, being at the head of the government should be punished for not taking tough measures to prevent the scandal. There is also the fact that having been in power since the late 1990's, the British national mood is decidedly anti Labour. Although Brown had opted for a lesser compromise deal with his offer for resignation as leader of the party by June, he was forced to step down after the refusal of the Liberal Democrats to enter into alliance with it. The aftermath of the spiral of events led to the swearing in of David Cameron as head of government and Liberal Democrats leader Nick Clegg as deputy prime minister.

The new coalition government, which observers have described as coalition of the strange bedfellows has already set out to work, with a new cabinet. The coalition is unusual in the sense that the Conservatives are Euro-sceptics while the Liberal Democrats are Europhiles.

**A** few things stand to be learnt from the results of the elections and the subsequent resolution of a budding crisis. One is an electoral process that virtually everyone adjudged was fair, the polls themselves were credible in spite of the loud complaints of the few who could not vote in the election. The credibility of the process cannot be compared with most elections in other parts of the world, especially in Africa. The second lesson is the ability of the government in power to correctly read the mood of the electorate and draw the appropriate conclusions there from. In most parts of Africa, Brown would have either manipulated the electoral process or continued to stay on creating constitutional crisis which would have battered not just the image of the government but that of the country.

Another lesson it would appear is the ability of the forces involved in the political process to align in the interest of their country. It was also interesting to note that in an era of less people interested in elections, more UK citizens registered and cast ballots at the polls. Most people see it as the best form of protest. Africa stands to learn from the peaceful nature of the elections, the credibility of the process, the decision by the government to abide by the rules of the game and their capacity to quit when it became obvious that the people no longer wanted them.

**KABIRU A. YUSUF:** Chairman/Chief Executive Officer  
**ISIAQ AJIBOLA:** Managing Director/Chief Operating Officer  
**MANNIR DAN ALI:** Executive Director/Editor-in-Chief  
**ALI M. AKOSHILE:** General Manager, Business & Strategy  
**MAHMUD JEGA:** Editor, Daily Trust  
**SHEHU O. MOHAMMED:** Asst. General Manager, Finance  
**GARBA ALIYU ABUBAKAR:** Asst. General Manager (IT)  
**ABDULKADIR ALIYU:** Head, Advert

e-mail: [opinion@dailytrust.com](mailto:opinion@dailytrust.com)

## Kaduna: In support of the Sultan

*"Why should anyone feel that a Christian should not be the governor of Kaduna State? This country is multi-ethnic and multi-religious, and anyone can aspire to lead it. That does not in any way stop Muslims from practicing their religion. It does not stop them from demanding for their rights and protecting their interests."*

-- Sultan Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar

**E**ven before the Sultan Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar made the above statement, I had arrived at the same conclusion with friends who called to inform me that there was simmering tension in Kaduna State over the religious identity of Patrick Yakowa, who as the current Deputy Governor is constitutionally in line to be sworn in as the new Kaduna State Governor, if as expected, the incumbent Namadi Sambo, is cleared to be sworn in as the new Vice President of the Republic.

My take on the matter was simple: why should the religion of the man (Yakowa) matter more than his character, competence and ability to discharge his functions? But then, these are not ordinary times in Nigeria. Decades of bad governance and incompetent leadership compounded by a worsening economy has led many Nigerians to become shamelessly intolerant of one another. We are perpetually at each others throats and kill at the flimsiest excuse as the crisis on the Plateau and elsewhere reminded us.

**S**ince his inauguration a few years ago, his Eminence, the Sultan of Sokoto Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar, has done many things to warm himself into the hearts of most peace loving Nigerians. Within a short period of time the Sultan has travelled far and wide in the search of peace and harmony among Nigerians of diverse backgrounds and religious persuasions.

The Sultan's latest intervention for the sake of our peaceful coexistence is yet another uncommon act from a monarch who has few illusions on the enormous burden destiny has thrust upon his shoulders. Not only is he conscious of the root causes of our rabid underdevelopment, it has become obvious from the content of his statements that he has a few cultured ideas on the abysmal effects of bad and incompetent leadership on our dear nation.

**I**n a land where hunger has driven many to the brink of lunacy, it has become imperative for us all to begin to interrogate the root causes of all our social problems. Today, it is apparent that bad leadership resides at the heart of most of the problems Nigerians are confronted with presently. It has not only taken up permanent residency in our corridors of power, it exists in the pulpit and even the mosques, nationwide. It has no ethnic or religious boundaries.

If the issue of bad leadership in the corridors of power is the

## Muhammad Al-Ghazali

[ghazalism@dailytrust.com](mailto:ghazalism@dailytrust.com),  
08052100432 (SMS only)

more common of our social foibles, there is every reason to suggest that even the clergy have not been less culpable in recent times. That explains why I must hasten to add that for a secular nation such as ours, it is wrong for the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) to begin to make statements that gives it the appearance of a political party, in the same manner that it will be wrong for the Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs (SCIA) or the Jamaatu Nasir Islam, to

play, and swore that Yakowa could easily be rigged back into office after 2011. Nothing I had to say could sway them and in fairness to them, some of their views were quite compelling.

**S**till, like I suggested earlier, I agree completely with the Sultan that Muslims have nothing to fear from any Christian leader provided they will not be forced to forfeit their religion or suffer from any form of social persecution.

And when the Sultan also urged Muslims to protect their rights I believe he was talking about the very crucial matter of responsible citizenship which Nigerians have taken for granted for ages at our collective cost.

If we rise to protect our votes,

**Obasanjo or not, let the Muslims of Kaduna shower Patrick Yakowa with sufficient love, loyalty and obedience when he becomes the Governor and see how he reacts**

intervene to in ways that interferes in the decisions of Muslims on matters that are strictly in the political realm. The Sultan is the Chairman of both organizations, by the way.

That is why the Sultan's timely comments, which underscored the secular nature of the nation are so important because in the past several months it has become obvious that some clergymen simply do not know where, or when to draw the line between religion and politics.

But we must not rely on the Sultan alone to serve as a moral compass on this matter. Much as most reasonable Nigerians will applaud his judgement on the matter, it is also hugely significant that it was an indictment of all Nigerians for their lack of responsible citizenship! We shall return to this point in due course.

**I**n the meantime, it seems like the morbid fear of political persecution, as much as religious intolerance, is behind the anxieties of the few people who have spoken to me about the unfolding events in Kaduna state. I found it difficult to convince others who saw the hands of the former President Olusegun Obasanjo in Jonathan's choice of Architect Namadi Sambo to fill the VP slot.

As far as they were concerned, the choice of Sambo was part of an elaborate conspiracy to install a Christian as the Chief Executive of Kaduna state as part of the strategies being hatched to actualize President Goodluck Jonathan's successful return as president after 2011.

They suggested that the desperate divide and rule tactics of the Obasanjo was very much at

no leader can ever be imposed on us. When we work to strengthen our democratic structures and institutions even the vilest and despicable despot will become impotent in our hands.

What many seem to have forgotten is that long before Mahatma Ghandi and Martin Luther King Junior, the holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) defined the essence of peaceful resistance.

**I**t was only when his followers were being hunted and slaughtered that the Jihad became necessary as a survival strategy. We must never deviate from his teachings.

Obasanjo or not, let the Muslims of Kaduna shower Patrick Yakowa with sufficient love, loyalty and obedience when he becomes the Governor and see how he reacts. If he is a genuine Christian, and not someone who routinely mocks his maker like Obasanjo, he will never betray their trust. And if he does the provisions are there to peacefully remove him from office for the breach of his oath! It is that simple.

But there is one other important reason why we all need to exercise maximum responsibility and restraint on this matter. If the Muslims and Christians in Kaduna navigate this issue with sufficient grace and sincerity, it will put a certain diminutive political journeyman on the plateau who feasts on religious discord to mask his leadership deficiencies to shame. The people of Kaduna state must look at the big picture for our collective good.

In the meantime, I say once again, long live the Sultan for his civilized and cultured intervention.

# AFRICA REPORT

## Somali president vows to appoint new PM

SOMALIA'S speaker resigned yesterday and President Sheikh Sharif Ahmed said he would appoint a prime minister in what analysts saw as a deal to clear the decks for a new stable government in the Horn of Africa nation.

Meeting for the first time on Sunday since December, Somalia's parliament voted overwhelmingly to oust Prime Minister Omar Abdirashid Sharmarke

and his Western-backed government. Some also voted to remove speaker Sheikh Aden Madobe.

Analysts said the president's move was likely decided in a deal with the speaker and the prime minister to save the government from total disintegration and that the president would likely to reappoint Sharmarke.

"It is a sort of compromise to save the government from a total

collapse. It is likely that the president will reappoint the current prime minister, as long as they had no rift between them," Rashid Abdi, an analyst on Somalia at the International Crisis Group.

Parliamentary business has been paralysed this year, with many legislators living in Kenya, Europe and America because of security fears in the war-riven country.

The chamber has also been split by a bitter feud over the duration of Madobe's term in office and his competence.

Analysts say Ahmed has failed to unite some of the country's warring factions and establish a greater degree of central power that many had hoped at his election in January 2009.

"I do not think the president's announcement is to increase

confusion in the system," said Abdirahman Moalim Badiyow, history professor at Mogadishu University.

"The resignation of the speaker and the president's decision seems to be a gentlemen's agreement paving the way for a new start.

And that new beginning will depend on the incoming speaker and prime minister."

ABOUT two million South African train commuters have been left stranded as two major transport unions widened a strike which began last week.

The unions have called on their members working for the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (Prasa) to stop working in a dispute over pay.

The vast majority of staff at Transnet - the country's main transporter of freight - are already on strike. South Africa is preparing to host the World Cup, which starts on 11 June.

Nearly 12,000 members of the United Transport and Allied Trade Union (Utatu) and the South African Transport and Allied Workers Union (Satawu) are on strike at Prasa, disrupting local Metro-rail and long-distance Shosholoz Meyl passenger rail services, the South African Press Association reports. A Metrorail spokesperson in KwaZulu-Natal province told Sapa that no trains were operating yesterday, leaving 180,000 passengers without transport.

The unions want a 16% pay rise for Prasa staff, while Prasa is offering an eight percent increase, Sapa says. Last week, thousands of staff at Transnet went on strike, crippling rail and port services across the country. Transnet transports thousands of tonnes of freight daily by train, as well as loading and unloading goods at South African ports.

## S/African transport strike leaves passengers stranded



RAILWAY tracks are seen near Moses Mabhida Stadium which is being built for the 2010 FIFA World Cup in Durban

## Campaigning starts for Guinea's poll amid fears of dispute

GUINEA'S first election since a military coup in 2008 to establish democracy in the mineral exporting country and bring it back into the international fold has begun with candidates campaigning.

The presidential vote, scheduled for June 27, will be pivotal for a region ravaged by civil wars, armed power-grabs and rigged elections, and offers Guinea a chance at its first genuinely free poll since independence from France in 1958.

"I hope these elections (...) will allow the people of Guinea to freely choose their leaders, allow the establishment of democracy, and above all allow Guinea to re-enter the international community," said Alpha Conde, head of political party the RPG.

## Algerian accused over French tourist kidnap in Niger

AN Algerian driver has been accused in Niger of complicity in the kidnapping of French tourist Michel Germaneau. The driver was abducted along with Mr Germaneau in a remote part of northern Niger close to the border with Mali and Algeria in April, but later released.

He has now been returned to a prison in Niger, where he has been charged, sources have told

Reuters news agency.

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) claims to be holding the Frenchman. It has seized several tourists recently.

The US is currently conducting a military training exercise in the region to help countries such as Mali, Niger and Mauritania tackle al-Qaeda.

The kidnapping of 78-year-old Mr Germaneau and his driver

near Tiguidan Tessoun happened just days after the four Saharan countries opened a military base in Algeria to counter AQIM.

A few days after the kidnapping the driver was found wandering around in the Malian desert by camel riders and returned to Algeria. AQIM is believed to earn money from ransom payments for hostages, although this is never officially confirmed.

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 48th Annual General Meeting of Sterling Bank Plc will be held at AMBER Tinapa Hotel, Tinapa Business & Leisure Resort, Calabar, Cross River State on Thursday, the 17th day of June, 2010 at 11.00 a.m. to transact the following business:

## ORDINARY BUSINESS

- To receive the Audited Financial Statements for the period ended 31st December, 2009, together with the Reports of the Directors, Auditors and the Audit Committee thereon.
- To elect/ re-elect Directors.
- To approve the remuneration of the Directors.
- To authorize the Directors to fix the remuneration of the Auditors.
- To elect members of the Audit Committee.

## SPECIAL BUSINESS

To consider and, if thought fit, pass the following resolutions as Special Resolutions:

- That the Articles of Association of the Company be and is hereby amended as follows:
  - By deleting Article 72(1) and substituting the following as Article 72(1):
 

"There shall be a Board of Directors consisting of not less than nine (9) and not more than twenty (20), made up of not less than four (4) and not more than eight (8) Executive Directors who shall be employees of the Company and Directors appointed under Articles 75 and 76 hereunder"
  - By deleting Article 79 (1) and substituting the following as Article 79(1):
 

"The Board of Directors shall appoint not less than four (4) and not more than eight (8) Executive Directors one of whom shall be the Managing Director and Chief Executive of the Company either for a fixed term or subject to regulatory capping as to the period for which they are to hold such office, and may from time to time remove or dismiss any Executive Director from office and appoint another or others in his or their place or places"
- "That in line with the directives of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), the Financial year end of the Bank be and is hereby changed from 30th September to 31st December"
- "That additional capital up to N100 billion or its equivalent in foreign denominated currency(ies) be raised through any or a combination of the following: equity, quasi equity, convertible loans, and/or any other debt equity, by way of offer for subscription (whether foreign or local) to the general public with or without preferential allotment, or rights issue to existing shareholders, or by way of a special/private placing to a strategic investor(s) upon such terms and conditions to be determined by the Directors and approval of the regulatory authorities"
- "That in the event of oversubscription of the Offer, to capitalize the excess monies and allot additional shares to the extent that can be accommodated by the Bank's un-issued share capital and that the proceeds should be used for the same purpose as the Offer"
- "That the Directors be authorized to take all necessary steps including initiating and negotiating mergers and/or acquisition or any other form of business combination or arrangement with any company/companies or institution(s) whether foreign or local"

## NOTES

## 1. PROXY


A member entitled to attend and vote at the General Meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his/her stead. A proxy need not be a member of the Company. To be valid, the Proxy form must be duly stamped at the Stamp Duties office and returned to the Registrar, Sterling Registrars Limited, Akuro House (8th floor), 24 Campbell Street, Lagos not less than 48 hours prior to the time of the meeting.

## 2. AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee consists of three Shareholders and three Directors. In accordance with section 359(5) of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990, any shareholder may nominate a shareholder for appointment to the Audit Committee by giving notice in writing of such nomination to the Company Secretary at least twenty-one (21) days before the Annual General Meeting.

The Central Bank of Nigeria in its Code of Corporate Governance for banks stipulates that members of the Audit Committee should be knowledgeable in internal control processes.

## BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

  
Justina Lewa  
Company Secretary  
20 Marina,  
Lagos

Dated this 14th day of May, 2010

Sterling Bank Plc  
Head Office: Sterling Towers 20, Marina, P.M.S. 12735, Lagos.  
Tel.: (01) 260 0420-9, 260 0850-9, 270 2300-8, 260 0890-2  
website: www.sterlingbankng.com



BC No. 2332

## Middle East &amp; Asia



## Airplane with 43 on board crashes in Afghanistan

A local Pamir Airways plane with 38 passengers and five crew on board, including six foreigners, crashed in Afghanistan's inaccessible, mountainous Hindu Kush region near Kabul yesterday, officials said.

"I can confirm that an aircraft carrying 38 passengers plus five crew has crashed somewhere in Salang Pass," Interior Ministry spokesman Zemarai Bashary told Reuters after receiving a report from the private Afghan airline.

Three Britons were on board the flight, the British Embassy in Kabul said. One American was also on the plane, the U.S. Embassy in the city said.

The Salang pass lies around 100 km

(60 miles) north of Kabul at an altitude of about 13,350 feet. The cause of the crash was not immediately known, but it came amid cloudy and rainy weather in Kabul and its surrounding areas.

The head of Pamir Airways and officials from the interior and transport ministries went to the Salang pass to help the search but no wreckage had been found yet.

A deputy minister for civil aviation and transport, Raaz Mohammad Alami, told Reuters the plane was an Antonov 24 and that six of the passengers were foreigners. He had no further details on their identities.

One Afghan passenger on board worked for GTZ, a German state aid organisation.

## Abbas to meet US envoy on May 19

PALESTINIAN president Mahmud Abbas is to meet US envoy George Mitchell tomorrow to discuss final-status issues in indirect peace talks with Israel, the chief Palestinian negotiator said.

Mitchell will then meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday, an Israeli official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

"The discussions

between Abbas and Mitchell tomorrow will concern final-status issues with Israel," head Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat told AFP, referring to core disputes in the decades-old conflict such as Jerusalem and Palestinian refugees.

"For now we will focus on the issues of borders and security in order to demarcate two states along the 1967 border," he added.

He warned however

that continued Israeli settlement activity, including in annexed east Jerusalem, could scupper the talks.

"The Israeli side has just two options, either peace or the continuation of the settlements. Israel cannot have both at the same time," he said. US officials have said Mitchell is expected in the region this week but they have not yet said when he would arrive or released details about his schedule.

## West dismisses Iran nuclear deal

EUROPEAN Union and British officials have said that a nuclear fuel swap deal agreed by Iran, Turkey and Brazil might not be enough to stop the US-led push for tougher sanctions against Tehran.

A spokeswoman for Catherine Ashton, the EU foreign policy chief, welcomed the deal yesterday, but said that the bloc still had "serious concerns" about Iran's nuclear programme.

The agreement, brokered by Brazil and Turkey, calls for Iran to ship 1.2 tonnes of low-enriched uranium to Turkey, in exchange for 120kg of highly-enriched

nuclear fuel rods for its power plant, according to official media.

Under the deal, signed on Monday, the swap would be carried out under the oversight of the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Iran would be allowed to send inspectors to Turkey to monitor the exchange.

The two men who helped negotiate the exchange plan - Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Turkey's prime minister, and Lula Inacio da Silva, Brazil's president - have both said that there are now no grounds for new sanctions against Iran.

## World

### David Miliband launches leadership bid

DAVID Miliband launched his bid to lead the Labour Party yesterday and called his brother and rival for the post "a huge talent".

Speaking at the Customs House in his constituency of South Shields, South Tyneside, Mr Miliband spoke fondly of his sibling Ed.

The 44-year-old former Foreign Secretary said he was "very proud" of his younger brother.

Mr Miliband said Labour must "reform, repair and reconnect in Opposition" and that required new leadership.

Yet he praised the two leaders he hoped to follow, saying: "Tony Blair over ten remarkable years and Gordon Brown, with historic courage, ability, insight, in three very difficult years have made Britain better."

But he stated that the era of Blairite and Brownite was now over, adding: "New Labour did fantastic things for the country, never let anyone take that away, but what counts is Next Labour."

In a 25 minute speech, which ended with a standing ovation from the audience and a hug from wife Louise, he stated he would run a clean campaign, without negative briefings against his rival candidates.

### Floods kill six as rains batter Europe

FLOODS triggered by days of torrential rain swept through Europe yesterday, killing at least six people, forcing the evacuation of thousands more and threatening the Auschwitz death camp site. Skip related content

The weather caused disruption in Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Serbia with fresh storms expected in many areas of central and southeastern Europe that have already been hit by a harsh winter.

In southern Poland, officials said three people died -- a man swept away while walking next to a river with his son; a 45-year-old man who drowned while returning from a shop; and a woman aged 60 who went missing Sunday.

A volunteer firefighter also died of a heart attack during a sandbagging operation to halt flood waters after days of rain, national fire brigade spokesman Pawel Fratzczak said.

About 2,000 people were being evacuated in the Krakow region, said Fratzczak, while houses, roads and railways between Krakow and the southern mountain resort of Zakopane were under water.

The former Nazi German death camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau was closed to visitors yesterday and staff were scrambling as flood waters swelled the nearby River Sola.



A fresh cloud of ash rises from the volcano under the Eyjafjallajokull glacier in Iceland

## Major European airports reopen after ash delays

THREE of Europe's busiest airports reopened yesterday afternoon after a dense volcanic ash cloud from Iceland dissipated and a no-fly zone was lifted. Up to 1,000 flights in Europe were affected by the closures.

Flights were landing and taking off from London's Heathrow and Gatwick airports and Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport, but all three warned travelers it would take time for airlines to clear the backlog of delayed flights and to contact their airlines before going to the airport.

Eurocontrol, the continent's air traffic control agency, said 28,000 flights were expected yesterday in Europe, about 1,000 less than normal, mainly due to the disruptions in Britain and the Netherlands.

Icelandic civil protection official Agust Gunnar Gylfason said the ash cloud was traveling to the north, forcing airports in Keflavik and Reykjavik to close. He said seismic activity at the volcano was unchanged.

All British, Scottish and Irish airspace was open at least until early Tuesday, but airspace over the North Sea was still restricted, affecting some helicopter operations.

British Airways chief executive Willie Walsh facing a fresh wave of strikes by cabin crews on Tuesday called the latest airspace closures "a gross overreaction to a very minor risk."

"I am very concerned that we have decisions on opening and closing of airports based on a theoretical model," he said. "There was no evidence of ash in the skies over London today yet Heathrow was closed."

Aviation officials have defended the decision to impose the no-fly zone, saying airline representatives and engine manufacturers last week had agreed to find a way to ensure planes could fly safely in the

volcanic ash. Britain's transportation minister, Philip Hammond, said aircraft manufacturers were examining evidence to see "what inspection regimes they can put in place that would allow safe flying through a somewhat higher threshold of ash."

"If we can do that, the likelihood of volcanic ash disrupting flights will obviously diminish," he said.

Germany sent up two test flights Sunday to measure the ash cloud, but there was no word yet on the results of those tests. Still, Germany said yesterday the latest ash cloud should not affect its airports. "At this time, the concentration of ash above German air space is so low that there are no reductions in air traffic," German Air Traffic Controllers said.

Ash can clog jet engines. The April 14 eruption at Iceland's Eyjafjallajokul volcano forced most countries in northern Europe to shut their airspace between April 15-20, grounding more than 100,000 flights and an estimated 10 million travelers worldwide. The shutdown cost airlines more than \$2 billion. Last week, the European air safety agency proposed drastically narrowing the continent's no-fly zone because of volcanic ash to one similar to that used in the US. The proposal still must be approved.

Eurostar added four extra trains yesterday an additional 3,500 seats between London and Paris to help travelers cope. Eyjafjallajokul (pronounced ay-yah-FYAH-lah-yer-kuhl) erupted in April for the first time in nearly two centuries. During its last eruption, starting in 1821, its emissions rumbled on for two years.

## NATO recommends increased defence spending despite crisis

NATO states must reverse a steep decline in defence spending despite economic constraints if the alliance is to meet the security threats it faces, experts said yesterday.

In a recommendation for NATO's new 10-year strategic vision, experts led by former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said only six of NATO's 26 European members were meeting their defence spending target

of two percent of GDP.

In the coming decade, NATO would not only have to meet its main goal of collective defence of its 28 members, but deploy forces further afield and guard against unconventional threats such as terrorism and cyber attack, the experts said.

"If NATO is to fulfil these ... missions successfully, it must halt the precipitous decline in national defence spending, implement new

reforms and efficiencies, and set priorities for future capabilities," the experts said.

NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen will use the recommendations from the experts to draft a new Strategic Concept, or mission statement, for approval by leaders of NATO states at a summit in Lisbon in November.

A NATO official said the six European countries cur-

rently meeting the NATO target included Greece, which has been hard hit by the debt crisis, its rival Turkey, and Britain, which, like Greece, is battling to reduce a massive budget deficit.

"We also talked about the necessity of fulfilling obligations that NATO membership brings, in terms of support for this alliance and the fact that it is an alliance in which there is shared responsibility," she told a news briefing.



KOGI STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

## CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. PRESIDENT

*To everything, there is a season,  
A time for every purpose under heaven,  
And convinced we are that  
Goodluck is an idea  
Whose time has come for Nigeria.*



**O**n behalf of the government and good people of Kogi State, I congratulate Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan (GCFR) on his assumption of office as the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria.



Signed:

**Alhaji Ibrahim Idris**

Executive Governor, Kogi State

# BUSINESS

0805 1000 536

For Helicopter flights to anywhere in Nigeria and direct flight into Abuja township call:

**OAS HELICOPTERS**  
Maryland Heliport, Ikeja, Lagos

GSM: +234 803 446 3432

+234 705 666 9020

web: www.oas-helicopter.com

E-mail: contact@oas-helicopters.com



CBN Governor Sanusi Lamido Sanusi. In the background is CBN headquarters in Abuja

## Experts fault CBN rules on 2-year term for directors

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

ECONOMIC experts and industry operators have faulted the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)'s recent pronouncement that limits the appointment of non-executive directors of banks to only two years.

CBN Governor Sanusi Lamido Sanusi said in Abuja last Friday that after the expiration of the two years, the directors' appointment may be renewed for another two years, subject to the approval of the apex bank.

A source from CBN said the law is not retroactive. Opeyemi Agabaje, an economist and a director in Lagos Business School was not happy with the CBN's rule.

He said it amounts to subverting the independence of board of directors and that it could lead to another crisis in the nation's banking and financial sector. "I must tell you that I am not happy. From my understanding CBN is too inclusive. Why should the directors go back after two years for renewal when it was the same CBN that approved their first two-year term? CBN as a regulator should not itself be manager of the banks. What purpose will it serve?", he asked.

Agbaje said going back to CBN for approval of directors would turn them to CBN appointees. "So, in 12 years, a particular bank will have to go to the CBN six times in 12 years just for the approval of directors. To me that

is not too good for our economy", he said.

Another expert, Frank Ogiamien of Pathfinder Securities said though he welcomed the development but that mal-practices can take place since the directors know that they have only two years to stay on the board.

He said: "It is a good development as it will remove individual directors from staying too long on the excuse of highest shareholders. It will also bring about fresh ideas while new blood will be injected into the system. "But my fear is that some directors may connive with their chief executive officers to perpetrate unethical practices since they know that they have limited term on the board." However, secretary of Independent Shareholders Association of Nigeria, Adeleke Adebisi said there was nothing new in what the CBN governor said, adding that the two-year tenure was introduced under Charles Soludo's as governor of the apex bank. He said there is an external auditor that audits the performance of the directors besides the CBN's internal auditors, adding that the directors have been going through yearly evaluation with the supervision of the CBN.

According to the Managing Director, Credit Registry, Taiwo Ayedun, the decision of the apex bank is welcomed as it would further strengthen investors' confidence in the nation's economy.

However, a member of the monetary

policy committee and a director in Lagos business school, Doyin Salami told Daily Trust that he would not want to comment on the policy since he is a part of the policy.

A bank official with BankPHB who pleaded anonymity said he would not want to challenge the decision of the CBN since it is the regulator.

Speaking on the two-year term limit for non-executive bank directors, the CBN governor Sanusi Lamido Sanusi added that remunerations and other incentives of non-executive directors must henceforth be made public at Annual General Meetings of the banks and such must be subject to the approval of shareholders. The governor said that by making the non-renewal of directors' tenures public, "it will force them to behave and probably stop them from getting directorship in other institutions."

In recognition of the high degree of violation of corporate governance best practices in the country, Sanusi advised Nigerian bank owners to subscribe to every known international corporate governance best practices if they want to be licensed to operate foreign branches.

"If you are not ready to comply with international best practices don't apply for licenses to operate abroad", he warned.

### BRIEF

## Stock market loses N9bn

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

TRADING activities on the floor of the Nigeria stock Exchange (NSE) ended on a bearish note yesterday despite assurances from the brokers that the market would remain active in the second quarter of the year.

Specifically, the market lost N9 billion to close at N6.65 trillion against the closed market capitalisation of N6.74 trillion last week. The all share index also closed at 27,383.91 point level. The market recorded a turnover of 2.25 billion shares worth N19.5 billion in 43,941 deals, in contrast to a total of 1.75 billion shares valued at N17.11 billion exchanged last week in 25,710 deals. A total of 282,083 million shares valued at N3.118 billion exchanged in 7,042 deals. Crusader Insurance recorded highest trading with 20,093,273 million valued at N18,741,158.98 billion, followed by Guaranty Trust bank with 19,894,801 million valued at N338,822,314.32 billion, First bank with 16,289,100 shares worth N240,913,794.53 billion. Last week, the Banking sub-sector was the most active during the week (measured by turnover volume) with 893.56 million shares worth N8.71 billion exchanged by investors in 20,207 deals.

### STOCK MARKET INDEX

Date:	Monday, May 17, 2010
Index:	27,753.13
Points:	7,842
Volume:	282,083,758
Market:	N 3,118,389,994.88
Cap.:	N 6,747,749,609,760.30

### TRUST INDEX

Inflation	11.8%
GDP	6.68%
Budget	N4.6tr
Ext. Reserves Acct	\$40.1bn
Excess Crude Acct	\$4.3bn
Poverty Ratio	54.4%
Monetary Policy Rate	6%
Banks	24
Oil Price	\$70 a barrel
Power Supply	3,700MW
Oil output per day	2.6mbd
Broad Money Supply	N11,010,063.6m
Credit to Private Sector	N10,037,422.5m
Inter-Bank Rate	1.2200%
Treasury Bills	1.3%
Deposit Rate	7.51%
Prime Lending Rate	18.06%

CBN EXCHANGE RATES			
14/5/2010	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)
CFA	0.2646	0.2746	0.2846
DANISH KRONE	24.7966	21.8095	21.9614
EURO	184.5556	185.1799	185.8042
INDONESIAN RUPIAH	215.1922	216.2212	216.9741
RIYAL	39.416	39.5494	39.6827
SAR	217.7685	218.9852	219.2118
SWISS FRANC	131.5972	132.0424	132.4875
US DOLLAR	117.81	118.11	118.81
WAU	217.9722	218.7096	219.4469
YEN	1.3962	1.4016	1.407

Bureau de Change Rates	
BUYING	
Dollar	N151
Euro	N195
Pound	N231
SELLING	
Dollar	N152
Euro	N198
Pound	N234

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



## Star Feature

# Many faces of digital

Digital lottery spearheaded by telecoms outfits, appears to be fast gaining ground in the country. Diverse reactions from Nigerians continue to trail its advent.

By Tosin Omoniyi

FOR Emerson Ubong, a 35 year old bank executive, his phones appeared to have gone crazy early that morning. Having slept late the previous night his mind was still befuddled, and he was trying to stimulate himself to alertness in preparation for another hectic day. Curiously, his phones were the ones that awoke him, a feat his bedside alarm machine had failed to achieve as usual. The ringing tone of an incoming message had drawn him from wonderland. He looked at the message on his phone which had an MTN sim card inserted. He sighed. It was the same message

employers, has come in. However, it is another 'opportunity' to become a millionaire. This time around the message is direct in tone: 'you are among the potential winner for ZAIN's N2m. in case you win, your name will be on the cheque. Send your name now to 222. Cost sms is N100. He drops the phone in exasperation, but almost immediately the phone beeps again as another message comes in. The phone company apparently assumes that his English proficiency is deficient, going by the content of the incoming message. 'You dey among the potential winners of ZAIN's N2m. If you win na your name the cheque go carry. Send your name now to 222. Sms cost N100,' it proudly announces in pidgin English. What a way to start a day, the youthful executive, mutters to himself as he rushes into the bathroom to escape the possible onslaught of other such offers by his indefatigable phone companies.

For many mobile phones, the above scenario plays out for them everyday, perhaps with slight modifications. Their phones are severally filled with messages from their phone companies offering chances to win monies, ranging from N2m to as much as N10m at times. The only catch however is the fact that they would have to part with a particular sum of money, in order to be considered for the largesse. In most cases the probability of winning is not spelt out clearly, and interested subscribers who are willing to part with the money or airtime simply have to pray for divine luck in order to win the jackpot.

For a few Nigerians such as Beatrice Nnaji, there is no harm in such actions, since life itself is a chance that must be tapped into constantly, in order to gain its many inherent benefits. The business woman says that she plays such lotteries on a daily basis, whenever she has credit on her phones. Although she says that she has never won a dime from her exertions that has in no way dissuaded her from engaging in it. 'I play the game whenever I can. The point is life is filled with opportunities, that come ones way on a daily basis. One does not know exactly when one can hit upon an opportunity that will turn around one's



IT is not unusual to be stopped in one's tracks by text messages promising one unlimited wealth.

life. It may be these games by the telecoms companies that will transform a person's life. Most of these companies are credible ones that have been known to have conducted themselves responsibly over the years, and I do not think they would want to soil their reputation by engaging in fraudulent activities that will mar their image. I play it and I do not think negatively about the process. I know, of course, everybody cannot win, and that guards me against disappointments,' she enthuses.

However many others do not apparently share Nnaji's optimism. For this group of Nigerians, the efforts are a waste of time and resources. One of them is 35 year old Ibrahim Aka an events manager resident in the capital city. He believes the lotteries were another channel through which the mobile phone companies were milking hapless Nige-

rians mercilessly. He calls on the relevant authorities to look into their activities with the aim of checking such behaviors which he says are fraudulent. 'I think the messages are fraudulent and wicked. The companies are busy milking Nigerians of their hard earned resources, yet they still look for other means to further impoverish the people. The tariffs are high, the people are poor. The companies smile to the banks, while those that use their services because they have no other option, are left in the lurch. To add insult to injury they then expect this same set of people they are cheating, to still play their silly games and lose more money. This is not right. How many people have actually won these monies they spiritedly promise? How many of them have they presented to the public. Even if some people have won as they always claim, how

are we sure it is not just a way of deceiving people, and that the 'winners' are not part of the whole game of deception. Anytime such text messages come in, I immediately delete them. I have no time for such frivolities. I believe money comes from hard work and God's favor,' he asserts vigorously.

Another respondent, Ngozi Ungwoke, although not as irate as the last respondent, states that the telecoms company should look for more innovative ways at improving on the lifestyle of their numerous subscribers, if that is the actual reason they carry out such lotteries. She adds, 'the people are suffering. Maybe just a few rich ones can afford to play the games, but I can assure you that not many can comfortably recharge their phones on a daily basis. Some can actually go without airtime on their phones for several days, not because they want it that way, but because they cannot afford it due to the bad economy. How do you then expect the people to play lottery with the little credit they have on their phones, more so when the possibility of winning is slim. If they want to help out people, then there are

**Mohammed Baba... says that lottery in all its forms is gambling."**

that his phones had been inundated with, for quite a number of days now. He was being offered the opportunity to become a millionaire overnight in a lottery that was being organized by the telecoms company. All he had to do was to indicate interest by replying the message, and a sum of N100 would be deducted from his account. However the chances of his becoming the lucky winner amongst millions of subscribers, are not properly outlined in the text message.

As he makes to leave the comfort of his bed, his other phone with the ZAIN sim card rings. The sound is equally as startling as his other phone, and he quickly picks it up thinking that an alert that his salary has been paid into his account by his

# Lottery

Wikipedia online describes lottery as 'a form of gambling which involves the drawing of lots for a prize. Some governments outlaw it, while others endorse it to the extent of organizing a national or state lottery. It is common to find some degree of regulation of lottery by governments. At the beginning of the 20th century, most forms of gambling, including lotteries and sweepstakes, were illegal in many countries, including the U.S.A. and most of Europe. This remained so until after World War II. In the 1960s casinos and lotteries began to appear throughout the world, as a means to raise revenue in addition to taxes.'

It adds, 'The purchase of lottery tickets is, from the perspective of classical economics, irrational. However, in addition to the chance of winning, the ticket may enable some purchasers to experience a thrill and to indulge in a fantasy of becoming wealthy. If the entertainment value (or other non-monetary value) obtained by playing is high enough for a given individual, then the purchase of a lottery ticket could represent a gain in overall utility. In such a case, the monetary loss would be outweighed by the non-monetary gain, thus making the purchase a rational decision for that individual.'

Mohammed Baba, an Islamic scholar at the Central Mosque in Dutse says that lottery in all its forms is gambling, an act that is frowned upon by God. He opines that God only rec-



PETER Igho, DG, National Lottery Regulation Commission.

ognizes hard work as a tool for prosperity. 'Any process that is predicated on probability and chance, is not a right method for acquiring wealth. While God may in some cases smile upon an individual by blessing him or her through providence, it is expected that every individual engages in work to earn a living. Taking the easy way out by playing lottery or gambling, is not accepted as a means of getting riches. It is simply a lazy man's action that must be condemned,' he notes.

His view is buttressed by a minister at the Evangelical Church of West Africa, ECWA, Jikwoyi, elder Kenneth who says pointedly that a Christian who

engages in any form of lottery goes against the dictates of God. He notes inter alia that, 'God expects everyman to work with his hands in order to eat. Getting money through easy means is not good. The scriptures even states in proverbs 1:32 that the turning of the simple will kill them, and the prosperity of fools will destroy them. This means that when you go against the normal process of acquiring anything the end is dangerous.'

However Peter Igho Director General National Lottery Regulatory Commission, NLRC says that when lottery is properly regulated it could serve as an incommensurate advantage for Nigerians, as well as the nation

in entirety. 'If you ask a hundred Nigerians what they know about lottery, I believe that over 90% of them will think it is something that is negative or is 419 (advanced fee fraud), some of them who have experienced it, will describe it as an adventure that is insincere, where there is a lot of irresponsibility and lack of transparency. However that is not the true picture of what lottery is all about. Lottery has been used all over the ages and in so many countries to raise money for good causes.'

He says that the NLRC was set up by an Act in 2005 to regulate the industry, issue licenses and ensure transparency and in integrity in the industry and also protect the interest of stakeholders, that is those who play and invest in lottery. 'The act states clearly that 50% of the proceeds must go back to the people as prizes...it also says that 20% of the same proceeds must be put in a Trust Fund again for the people. In that fund whoever has an NGO, a social group that wants to help the society can apply for the fund, whether for arts, movies, scholarship, health, sports, or if the cause is worthy and will enhance the population or impact positively on society. In essence in every lottery 70% of the proceeds should go back to the people. That is why we must supervise every lottery to ensure that there is transparency and there is integrity, that the right people are given those prizes.'

He gives an assurance to skeptics: 'in the next 6 months I can assure you that with the support that we have gotten from the government now in terms of funding, we are going to be everywhere educating the people, so that at the end of the day people will be doing it with passion that there is a lot to be gained from lottery...'



er ways like helping people with funds start private businesses, that will better r lot...'

Lottery has been used all over the ages and in so many countries to raise money for good causes.



MERIT House, headquarters of the National Lottery Regulation Commission.

## Northern Business

# Ebira traditional looms spinning to a halt?

By Idris Ahmed, who was in Okene

MRS Onyi Bariki's nimble fingers dove in and out of the locally built loom as though dancing to a rhythm that only her could hear. As she paused to feed the loom, she explained that traditional looms, once famous in Ebiraland, seem to be in their final death spin.

"Traditional cloth weaving, which Ebira women once took pride in is now a dying craft here in Okene," she said, turning back to the spinning loom.

Mrs Bariki, a widowed mother of five, is among the few women who are still actively involved in the business of traditional cloth weaving in Okene, the traditional headquarters of the Ebira people of North-central Nigeria.

Okene boasts a population of about 900,000 and lies further west of the city of Lokoja, a former British colonial outpost that straddles the confluence of Nigeria's largest rivers, Niger and Benue.

"In the past when thread, the major raw material of our trade, was still easily affordable, we would simply produce large quantities of the local textile and simply take to the market to sell," she says.

"But nowadays, we simply wait for people who need supplies to actually place the order before we return to the loom."

#### A forgotten craft?

The local textile 'factories' of the Ebira people are traditionally operated by the women while the men engage in mainly subsistence farming.

But now, even the women are abandoning their age-old craft due to a mix of dwindling demand and the cost of raw materials.

But like some of her remaining breed, Mrs Bariki does not have plenty of options and so is stuck in



MRS Onyi Bariki displaying her skills of the Ebira traditional looms.

a trade that is barely able to support her five children.

"In the past, being the owner of a loom meant pride, dignity and economic self-sufficiency here," she says. "But not anymore. Now, we are only scrapping by. Perhaps, I'd have joined my colleagues to look for a more profitable trade, but my options aren't many."

Not more than two decades ago, a good number of Ebira women were like Mrs Bariki - steadily weaving their way to wealth and supporting their families.

Today, few of them who are involved in the vocation say it

is because they have no other options. Like the larger textile industry in Nigeria, the tradition is dying in Ebiraland.

But despite falling profits, Mrs Bariki has been able to see her first daughter through secondary school with proceeds from her loom. Unfortunately, the loom does not spin enough money to sustain university education and so Mrs Bariki has taken the difficult decision of giving her daughter away in marriage at this stage.

Perhaps, seeing how their mother struggles to make ends meet since their father died some seven years ago, none of Mrs Bariki's daughters is keen in embracing the family vocation.

Mrs Bariki's daughters are not alone as younger women say they have other plans for their future which do not feature local Ebira hand made looms.

Omeneke Ahmed is a young girl of 18. She is in secondary school and used to support herself with proceeds from cloth weaving. She now buys and sells few provisions in the market because she doesn't make gains from weaving cloth again.

"My parents are poor and I have to support myself through school," says 18-year old Omeneke Ahmed who is still in secondary school.

"I grew up to meet my mother in the traditional cloth weaving business and I learnt from her as I was expected to. But I soon discovered that it's really not a profitable business and I was even hav-

ing difficulty paying my school fees. So I had to abandon the loom for petty trading."

But she admits that she is saddened by the fact that she won't be able to pass down the family trade to her future children.

"Don't get me wrong; I love weaving but there is no profit in it," she added.

#### Starting the business

In the past, the cost of starting the business ranges between N1,000 to N2,500 but to start the business these days, over N20,000 is needed as initial capital and "how many of us can afford this?" Omeneke asked.

The traditional Ebira loom is a rather simple machine sup-

ported on a two-pole frame, usually assembled against the wall of a family home.

"I am still weaving cloth because it is the only profession I have and the only thing I can do to support my family. There is no profit in it but at least I can minimally offset some of my family needs after I lost my husband", Mrs Bariki explained.

Some women told this reporter that if they can get financial assistance they would go back to the business again.

"What we need is loans but we don't know where to go get any loans from", one of the women said.

They say they do not know how to access micro loan through microfinance banks. They said if the local government can assist them with little finance they would keep the vocation alive again.

#### A disappearing craft

Apart from the lack finance and incentive, traditional cloth weaving in Ebira is dying because the market for them is fast disappearing.

The women say due to falling demand, the price of their wares have also crashed dramatically.

"Because of this many of us are discouraged and if this continues, the new generation of Ebira would lose the rich history of our talent in the weaving industry", Omeneke said.

"Weaving has long been a part of our culture where over 50 percent of Ebira women earned their living but because the market was not protected, it crashed", another woman said.

In the last two decades, the women said 75 percent of these weavers have lost interest in the trade due to lack of market protection and difficulty in getting materials. Add that to the small matter of fallen profitability, and the traditional looms of Ebiraland seem headed for the final tailspin.



MANY women said unprotected market is killing the art.



SAMPLES of Ebira traditional textiles

## Business



PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE

MINISTER of State for Finance Remi Babalola (r) with Katsina State Commissioner for Finance Alh. Adamu Babangida Ibrahim at the FAAC meeting in Abuja, Friday.

## WEMA Bank retrenches staff

WEMA Bank Plc has retrenched an undisclosed number of staff, NAN reports.

Bank sources said the retrenchment was communicated to the affected officials at the weekend.

Although no official reason was initially given for the action, a management source said it was part of the effort to reposition the bank for the challenges ahead.

The source said the workers' retrenchment was the beginning of the bank's moves to sanitise the environment.

The bank's spokesman, Mr Tunde Olofintila, confirmed that the bank was undergoing some reorganisation.

"The bank came under a new management last June and there is a need to streamline things to ensure conformity with the dictates of the banking industry in the 21st Century," he said.

Olofintila gave the assur-

ance that "all stakeholders, particularly the customers, will be better for it", noting that the bank merely "released some staff from its workforce".

He, however, denied speculations that some 5,000 workers were affected in the exercise, asking: "How many are we in the bank?"

"By the time 5,000 staff are asked to go, there may be no one to open the gate for you the next time you come visiting.

"Put differently, 5,000 workers are not leaving the bank."

There is a need to streamline things to ensure conformity with the dictates of the banking industry.

# 100 entrepreneurs to benefit from N22bn credit – NBTI

By Tina A Hassan

ABOUT 100 entrepreneurs trained in Technology Incubation Centres (TICs) across the country will benefit from the N22 billion credit schemes recently approved for the Small Scale Enterprises (SMEs) by the Federal Government, the Director General of the National Board for Technology Incubation (NBTI) has said.

Professor Gambo Laraba Abdullahi said N2 billion out of the amount was for the resuscitated National Economic Reconstruction Fund (NERFUND) credit while the remaining N20 billion was for scheme approved by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

Abdullahi said this last week in Kano at the graduation of 12 entrepreneurs of the Kano TIC, according to a statement from the Board's spokesman Uthman Abubakar.

Staff of NERFUND have started going round the TICs across the country to assess the loan needs of the entrepreneurs with a view to boosting their capacity to benefit from the credit scheme.

Already, some entrepreneurs have received N60 million grant recently disbursed by the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology to assist investors and innovators through the Presidential Committee on Invention and Innovation (PSCII).

## Bank union wants First Bank to reinstate 291 staff

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

THE Association of Senior Staff of Banks, Insurance and Financial Institutions (ASSBIFI) has implored the management of First Bank Nigeria Plc to reinstate two hundred and ninety one (291) members of its staff who were sacked recently.

The union in a petition to the management of the Bank captioned: "Unlawful Staff Rationalization by Default", posited that the staff were given the boot without due consultation with them under the guise of early retirement scheme.

A copy of the petition signed by the Secretary General of the Association

Mr J.E. Erhomosele was obtained by our correspondent in Lagos yesterday.

According to the petition, it was unfair that the management of the first generation bank could downsize its workforce discretely under the guise of "Early Retirement Scheme" when it knows that the development ran foul of the provisions of extant labour law and industry wide Collective Agreement.

Section 20 of the Labour Act and Articles 5 (b) of Part II (Section 1) of the Collective Agreement which requires that employers enter into negotiation with the National

Secretariat of the Union before such action can be sustained.

Besides, the union also made reference to a similar exercise which it claimed was successfully thrashed out through a letter dated September 3, 2009 which made the management to see wisdom in maintaining industrial sanity and equilibrium by entering into negotiation and redundancy agreement with the union on October 14, 2009 which led lawfully to the disengagement of some of its members at that time.

The text of the petition read in part: "Without any ambiguity therefore, we are indeed certain that your Management is aware that

its current ill-guided, subterranean handing of retirement letters to two hundred and ninety one (291) of our members is unlawful and a clear violation of the provisions of our extant labour law and industry wide Collective Agreement.

"As a law abiding corporate citizen, we expect that you will immediately guide your Management to respect the law and procedure as the only means of sustaining our well cherished industrial harmony as we look forward to the immediate reversal of the on-going rationalisation exercise and, receiving your invitation to properly negotiate and discuss as required by law."

## 'Nigeria's cooking gas plants operate with obsolete equipment'

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

NINETY five percent of the existing LPG plants in the country are operating with very obsolete equipments, a gas expert has said.

Mr. Taiwo Fagbemi, the Chief Executive Officer of Gasoline and Automotive Products Marketing Company said the development is responsible for the poor patronages and poor returns on Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) otherwise called cooking gas.

He said Nigeria with about 150 million populations could only boast of paltry 20,000 metric tonnes storage facility of LPG. He however blamed LPG operators for its woes, saying they are narrow minded in terms of collective bargaining.

He further said the government has misplaced its priority in the sector.

He said: "The Government in most cases become confused of the best line of action to take, they always receive conflicting information from the players and our requests in most cases are not robust enough but narrow and personal in nature.

"What is going on in the industry is self learning, not even on the job training since the industry lacks the technical hands, the issue of impacting on the trainees on the job is none existing. We have taken more than enough risk in the industry."

## Business/Finance

## Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Monday, May 17, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)				
<b>2ND-TIER SECURITIES</b>								
ADSWITCH PLC	1	2.00	2,100	3,990.00				
CAPITAL OIL PLC	7	0.50	374,297	187,148.50				
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>								
FTN COCOA PROC. PLC	22	0.91	1,218,309	1,138,956.52				
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	12	0.85	697,124	595,275.40				
OKOMU OIL PALM COY PLC	4	14.08	131,500	1,851,520.00				
PRESCO PLC	39	6.78	2,075,650	14,074,620.00				
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>77</b>		<b>4,122,583</b>	<b>17,660,371.92</b>				
<b>AIR SERVICES</b>								
AIRL/SERV/LOGISTICS PLC	26	3.22	577,879	1,870,190.38				
NIG. AV. HAND. COY PLC	130	13.10	1,028,495	13,462,470.42				
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>156</b>		<b>1,606,374</b>	<b>15,332,660.80</b>				
<b>BANKING</b>								
ACCESS BANK PLC	178	9.54	5,320,156	49,549,694.21				
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	49	2.32	1,051,081	2,454,889.61				
DIAMOND BANK PLC	65	8.60	3,582,999	30,917,864.05				
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	52	5.61	798,506	4,559,628.06				
FIRST CITY MON. BANK PLC	56	8.45	1,806,241	15,313,457.45				
FIDELITY BANK PLC	140	3.02	8,355,083	25,371,612.82				
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	640	14.51	16,289,100	240,913,794.53				
FINBANK PLC	27	0.57	2,807,100	1,603,372.00				
GTBANK PLC	492	16.55	19,894,801	338,822,314.31				
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	60	10.50	1,102,243	11,606,927.21				
INTERCONT. BANK PLC	74	1.93	2,285,335	4,616,247.41				
OCEANIC BANK INT. PLC	95	1.74	3,662,998	6,476,539.52				
BANK PHB PLC	82	1.40	2,266,832	3,147,063.86				
SKYE BANK PLC	159	8.51	4,950,288	42,074,659.13				
SPRING BANK PLC	5	0.91	272,250	247,747.50				
STERLING BANK PLC	86	2.40	4,852,485	11,412,032.95				
UNT BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	272	12.80	10,586,609	135,456,416.88				
UNION BANK OF NIG. PLC	141	5.62	1,608,225	9,098,169.67				
UNITYBANK PLC	4	1.11	611,120	678,343.20				
WEMA BANK PLC	23	1.06	1,003,852	1,068,441.52				
ZENITH BANK PLC	261	15.60	8,788,794	137,553,917.03				
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>2,961</b>		<b>101,896,098</b>	<b>1,072,943,132.91</b>				
<b>BUILDING MATERIALS</b>								
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	62	22.00	678,142	14,873,616.61				
BENUE CEMENT COY PLC	34	69.50	256,898	17,661,013.20				
CEMENT CO. OF N/NIG. PLC	48	22.90	607,840	13,598,257.50				
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	7	24.90	15,996	686,228.40				
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>151</b>		<b>1,558,876</b>	<b>46,819,115.71</b>				
<b>CHEMICAL &amp; PAINTS</b>								
BERGER PAINTS NIG. PLC	18	8.14	635,077	5,132,097.95				
CHEM/ALLIED PROD. PLC	5	31.15	12,185	398,449.50				
DN MEYER PLC	1	5.51	1,333	6,984.92				
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>24</b>		<b>648,595</b>	<b>5,537,532.37</b>				
<b>CONGLOMERATES</b>								
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIG.) PLC	12	4.18	304,300	1,211,500.00				
JOHN HOLT PLC	7	9.28	5,387	47,513.34				
PZ CUSSON'S NIGERIA PLC	66	30.20	3,538,511	107,123,145.05				
TRANSN. CORP. OF NIG. PLC	11	0.50	833,000	416,500.00				
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	134	56.10	2,391,774	137,974,961.78				
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	129	25.74	3,477,599	89,690,863.25				
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>259</b>		<b>10,550,571</b>	<b>336,464,483.42</b>				
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>								
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	43	8.22	131,396	1,044,166.39				
JULIUS BERGER NIG. PLC	21	57.00	274,984	15,710,778.30				
MULTIVERSE RES. PLC	4	0.50	287,569	143,784.50				
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>68</b>		<b>693,949</b>	<b>16,898,729.19</b>				
<b>ENGINEERING TECH.</b>								
CUTIX PLC	9	4.00	88,998	355,992.00				
NIG. WIRE AND CABLE PLC	11	1.12	399,000	437,880.00				
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>20</b>		<b>487,998</b>	<b>793,872.00</b>				
<b>FOOD/BEV. &amp; TOBACCO</b>								
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	14	47.14	168,025	7,920,698.50				
BIG TREAT PLC	37	0.91	2,545,788	2,353,956.84				
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	227	34.01	3,319,456	119,812,018.30				
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	369	24.40	10,878,310	272,005,029.28				
DANGOTE SUGAR REF. PLC	131	19.99	2,666,5245	3,006,175.66				
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	68	70.05	507,288	36,087,962.41				
H/WELL FLOUR MILL PLC	24	8.60	565,104	4,842,482.08				
NAT. SALT COY NIG. PLC	129	9.75	8,122,246	79,524,835.25				
NIG. BOTTLING COY PLC	27	36.51	307,365	11,221,896.15				
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	39	314.00	96,110	30,852,276.18				
N/NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC	8	33.58	47,993	1,605,143.07				
TANTALIZERS PLC	19	1.00	1,485,310	1,466,644.98				
UNION DICON SALT PLC	1	4.67	7,500	33,300.00				
UTC NIGERIA PLC	9	1.60	145,734	233,436.40				
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>1,102</b>		<b>30,862,753</b>	<b>620,965,855.10</b>				
<b>HEALTHCARE</b>								
EVANS MEDICAL PLC	11	1.71	573,929	981,418.59				
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	32	3.33	3,081,209	10,134,903.10				
GLAXOSM. CONS. NIG. PLC	53	28.62	482,667	13,882,685.66				
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	30	7.51	4,921,801	36,853,169.22				
NEIMETH INT. PHARM. PLC	6	3.08	39,300	115,149.00				
UN/DIAG. & CLIN. SERV. PLC	29	0.80	4,609,500	3,676,061.00				
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>152</b>		<b>13,708,406</b>	<b>65,643,386.57</b>				
<b>HOTEL &amp; TOURISM</b>								
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	31	2.00	2,017,093	4,043,097.48				
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>31</b>		<b>2,017,093</b>	<b>4,043,097.48</b>				
<b>IND/DOMESTIC PROD.</b>								
B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	9	10.20	3,691,768	37,674,348.60				
FIRST ALUM. NIG. PLC	3	0.50	142,000	71,000.00				
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC	19	7.07	282,319	1,995,753.20				
VONO PRODUCTS PLC	3	0.50	210,000	105,000.00				
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>34</b>		<b>4,326,087</b>	<b>39,846,101.80</b>				
<b>INF. &amp; COMM. TECH.</b>								
CHAMS PLC	32	0.76	2,251,000	1,725,955.00				
E-TRANZACT INTERN. PLC	1	4.97	200,000	994,000.00				
MASS TEL. INNOV. NIG. PLC	7	0.50	156,208	78,104.00				
STARCOMMS PLC	34	2.20	2,212,230	4,803,148.73				
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>64</b>		<b>4,819,438</b>	<b>7,601,207.73</b>				
<b>INSURANCE</b>								
AICO INSURANCE PLC	72	1.33	3,138,349	4,203,151.55				
CONTINENTAL REINS. PLC	5	1.33	588,000	760,300.00				
C/STONE INS. CO. PLC	23	0.76	10,768,400	8,141,760.92				
CUST/ALLIED INSUR. PLC	8	3.60	419,850	1,511,460.00				
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	4	0.50	52,000	26,000.00				
GREAT NIG. INS. COY PLC	3	0.50	1,500	750.00				
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	9	0.77	272,204	201,673.92				
GUARANTY TRUST ASS. PLC	13	2.65	140,200	368,300.00				
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC	2	0.50	147,000	73,500.00				
CONSOL. HALLM. INS. PLC	2	0.50	170,000	85,000.00				
INT. ENERGY INS. COY PLC	29	0.61	2,354,248	1,465,410.70				
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC	35	0.50	10,456,241	5,233,931.38				
L/UNION & ROCK INS. PLC	11	0.62	4,267,329	2,676,064.35				
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	2	0.50	3,129,833	1,564,916.50				
MUT/BENEFITS ASS. PLC	35	0.53	4,410,074	2,296,491.08				
N.E.M. INS. CO. (NIG.) PLC	34	0.63	2,917,614	1,856,803.07				
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC	21	1.15	625,232	718,995.80				
OASIS INSURANCE PLC	4	0.74	72,950	53,983.00				
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC	2	4.00	10,250	41,000.00				
REG. ALLIANCE INS. COY PLC	1	0.50	40,000	20,000.00				
SOVEREIGN TRUST INS. PLC	1	0.50	20,000	10,000.00				
STACO INSURANCE PLC	28	0.50	4,934,552	2,476,736.00				
STAND/ALLIANCE INS. PLC	20	0.52	2,179,361	1,149,971.73				
UNIC INSURANCE PLC	12	0.79	210,000	166,500.00				
UNIV/INSURANCE COY PLC	1	0.50	150,000	75,000.00				
INTERC. WAPIC INS. PLC	4	0.76	1,261,500	958,790.00				
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>411</b>		<b>52,736,687</b>	<b>36,136,490.00</b>				
<b>MARITIME</b>								
JAP/OIL & MARIT. SERV. PLC	264	1.98	13,930,163	27,798,457.25				
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>264</b>		<b>13,930,163</b>	<b>27,798,457.25</b>				
<b>MORTGAGE COMPANIES</b>								
ASO SAVINGS & LOAN PLC	12	0.52	359,000	186,680.00				
RESORT SAV. & LOANS PLC	1	0.50	100,000	50,000.00				
UN/HOMES SAV/LOANS PLC	38	0.88	2,422,925	2,003,656.44				
<b>SECTOR TOTALS</b>	<b>51</b>		<b>2,881,925</b>	<b>2,240,336.44</b>				
<b>OTHER FINANCIAL INST.</b>								
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC	35	0.96	20,093,273	18,741,158.98				
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC								

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
OLD FEDERAL SECRETARIAT, AREA 1, GARKI, ABUJA

## INVITATION TO TENDER

The Federal Ministry of Commerce & Industry hereby invites interested, competent and reputable companies to bid for the following projects under the Ministry's 2010 Capital Appropriation:-

Lot	Description	Quantity	Delivery Location
Lot 1			
item i	Desktop Computers	20	Central Stores, Federal Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Garki Abuja
item ii		3	
item iii	Palm Top Computers Lap Top Computers	3	
Lot 2	Produce Quality Control Equipment	1	
Lot 3	Pest Control Equipment & Chemicals	lump	Abuja
Lot 4	Sample Weighing Scales/balance	1	
Lot 5	Double Cabin Pick Up	18	One each to the Zonal Office in Kano, Minna and Bauchi
Lot 6	Saab Radar Gauge Measurement Instrument	1	
Lot 7	Saraffing J. Prowers	6	
Lot 8	Software, Hardware & on-line monitoring of GSM equipment	1	
Lot 9	Weights-Bridge Testing Unit Equipment	6	6 Geo- Political Zones
Lot 10	100 KVA Generating Set	2	Ibadan
Lot 11	Construction of Mini Cassava Processing Factory	1	Enugu State
Lot 12	Rehabilitation of Cassava Factory	1	Nassarawa State
Lot 13	Construction of Produce Inspection laboratory	1	Lagos
Lot 14	Procurement of Verifier Equipment	1	Abuja
Lot 15	Procurement of Energy Meter verifier equipment	1	Abuja
Lot 16	Construction of Internal Road Network at the EPC Centre, Wukari.	1	Wukari

2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure specified in the 2007 Public Procurement Act.

## 3. BIDDING REQUIREMENTS:

A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased and obtained for any of the lots on the payment of non-refundable fee of ten thousand Naira (N10,000.00) only by Bank draft made payable to the "Federal Ministry of Commerce & Industry".

## 4. BIDDING DOCUMENTS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM:

Deputy Director, Procurement  
Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry  
Room 111, Block G  
Old Federal Secretariat  
Area 1, Garki, Abuja

5. The bidding documents which should be addressed and submitted to the above office upon completion, should be enclosed in sealed envelopes and marked with the category, contract name and lot number on the right hand side of the envelope. Bidders should also endeavor to indicate their company's name, address and telephone numbers at the back of the envelope.

6. All bids must be delivered in the Tender Box in the above address not later than four weeks from the date of this publication; as late submissions shall not be accepted. Bids will be immediately opened in the presence of bidders / representatives at the Conference Room of the Ministry on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Block G at 12 noon on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2010.

## 7. REQUIREMENTS:-

All bids must be accompanied with the following documents as a pre requisite for consideration:

- Evidence of Registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)
- Company's Audited Accounts for 2007, 2008 & 2009;
- Evidence of VAT registration and Remittances
- Tax Clearance Certificate for 2007, 2008 & 2009;
- Evidence of Financial Capability and Banking Support;
- Verifiable evidence of similar jobs executed in the past and knowledge of the industry/project;
- Evidence of payment of the Tender of ten thousand Naira (N10,000.00) only;
- Technical qualification and experience of key personnel; and
- Evidence of Pension Fund Registration / Remittances.

Signed  
Dr. A. K. Muhammed  
Permanent Secretary.

THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA  
Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

RE: INVITATION TO SUBMIT TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL PROPOSALS  
FOR THE FEASIBILITY STUDIES, DESIGN AND PREPARATION OF BIDDING  
DOCUMENTS FOR SELECTED RURAL ROADS/SUPERVISION OF THE WORKS

## ADDENDUM

We wish to refer to our advertisement of May 13, 2010 published in the Daily Trust and Thisday Newspapers on the above mentioned procurement activity and to inform the general public that some Lots were in-advertently omitted under Imo State. The omitted lots include:

- Lot 10: Orie Alike Umuekwele, Umuosochie Umulogho, Obowo LGA  
Lot 11: Amuzi/Umuikpa/Umuekwele/Umuriam, Obowo LGA  
Lot 12: Afor - Ibeme/Umuokie/Ogbor/Umuózu, Isiala Mbano LGA  
Lot 13: Umuopara-Nsu/Alike Umunumo/Umuwaosha/Nkwo Umuezeala, Ehime Mbano LGA  
Lot 14: Ezelu/Umuduru Ndi Awa, Onuimo LGA  
Lot 15: Horticulture Umulolo/Umuawubui/Umunze Jnc, Okigwe LGA  
Lot 16: Limca Jnc/Amano Umuele Amamaduwiki Umulolo Okigwe, Okigwe LGA

## SUBMISSION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS (Technical / Financial Proposal)

One Original And Four Copies Of The Technical and one original copy of the Financial Proposal Must Be Submitted In SEPARATE Sealed EnvelopES Clearly Marked "Submission of Technical PROPOSAL" And "SUBMISSION OF Financial Proposal" for the Feasibility Studies, Design and Preparation of Bidding Documents/Supervision of the works for the lot(s) you wish to tender for and deposited in the tender box not later than 12 noon on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2010 at the address below. The technical proposals shall be opened at 12 noon on the same day at the NFRA Conference hall, FMARD, Mabushi, Abuja. A Company would be allowed to submit Technical and Financial Proposals for any number of lots but shall not be awarded more than two lots. The address referred to is:

National Coordinator, RAMP

Federal Project Management Unit (FPMU)

NAIC House (1<sup>st</sup> Floor), Plot 590 Zone AO

Airport Road, Central Area

Abuja.

Telephone: 08034524580, 08035949354

Email: [ramp\\_fpmu@yahoo.com](mailto:ramp_fpmu@yahoo.com), [guno\\_ramp@yahoo.com](mailto:guno_ramp@yahoo.com)

Only Companies with satisfactory Technical Proposal will be invited for the opening of the financial proposals. The FPMU is not obligated to award the contract to any company

Signed  
Aliyu Salihu Esq  
Permanent Secretary  
Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development

## News Extra

# The women behind Africa's most powerful men



PENEHUPIFO Pohamba, Namibia



SIA Koroma, Sierra Leone



JANET Museveni, Uganda



THANDIWE Banda, Zambia



ERNESTINA Mills, Ghana

In recent weeks, I have been doing just what my mother said I should never do - eavesdrop. But perhaps she would not mind so much if she knew I had been privy to conversations of the first ladies at five seats of power in Africa.

Indeed, the candid interviews, conducted by the BBC Network Africa's Veronique Edwards, give a new perspective on the leaders of the continent and address issues ranging from power and politics to glamour and romance.

Listening to Sierra Leone's Sia Koroma, Namibia's Penhupifo Pohamba, Ghana's Ernestina Mills, Zambia's Thandiwe Banda, and Uganda's Janet Museveni, the most striking thing is that these women care deeply about the condition of society.

As professionals in their own right, these women are actively promoting education and rural development and championing poverty eradication and the fight against HIV/Aids.

Mrs Koroma and Mrs Pohamba are both experienced medical professionals while Mrs Banda and Mrs Mills are teachers.

#### Family matters

The office of the first lady is not an elected one. This means they cannot directly intervene in the running of the country, despite their proximity to power.

However, some first ladies have been known to take matters firmly into their own hands to whip opponents into shape.

Our five ladies have subtle ways of dealing with their partners, too.

"Being a woman, we have our innate feminine tactics," says Mrs Koroma.

"If I call him 'Mr president' it means I want something from him. And I do call him 'Mr president' sometimes."

For Mrs Museveni, however, it



THANDIWE Banda (left), Zambia's first lady, tells the BBC's Veronique Edwards about her private life with her husband

is not enough to live with "power" - she has demanded some of it for herself as an elected MP and minister.

But her appointment to the cabinet, as well as public posts for other close family members, have led to accusations that Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni is running the country like a family business.

"I know that that is rubbish, I'm sorry to say this," said Mrs Museveni.

"But if there is anyone who takes the trouble to do everything by the law, it is my husband."

Uganda's first lady quickly jumps to her husband's defence when it is suggested that having come to power in 1986, he has overstayed his welcome with the voters.

"Every time he's supposed to go back and ask for their support... they give it willingly."

She concludes by confirming that she will retire from active politics after seeking a second, and last, five-year term as an MP

at next year's general elections.

#### 'Beat about the bush'

Unlike in the West, where first ladies and their children are political tools to be deployed at will during campaigns, or to help attract sympathy for the man at the helm, African leaders are generally very protective of their private lives.

However, Veronique manages to uncover a private view of men who are actually very ordinary, vulnerable and - like many of us - awkward.

"I first met him while I was studying in Germany," says Mrs Pohamba, recalling how the future president of Namibia wooed her and eventually proposed.

"He acted as if he'd been sent by someone else, saying: 'If there is someone who would like to fall in love with you, would you agree?'"

"And I said: 'It depends on whether I know the person. If I don't, I won't agree... so who is this person you're talking about?'"

"Then he continued beating about the bush and four hours later he said: 'The person I'm talking about is myself'."

"I responded: 'Wuh! Let me think about it'."

"We met again much later in Angola and fell in love and he proposed to me - on his knees."

#### Twin palpitations

If the Namibian president was having a hard time securing a future wife, Zambian leader Rupiah Banda, who already has grown up children with his late wife and grandchildren, had palpitations when he heard the news that he had become a father again.

"At the time, I didn't know I was expecting," his wife said.

"I went to the hospital to check why my stomach was becoming so uncomfortable."

"After the scan the doctor asked me if I was pregnant and I said: 'No'. Then he informed me that I was two months pregnant with twins."

"When I called my husband with the news, he was in shock. He said: 'No, no...really?...No!' He may have been expecting a child, but two was a pleasant surprise."

Zambia's first lady says she would like to see the establishment of a formal office of the first lady with a government budget allocation to support her public work.

However, this is a view that has provoked controversy in some countries, with many people questioning the need for a formal role for first ladies describing it as a waste of money. They argue that because the first ladies are unelected, they are not directly accountable to the people.

#### Sweetie Pie

Ghana's first lady does not have children of her own.

But as a teacher she is passionate about young people and works hard to promote literacy,

especially for some of the girls in rural areas whose education is sometimes disrupted by social pressures, including men who prey on them.

But when at home, and away from her duties as a first lady, Mrs Mills spends time with her dogs, a habit she inherited from her father. One dog is called Tandy, another is Max. Then there is Candy and Sweetie Pie. With names like these it is hardly surprising that she talks to them all the time.

"They understand," she says, becoming animated.

"They lie on their back and I scratch their chest and they're happy!"

Although wining and dining with the high and mighty should bring happiness to many people, Africa's "first ladies" have their regrets.

#### 'No more discos'

Despite the fulfilment they get from serving their societies and helping to improve life in Africa, they miss one thing: freedom.

"I used to wear normal clothes that a mother with two kids would wear. You know, easy clothes like jeans and a T-shirt," Mrs Banda recalls.

"Now there are some clothes that I can't wear because everyone - especially young people - look up to me; I need to set a good example."

For Namibia's Mrs Pohamba, before her life was surrounded by bodyguards and state protocol, music used to be the food of her soul and body.

"I can't dance any more... this house is like a prison... you're not really free, not like how I was in the old days."

"I could go to the disco, and then return to my house and start dancing again and doing this and that. That is no more."

By Joseph Warungu,bbc.co.uk

**“If I call him 'Mr president' it means I want something from him. And I do call him 'Mr president' sometimes.”**



Website Address:- [www.cenbank.org](http://www.cenbank.org)

Email Address:- [info@cenbank.org](mailto:info@cenbank.org)

## N200 BILLION INTERVENTION FUND FOR RE-FINANCING AND RESTRUCTURING OF BANKS' LOANS TO THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR

### 1.0 Introduction

The Central Bank of Nigeria in a bid to unlock the credit market established an intervention fund of N500 billion Debenture Stock to be issued by the Bank of Industry (BOI). In the first instance, the sum of N300 billion will be applied to power projects and N200 billion to the refinancing/restructuring of banks' existing loan portfolios to Nigerian SME/Manufacturing Sector. These Guidelines relate to the N200 re-financing and restructuring of banks' loans to the SME/Manufacturing Sector while the guidelines for the power sector will be issued at a later date.

### 2.0 Objectives of the Fund

The objectives of the Fund are to:

- i. Fast-track the development of the manufacturing sector of the Nigerian economy by improving access to credit to manufacturers.
- ii. Improve the financial position of the Deposit Money Banks.
- iii. Increase output, generate employment, diversify the revenue base, increase foreign exchange earnings and provide inputs for the industrial sector on a sustainable basis.

### 3.0 Managing Agent

The Bank of Industry (BOI) shall be the managing agent and be responsible for the day to day administration of the Fund.

### 4.0 Activities to be covered Under the Fund

The activities to be covered under the Fund are:

- (i) Manufacturing: Any entity is adjudged to be a "Manufacturer" if it:
  - Is involved in the production and processing of tangible goods
  - Fabricates, deploys plants, machinery or equipment to deliver goods or provide infrastructure to facilitate economic activity in the real sector; and such entity must not be involved in the financial services industry

The manufactures include Small and Medium Scale Enterprise (SMEs) defined as an entities with an asset base (excluding land) of between N5million and N500 million and with labour force of between 11 and 300.

**Note: Trading activities shall not be accommodated under this Fund.**

### 5.0 Types of Facilities

- Long term loan for acquisition of plant and machinery
- Refinancing of existing loans
- Resuscitation of ailing industries
- Refinancing of existing lease
- Working capital

### 6.0 Eligibility Criteria for Participation in the Fund

#### Participating Bank (PB)

All Deposit Money Banks and Development Finance Institutions (DFIS) shall be eligible.

#### Borrower

A borrower shall meet the following criteria to be eligible:

- Any entity falling within the definition of an SME and/or manufacturer
- An entity wholly-owned and managed Nigerian private limited company registered under the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.
- A legal business operated as a sole proprietorship
- Be a member of the relevant Organised Private Sector Associations such as MAN, NASME, NACCIMA, NASSI e.t.c.
- Utilise the funds for the purpose for which it was granted.
- Insure the project being financed.
- Adhere strictly to the terms and conditions of the Fund.
- Make the project and records available for inspection/verification by the CBN and BOI.
- Any entity as defined above with an existing facility on the books of the PB (emphasis will be on facilities

that are indicating weakness arising from tenor, structure as well as facing cash flow difficulties)

### 7.0 Modalities of the Fund

- i. **Loan Amount**  
Loan amount is a maximum of N1 billion for a single obligor in respect of refinancing/restructuring.
- ii. **Interest Rate**  
The Fund shall be administered at an all-in Interest rate of 7 percent per annum payable on quarterly basis.
- iii. **Loan Tenor**
  - (a) Loans shall have a maximum tenor of 15 years and or working capital facility of one year with provision for roll over.
  - (b) The Fund allows for moratorium in the loan repayment schedule.

### 8.0 Mechanism for Refinancing/Restructuring for the Fund

- Bank of Industry (BOI) will send out notice to all DMBs/DFIs for submission of power project financing and refinancing/restructuring requests.
- Banks should submit requests in the prescribed format within 14 days of the notice from BOI.
- Each request must be accompanied by the following documents:
  - a. Request from the customer seeking for such refinancing and/or restructuring
  - b. Latest financials of the obligor (management accounts will be acceptable in lieu of updated accounts)
  - c. Copies of duly executed offer documents between the bank and the loan obligor evidencing existence of a facility.
  - d. 6 months account statements showing the current exposure
  - e. An abridged business plan or feasibility study of the underlying project for which the facility was initially approved. The plan must include the projects cash flow projections detailing the repayment schedule.
- Certificate of Incorporation evidencing the incorporation of the Company with the Corporate Affairs Commission. All applications for refinancing/restructuring facilities can be made directly or by way of syndication, club arrangement or any other means involving two (2) or more banks on the books of a bank.

### 9.0 Verification/Monitoring of Projects.

- (i) Projects under the Fund shall be subject to verification by the BOI. Acceptance or rejection of an application for a power project and refinancing/restructuring by the BOI shall be communicated to the PB and the borrower within 14 working days after verification.
- (ii) The project shall be subject to monitoring by the BOI, CBN and PB during the loan period.
- (iii) The BOI has the right to reject a request from any Participating bank that contravenes any section of the Guidelines.

**Note that:** Banks are however expected to conduct due diligences on any application received and ensure that adequate collateral are taken to secure the facilities taken by promoters.

### The Scheme became operational on May 3, 2010.

All further enquiries should be forwarded to:

The SME Credit Guarantee Scheme Secretariat  
c/o Director,  
Development Finance Department,  
Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN),  
P. M. B. 187, Corporate Headquarters,  
Central Business Area,  
Abuja, Nigeria.



المجلس الأعلى للشريعة في نيجيريا (فرع ولاية كادونا)

## SUPREME COUNCIL FOR SHARI'AH IN NIGERIA (SCSN) (KADUNA STATE CHAPTER)

No. 17A Inuwa Wada Road, off Old Dawaki Road, Kaduna-Nigeria

scsn\_sharia@yahoo.com

### COLLECTIVE SLANDER OF ISLAM AND MUSLIMS IN NIGERIA BY THE CHRISTIANS ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (CAN) AND CHRISTIANS NGOs

The Supreme Council for Shari'ah in Nigeria Kaduna State Chapter met on Sunday, May 02, 2010 at the State Secretariat Kaduna, to discuss and take position on some important topical issues affecting the Muslim Ummah and also on the recent Press Release by the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) published in some National dailies. We wish to comment as follows:

#### 1. LAWS AND POLICIES ANTITHETICAL TO ISLAM

The Council recalled earlier efforts to alert the Ummah on the surreptitious attempts by the Federal Government to enact local legislations that would have effects to some United Nations Conventions, intent on undermining the Islamic faith and the essence of Shari'ah, example the Childs' Rights Law and the Anti Terrorism Bill.

#### THE CHILD'S RIGHTS LAW

The essence of the Childs' Rights Act is promoting Western Secular ideas in the upbringing of children. We had in a number of advertorials, cautioned the Federal Government and the National Assembly not to blindly accept to ratify this convention without due consultation with the Nigerian Public. Unfortunately the law was passed by the National Assembly in April 2003 and some state Assemblies were pressurized to pass state equivalent.

Sadly, the negative impact of the law is beginning to manifest and the focus is Senator Ahmad Sani, Yariman Bakura alleged Marriage to Underage Child. The provisions of the Childs' Rights Act specifically section 21 contravened the teachings of Islam. Islam encourages men to marry women of their choice without any emphasis on age limits. **WE WISH TO STATE CLEARLY, ANY LAW THAT CONTRADICTS THE ESSENCE OF THE TEACHINGS OF OUR DIVINE RELIGION IS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE MUSLIM UMMAH.**

Secondly, the said section 21, which is the bases for those clamouring for the prosecution and persecution of the Distinguished Senator is in total conflict with the provision of Section 37 and 38 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which states inter alia:

**Section 37: "Right to Private and Family Life - the privacy of citizens, their homes, correspondence, telephone conversations and telegraphic communications is hereby guaranteed and protected".**

**Section 38 (1): "Every person shall be entitled to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, including freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom (either alone or in community with others, and in public or in private) to manifest and propagate his religion or belief in worship, teaching, practice and observance".**

Thirdly, we take serious exception to the rude and arrogant intrusion into our affairs in this regards. It is quite hypocritical for the Christians NGOs to criticize the marriage of Yarima because Joseph, Mary's husband, was 90 years old when he married 12 to 14 years old Mary! (Catholic Encyclopaedia - [www.newadvent.org/cathen/06594a.htm](http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/06594a.htm)), and (Mathew 1:24b - 25) refers. The fact is that, Yarima's alleged marriage to an underage is more honourable than the disgraceful and ungodly event in churches in Europe, America and Africa where Christian Priests were involved in sodomy, gay, defiling of young male children, adultery with people's wives and fornication with people's daughter, pederasty and the Nuns are also known for lesbianism, Masturbation and flings with fellow labourers in the vineyard. There was also the case of a former Nigerian Christian President involved in executive Incest by going to bed with his son's wife. All these are inconsistent and unacceptable tendencies in our cultural heritage.

#### 2. THE ANTI-TERRORISM LAW

Many keen observers of American foreign policy must have seen the propaganda and lies used, to create an excuse to justify the invasion of sovereign Countries and to intimidate the Muslim Ummah, particularly the events of 12/25/2009 (Umar Farouk saga) has provided the United States of America with the opportunity to impose their sinister agenda against the Nigerian Muslims.

The campaign to ensure speedy passage of the Anti-Terrorism bill is being pursued vigorously and we are indeed aware of pressure mounted on the National Assembly for this legislation. The Acting President, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan in a letter dated April 08, 2010 to the Honourable Speaker, House of Representative gave an ultimatum of June ending to ensure the passage of the Bill. What is more mind boggling in why our Government and representatives in the National Assembly should adopt such far reaching negative and obnoxious conventions without consulting the Nigerian Public. A people oriented Government would consider the interest of its people first and on that bases, reject it out rightly. If truly, government is a trust and its leaders are our representatives then we must rise and make them listen to our pleas in this regard.

Accordingly, the Council therefore:

- Strongly condemns the move by the Acting President and the National Assembly to foist an ungodly and immoral laws with obvious devastating consequences for Nigerians without feeling the public pulse on the matter.
- Wishes to remind Nigerians that democracy is not only a Government chosen by the people, but also one that operates on the bases of certified wishes, and aspirations of the people.

#### 3. ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION IN THE NIGERIAN ARMY

On the claim by CAN Leadership of discrimination in the top echelon of the Nigerian Army under the leadership of Gen. Dambazau, we hereby present the statistics for the dispassionate analyst to see:

##### COMPOSITION OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE

S/No	Name	Position	Religion
1.	Air Marshal Paul Dike	Chief of Defence Staff	Christian
2.	Gen. Abdurrahman Dambazau	Chief of Army Staff	Muslim
3.	Air Marshal O.O. Petien	Chief of Air Staff	Christian
4.	Vice Admiral Ishaya Ibrahim	Chief of Naval Staff	Christian
5.	Mr. Ogonna Onovo	Inspector Gen. of Police	Christian
6.	Mr. Afakriya Gadzama	Director General SSS	Christian
7.	Mr. Olaniyi Oladeji	Director General NIA	Christian
8.	Ajh. Abdullahi Dikko Inde	Controller Gen. Customs	Muslim
9.	Mr. Olusola Ogundukpe	Controller General Prisons	Christian
10.	Mr. Chukwura Udeh	Controller Gen. Immigration	Christian
11.	Mr. Ade Abolorin	Commander Gen. NSDC	Christian
12.	Mr. C. Osta	Corp Marshall	Christian

Summary: Christian 10  
Muslim 2

##### COMPOSITION OF THE NIGERIAN ARMY HIGH RANKING OFFICERS HOLDING STRATEGIC POSITIONS (PRINCIPAL STAFF OFFICERS - ARMY HEADQUARTERS)

S/No	Name	Position	Religion
1.	Major Gen. A. A. Adefarati	Policy and Planning	Muslim
2.	Deputy - PSO	Policy and Planning	Christian
3.	Major Gen. MB Obi	Operations	Christian
4.	Deputy - PSO	"	Christian

5.	Major Gen. AM Jibril	Administration	Muslim
6.	Deputy - PSO	"	Christian
7.	Major Gen. UT Usman	Legal	Muslim
8.	3 Deputies - PSO	"	All Christian
9.	Major Gen. SU Abdullahi	Military Secretary	Muslim
10.	Deputy - PSO	"	Christian
11.	Major Gen. BC Aruzunwa	Standards and Evaluation	Christian
12.	Deputy - PSO	"	Christian

Summary: Christian 10  
Muslim 4

NOTE: The Principal Staff Officer (PSO) to Chief of Army Staff is a Christian. This is one of the most important and highly influential positions in the Army Hierarchy.

##### GENERAL OFFICERS COMMANDING (GOCs)

S/No	Position	Religion
1.	Major Gen. K. A. Role	GOC HQ 1 Infantry Muslim
2.	Deputy	Christian
3.	Major Gen. L. P. Ngubane	GOC 2 Division Christian
4.	Deputy	Christian
5.	General Sale Maina	GOC 3 Division Muslim
6.	Deputy	Christian
7.	Major Gen. E. G. C. Nwanguwa	GOC 81 Division Christian
8.	Deputy	Muslim
9.	Major Gen. MD Isa	GOC 82 Division Muslim
10.	Deputy	Christian
11.	Major Gen. D.M. Edi	GOC Garrison Christian
12.	Deputy	Christian

Summary: Christian 8  
Muslim 4

##### OTHER BRIGADE COMMANDANTS

S/No	Posting	Number of Officers	Religion	
			Christian	Muslim
1.	Corps Commandants	19	14	5
2.	Commandants Army Schools	40	20	20
3.	Brigade Commanders	35	22	13
4.	Commandant Military Police	Brig. Gen. PJ Isang	1	0
		<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>38</b>

Overall Summary: Christian 85 - 64%  
Muslim 48 - 36%  
Total 133 - 100%

##### DEPLOYMENT OF THE NIGERIAN AIRFORCE OFFICERS OF THE RANK OF AIR COMMANDORES AND ABOVE

S/No	Posting	Number of Officers	Religion	
			Christian	Muslim
1.	Defence Headquarters	19	14	5
2.	NAF Headquarters	34	25	9
3.	Tactical Air Command (TAC)	14	8	6
4.	Training Command (TC)	11	8	3
5.	Others (AFCSC, LC, NDC, DIA, Armament) etc	37	26	11
		<b>Total</b>	<b>79.43%</b>	<b>34</b>
		<b>Percentage</b>		<b>9.57%</b>

NOTE: The Position in the Nigerian Navy would reveal a more frightening situation.

This disproportional composition of the security agencies must immediately be ratified inline with the constitutional requirement for equitable representation in all public establishments as rightly demanded by CAN. No doubt the Muslim are in Majority in Nigeria, therefore deserves higher proportion. We call on the Federal Government to immediately comply and publish the Federal Civil Service Staff list.

##### GENOCIDE ON PLATEAU

The CAN leaders seem to be the only ones left in invoking a common sense that the burden of the crisis is solely carried by the crusader in the garb of a Governor, Jonah Jang who has failed as the Chief Security Officer of the State. How else can one explain the murderous rampaging of Jos Christians on defenceless Muslim several times in just two years in a state where there is a governor? The solution to Jos Crisis is not in removing the GOC whose task force has helped in bringing some sanity to the area; the solution lies in people like the CAN leaders coming to terms with stark reality that no group of people holds monopoly to violence, and that Jos, like any other place in Nigeria, should no longer be bloodied by the "settler-indigene" syndrome. If there is any 'crime' that General Maina has committed in the eyes of the Christian leaders, it is probably the curtailing of the police who were being used to do the religious cleansing in official uniform. No reasonable Commander-in-Chief will remove a GOC for doing this patriotic Job.

##### OUR PLEA

- To achieve lasting solutions to this recurring crisis, the Federal Government should declare state of emergency in Plateau State.
- To investigate, prosecute and punish Jonah Jang, Buba Gyang and their collaborators.
- We call on the Federal Government to take all the necessary steps to make this sixth crisis, which escalates to the month of March, in the series of massacres of Muslims in Plateau State, the very last! As we will no longer fold our arms and watch further killings of our brethren and the destruction of their properties by genocidal maniacs in Plateau. If the Federal Government fails to do this, who can guarantee the safety of Plateau State citizens living in Kaduna, Zaria, Kano, Sokoto, Bauchi etc?
- We also wish to reiterate our earlier call to relocate all the Federal Institutions in Plateau State (NIPSS, NVRI, NTA College etc) to their permanent sites in Abuja as the lives of non Christian staff in these institutions cannot be guaranteed.

##### RELEASE OF HIGHWAY SUSPECTED MURDERERS

Our attention was also drawn to the press briefing by the Plateau State Commissioner of Police, that the highway suspected murderers arrested by Police were released "because pressure was mounted on us to do so". We call on the Police High Command to find out, who gave the order for their release and to immediately re-arrest and prosecute the suspected murders.

Sheikh M. T. Suleman  
Exec Chairman

A. L. Ibrahim  
Secretary



Motto: Mission for Service

# BINGHAM UNIVERSITY

KM 26 ABUJA-KEFFI EXPRESSWAY, KODOPE, P.M.B 005, KARU, NASARAWA STATE

## 2010/2011 UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS INTO FULL TIME DEGREE PROGRAMMES

Applications are invited from qualified candidates for Admission into Bingham University for 3, 4 and 6 years Degree Programmes

**ONLY CANDIDATES WHO OBTAINED THE REQUIRED SCORE IN 2010 JAMB EXAMINATION NEED TO APPLY FOR UME ADMISSIONS**

Bingham University is owned by the Evangelical Church of West Africa (ECWA). Its founding fathers were visionaries of ECWA extraction who looked back to the golden age of Christian mission education in Nigeria, noted for its moral and spiritual contents, high quality, purposefulness, service-orientedness, and very much cherished by all. In recent years, Nigerians have called for such education that combines secular and moral/spiritual values, even within the context of modern technological advancement.

Bingham University was established to meet these ideals. Our curricula are of very high academic standard and entrepreneurial in nature to prepare our graduates for a self-reliant and God-fearing life in a developing economy.

**SALE OF APPLICATION FORMS**

Application Forms are on sale from April 5, 2010. Request for application forms must be by a non-refundable fee of N1,000.00, payable to any of the accounts in the following banks from which the forms can be obtained:

- ECWA Wuse II Microfinance Bank A/C No. 101111
- Diamond Bank A/c No - 073235000243

**CENTRES FOR SALE OF FORMS**

- a. Bursary Department, Bingham University, KM 26 Abuja-Keffi Expressway, Kodope, Karu, Nasarawa State;
- b. Education Department, Evangelical Church of West Africa (ECWA), Headquarters, Jos, Plateau State;
- c. All ECWADCC Offices in Nigeria and
- d. Selected branches of Diamond Bank Plc Abuja, Kaduna, Port-Harcourt, Warri, Calabar, Uyo, Lagos, Ibadan, Gombe, Yola, Makurdi, Benin, Enugu, Ilorin, Lokoja, Jos, Jalingo and Maiduguri.

If buying from the ECWA Headquarters, and DCC Offices, candidates shall pay in bank draft, drawn in favour of Bingham University, PMB 005, Karu, Nasarawa State. All completed Application Forms should be returned to the Registrar, Bingham University, KM 26 Abuja-Keffi Expressway, Kodope PMB 005, Karu, Nasarawa State, not later than Wednesday, July 28, 2010.

**SCREENING**

Candidates are required to bring with them Originals and Photocopies of their O' Level, A' Level results, their 2010 JAMB result slip, 2 passport size photographs and HB Pencil. Direct Entry (D.E) candidates are required to bring their D. E. Registration form number slips.

Candidates are advised to prepare to stay overnight by making private accommodation arrangement.

Screening will be conducted from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. each day as follows:

Venue: Bingham University, Permanent Site, KM 26 Abuja-Keffi Expressway, Kodope, Karu, Nasarawa State

**Order of Screening**

- Humanities, Social and Management Sciences Candidates**  
Date: Thursday, July 29, 2010
  - Medical and Science Candidates**  
Date: Friday, July 30, 2010
- Please note that in conformity with the directive of the Honourable Minister of Education, screening shall be free.
- Minimum Qualifications required;**  
All candidates must have taken the 2010/2011 JAMB Examination and obtained the required score.
  - UME Candidates**  
The minimum qualification for the Degree Programmes is five (5) relevant Credits at the GCE/SSCE or NECO Examination or their equivalent at not more than two (2) sittings.
  - Direct Entry**
    - The minimum qualification for the degree programmes is five (5) Credits at SSCE/GCENECA in the relevant subjects passed at not more than two (2) sittings with at least two (2) at the Advance level of the GCE; OR
    - Two (2) passes at the IJMB Examination or Cambridge moderated schools of Basic Studies terminal examination or International Baccalaureate from recognized institutions with SSC/GCE O'Level credits or equivalent in five (5) relevant subjects at not more than two (2) sittings.
    - Diploma in the relevant programme at not less than upper credit level from recognized institutions with SSC/GCE O'Level credits in five (5) relevant subjects.
  - Direct Entry candidates should also satisfy all UME requirements.
  - Candidates are also to take note of the following specific requirements

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES, SOCIAL AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCE**

Course	Direct Entry Requirements	UME Requirements	UME Subjects
<b>Department of History and Religious Studies</b> B. A. History 29022G B. A. Christian Religious Studies 29403J	Two A' Level courses in History and any other related subject. NCE merit in History or Christian Religious Knowledge	Five O' Level credits to include History and English Language	English Government Bible Knowledge Economics
<b>Department of Economics</b> B. Sc. Economics 29409H	Two A' Level passes in Economics and any one of two O' Level passes in Mathematics, Statistics, National Diploma (upper Credit) in Accounting or Statistics	Five O' Level credits including English, Economics, Mathematics and any other two of Arts or Social sciences	English Economics Mathematics Geography Accounting Commerce

<b>Department of Accounting</b> B. Sc. Accounting 29407E	Two A' Level Passes including Accounting, Economics & Business Management, ND(Upper Credit) in Accounting, Banking and Finance and Business Admin or at least 10 points in A' level IJMB in relevant subjects	Five O' Level credits to include English Language, Mathematics, Economics and any other two subjects in Social Sciences.	English Government Economics Mathematics Geography Accounting Commerce
<b>Department of Business Administration</b> B. Sc. Business Admin 29408A	Two A' Level Passes including Accounting, Economics & Business Management, ND(Upper Credit) in Accounting, Banking and Finance and Business Admin or at least 10 points in A' level IJMB in relevant subjects	Five O' Level credits to include English Language, Mathematics, Economics and any other two subjects in Social Sciences.	English Economics Mathematics Geography Accounting
<b>Department of Sociology</b> B. Sc. Sociology 29418E	Two A' Level Passes including Government or History OND (Upper credit) in Public Administration, Social Works/Welfare, Psychology or any other relevant field. Or at least 8 points in IJMB in relevant subjects	Five O' level credits including English language, two Social Science subjects and any other two subjects with at least a pass in Mathematics.	English Government History Bible Knowledge Economics Literature
<b>Department of Mass Communication</b> B. Sc. Mass Comm 29406I	Two A' Level Passes including Government or History OND (Upper credit) in Public Administration plus UME requirements.	Five O' Level credits including English language, English Literature and any other three subjects plus at least a pass in Mathematics.	English Government History Bible Knowledge Economics
<b>Department of Political Science</b> B. Sc. Political Science 29411A	Two A' Level Passes including Government or History, OND (Upper Credit) Public Administration plus UME requirements	Five O' Level credits in government or History, English Language and three other subjects. At least a pass in Maths is required.	English Government History Bible Knowledge Economics
<b>B. Sc. Geography 29417J</b>	I. Two A' Level Passes in Geography & one of Economics, Government and History II. ND/NCE in relevant areas plus UME requirements	Five O' Level credits to include English Language, Mathematics, Geography and any other two Social Science subjects.	Geography and any other Arts or Social Science Subjects.

Course	Direct Entry Requirements	UME Requirements	UME Subjects
<b>B. Sc. Biochemistry 29431F</b>	At least two A' Level Passes including Chemistry and Biology from the group: Chemistry, physics and Biology	Five O' Level credits to include English Language, Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry and Biology	Biology Chemistry Physics or Mathematics
<b>B. Sc. Chemistry 29413D</b> <b>B. Sc. Industrial Chemistry 29438E</b>	I. Two A' Level Passes in Chemistry and any one of Physics, Mathematics or Biology. II. ND/NCE in relevant subjects plus UME requirements	Five O' Level credit passes to include Eng. Language, Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry and Biology	Chemistry and two of Physics, Biology and Mathematics
<b>Biological Sciences</b> B. Sc. Biology 29412H B. Sc. Botany B. Sc. Zoology 29416F	I. Two A' Level passes in Biology/Botany/Zoology & Chemistry or Physics II. ND/NCE in relevant areas plus UME requirements	Five O' Level credits including English Language, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology	Biology Chemistry and any other Science subject
<b>B. Sc. Microbiology 29442A</b>	I. Two A' Level passes from Biology, Botany or Zoology & Chemistry or Physics II. ND/NCE in relevant areas plus UME requirements	Five O' Level credits including Eng. Language, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Biology.	Biology, Chemistry and any of Physics or Mathematics
<b>B. Sc. Physics 29419C</b>	I. Two A' Level passes in Physics and any two Chemistry and Mathematics. II. ND/NCE in relevant areas plus UME requirements	Five O' Level credits including English language, Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics and Biology	Physics and Mathematics with Chemistry or Biology
<b>B. Sc. Mathematics 29414K</b>	I. Two A' Level passes in Mathematics and any other Science subject, Chemistry or Physics II. ND/NCE in relevant areas plus UME requirements	Five O' Level credits in English Language, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology or Geography, Economics	Mathematics and any two of Physics, Chemistry and Economics
<b>B. Sc. Statistics 29439A</b>	I. Two A' Level Passes to include Mathematics or Statistics, Chemistry or Physics. II. ND/NCE in relevant areas plus UME requirements	Five O' Level credits to include English Language, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, and Further Mathematics, Economics and Geography	Mathematics and any two of Physics, Chemistry and Economics

Course	Direct Entry Requirements	UME Requirements	UME Subjects
<b>MDSS 29422 B</b>		Five O' Level credits to include English Language, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics	English, Chemistry, Biology, Physics
<b>B.Sc. Anatomy 29418B</b>		Five O' Level credits to include English Language, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics	English, Chemistry, Biology, Physics
<b>B.Sc. Physiology 29425J</b>		Five O' Level credits to include English Language, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics	English, Chemistry, Biology, Physics

S. S. Sule  
Registrar

Bingham University, KM 26 Abuja-Keffi Expressway Kodope, Karu, Nasarawa State. E-mail: binghamuniversity@yahoo.com

### Sign Language

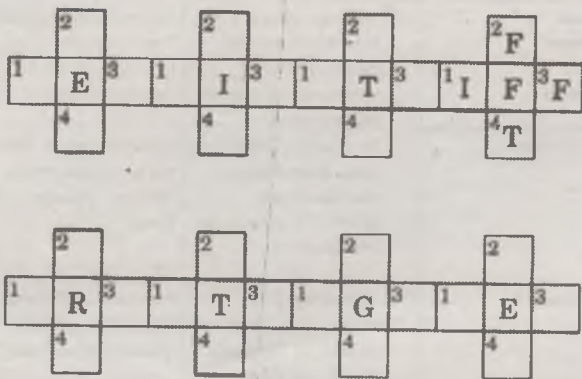


...Or you sink or swim alone.  
 Photo location: Not stated, by Larry Sanes.  
 Culled from www.signspotting.com

### QUOTACROSS

Enter each of the eight words into the diagram in a **CLOCKWISE** direction around one of the letters already entered in the diagram. The number in parentheses after a word indicates the numbered square in which that word should begin. Each letter already in the diagram corresponds to the same letter in the word to be entered. For example, **TIFF** is the only word that contains an **F**, and there is only one cross in the diagram with an **F** already entered. We have filled in **TIFF** clockwise around that **F**, beginning in the square numbered 4. Continue to enter the words in this manner and the two horizontal rows, when correctly filled in, will reveal a complete quotation from American essayist **Ralph Waldo Emerson**.

- DENT (3)
- DRAT (3)
- ELSE (1)
- HERE (2)
- SOIL (4)
- TIFF (4)
- URGE (2)
- WEBS (1)



### SOLUTION TO BOWL-A-SCORE CHALLENGER

- SRIKES:** 1. disturbing; 2. underwater; 3. perishable; 4. quadrangle; 5. adequately; 6. correspond; 7. triangular; 8. antagonism; 9. complainece; 10. hyperbolic.
- SPARES:** (Other combinations are possible. Score full credit for them as long as they are correct.)  
 1. rigid, bunts; 2. return, wade; 3. helper, bias; 4. grand, equal; 5. elated, quay; go; 9. income, clap; 10. policy, tutu.

# 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.

151

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

### Solution to Sudoku 150

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

# ENVIRONMENT environment@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079

## Storm destroys 200 houses in Minna

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

RAIN storm at the weekend devastated not less than 200 units of houses at the Talba owner occupier housing estate in Minna.

Niger Commissioner of Land and Housing Alhaji Hassan Abdullahi told *Daily Trust* that not less than 200 units of houses were lost in the Friday rainfall.

While denying rumour of poor work done by the contractors handling the project, Abdullahi said the destruction might have been caused by the fact that the contractors did not take the swampy part of the estate to consideration.

"A total of 200 housing units were destroyed by the rainfall which affected mainly the swampy part of the estate.

"I cannot really say it is a technical fault on the side of the contractors but I'm certain that if they had taken into consideration the issue of the swamp, then they would have reinforced the foundation of the housing units and the building would have been able to stand the flood", he said.

He said that the Talba housing estate which was supposed to be commission on the 29th of this month will be put on hold pending the completion of on-going assessment work on the extent of damage done.

He said already a team of engineers are at the estate evaluating damages with the aim of recommending which structure to be pulled down and which to be amended.

"At the moment we are embarking on a house-to-house assessment of the damage done to know which one to totally pull down and start from the scratch with and the ones to be repaired.

"While we will go ahead to commission similar housing estate projects in the state, the Talba housing estate will have to be put on hold pending the outcome of our investigation and subsequent repair work on the site", he said.



A refuse dump in Bwari, Abuja

## Benue to ban sale of sachet water

THE Benue State Government plans to ban the sale of sachet water in urban areas, the state Commissioner for Water Resources and Environment, Mr. John Ngbede, has announced.

Ngbede disclosed this during an interactive session with the State Assembly Committees on Works, Housing and Environment in Makurdi on Wednesday.

He said that the decision was aimed at controlling the amount of refuse generated by vendors and consumers of the product.

He said a bill to that effect would be forwarded to the State Assembly as soon as the Greater Makurdi Water Works project was completed but did say when the ban would take effect.

"We had actually concluded plans to forward the bill but when the idea was brought before the State EXCO (Executive Council), His Excel-

lency, the Governor, advised that we should wait until the water projects are completed," he said.

He said the decision to ban the sale of sachet water popularly called 'pure water', was sequel to the discovery that empty water sachets constituted the largest amount of refuse blocking drains in the towns.

He cited Imo and Cross Rivers States as having tackled their sanitation problems through a similar ban, with the cooperation of residents.

In his address, Mr. Austin Awodi, the Works and Housing Committee Chairman, had criticised the local government chairmen for neglecting their constitutional responsibility in regard to environmental sanitation.

He directed the council chairmen of Makurdi, Gboko, Otukpo and Katsina-Ala to reactivate their Public Health Departments to help in the enforcement of extant sanitation laws. (NAN)

## Sokoto villagers want flood problem checked

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

THE people of Tsamiya village in Tureta local area of Sokoto state have called on the Government to check the perennial flood they have been experiencing by constructing drainages in the area.

They made the call when a team of Journalists visited the council as part of assessment tour of projects executed by local government areas in the state.

The Tsamiya people attributed the flood they experience every year to lack of drainages

in the area and lamented the threat to their lives as well as loss of property as a result of recurring problem.

They advised local government authorities to always consult with the people to know their needs before embarking on projects in localities. Commenting on the issue, the local government chairman, Alhaji Mohammed Usman Lofa said the villagers did not lodge the complaint to the council.

He said the local government was embarking on the house project for the village head of the area because the village head is residing in

his own house.

The council chairman said the house project worth over N10million was yet to be completed and stressed the need for the contractors handling to project to ensure its timely completion.

Lofa also decried the slow pace of work on the 30 housing units for the council staff, noting that only one was completed.

He called on the contractors to return to site without further delay, adding that government would have to revoke the contract if they fail to do so.

## Coy monitors climate change adaptation in rural communities

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

GREENWATCH Initiative, one of the implementing partners of the Building Nigeria's Response to Climate Change (BNRCC) pilot project, has concluded the monitoring and evaluation of adaptation to the challenges of climate change in two rural communities of Daudu and Falgore in Benue and Kano states respectively.

Greenwatch has been working in the two communities for two years now, implementing BNRCC, a Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) funded project. BNRCC project is working to help build informed responses to climate

change in Nigeria by enhancing capacity at the community, state and national levels to implement effective climate change adaptation strategies, policies and actions. BNRCC is managed and implemented by a consortium of CUSO-VSO and Marbek Resource Consultants in partnership with the Nigerian Environmental Study/Action Team (NEST).

Speaking to *Daily Trust* after a team visit of the two communities, GI's Executive Director, Emmanuel Tembe said the exercise assessed the impact of the project on community members. "using the Socratic planning wheel where project based indicators like increased awareness on climate change, gender sensitivity of project activities, community driven

approach, activities leading to adaptation and reduced vulnerability to climate change impacts were used."

Tembe said all indicators recorded significant progress in project outcomes.

"In Falgore dry season farming had recorded significant success with high yield in cultivated crops from the wash wells and engine pumps earlier provided by the project to facilitate shadouf irrigation in the area", he said, adding "In Daudu the climate change communication project has significantly reinforced trainings and a gradual change in behavior from hazardous coping practices to more environmentally friendly practices that can lead to adaptation."

# Environment



environment@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079



VOLCANIC ash still causing closure of airports in Europe

## UN charges FG, states on emergency response

From Sunday Ejike Benjamin, Lagos

THE United Nations World Food Programme yesterday said both federal and the state government must attain a minimum level of emergency response capacity to amicably address emergency situation in the country.

"What needs to be done during emergency situation is not to think but to react. That is to say that every thinking should have been done before the emergency", the Head, Regional Office of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit of the United Nations World Food Programme, Mr. William Affif has said.

Addressing stakeholders in emergency management yesterday at the Lagos office of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Mr. Affif said the WFP team was on capacity assessment mission

to the country adding that capacity assessment is an integral part of the process of capacity development.

He said WFP is partnering with governments and international organisations in the United Nations on emergency preparedness and management, pointing out that the essence of the visit to Nigeria was to assist in analysing current capacity of all stakeholders, reflect on the past management of crises which occurred in the country in the last ten 10 years and to also improve coordination of capacity building in the management of emergency.

Earlier in his address, NEMA deputy director, planning research and forecasting, Alhaji Alhassan Nuhu said the WFP assessment mission is a continuation of its collaboration with NEMA in establishing and sustaining disaster management in the country.

## New climate change reports for release today

By Nasir Imam

AS part of its most comprehensive assessment to date, the National Research Council - the operating arm of the National Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Engineering - will release three new reports examining how the nation can combat the effects of global warming. One focuses on the science that supports human-induced climate change, and the others review options for limiting the magnitude of and adapting to the impacts of global warming. The reports are part of a congressionally requested suite of studies known as America's Climate Choices.

At a public briefing to discuss the reports, Ralph J. Cicerone, President of the National Academy of Sciences, will deliver opening remarks, and members of the panels that wrote the reports will discuss their recommendations and take questions. The briefing starts at 10 a.m. EDT Wednesday, May 19, in the Lecture Room of the National Academy of Sciences building, 2100 C St., N.W., Washington, D.C.

Reports to be released on the 19th are Advancing the Science of Climate Change, Limiting the Magnitude of Future Climate Change and Adapting to the Impacts of Climate Change.

## W/Bank releases \$250,000 to schools for water sanitation

By Tina A. Hassan

AS part of efforts to promote water sanitation and hygiene in schools, the World Bank has released 250,000 dollars to all the unity colleges in Nigeria to improve infrastructural facilities and water equipment.

The Minister of Education Professor, Ruqayyatu Rufai, disclosed this while speaking at the School Hygiene Promotion Convention organized by the Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Reform Program (WSSSRP) of the European Union and the Federal Government of Nigeria.

Represented by the Director Policy Planning and Research, Mr. A. F Salami of the ministry, she said that Adequate and safe water supply are essential for human sustainability. She said water supply and sanitation issues affect majority of Nigeria's citizens and although the country is blessed with abundant water supply the provision

of potable water still remains a challenge to Government at all levels.

"To ensure that our children and communities are free from diseases such as cholera and diarrhoea, as well as infant mortality with consequential increase in enrolment, retention of students in schools and eradication of poverty, a holistic and comprehensive approach towards achieving good hygiene is necessary". She said.

The Minister for National Planning Commission Dr. Shamsudeen Usman, represented by Mr. Abraham Abiodun Taiwo, said that stakeholders are in the process of fully integrating water hygiene into school's curriculum.

According to him, water hygiene and provision of consumable water is important in the country because inadequate access to water contribute to the many deaths of children under the age of 5 dying yearly in developing countries.



# THE REGENT

## Secondary School Abuja



**BOARDING AND DAY OPTIONS**  
**BRITISH CURRICULUM (IGCSE)**  
**WELL-RESOURCED**  
**STRONGLY ACADEMIC**  
**RELAXED ATMOSPHERE**  
**NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART CAMPUS**

**ENTRANCE TESTS AND PRESENTATION**

ABUJA CENTRE		
<b>Date:</b>	Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2010 @ the School Hall	<b>Time:</b> 9:00am
PORT HARCOURT CENTRE		
<b>Date:</b>	Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2010	<b>Time:</b> 9:00am
<b>Venue:</b>	Montessori International School 58, King Perekule Street, GRA Port Harcourt	
KADUNA CENTRE		
<b>Date:</b>	Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2010	<b>Time:</b> 9:00am
<b>Venue:</b>	Kaduna International School, No. 1 Wurmo Road, off Rabah Road Badarawa, GRA	

Registration forms are available at the school from The Registrar, Regent Secondary School Plot 858, Mabushi District, Behind the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing Abuja or any of the entrance tests centres.

registrar@regentschoolabuja.com www.regentschoolabuja.com 08022279062 08078487965

## CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513  
email: citynews@dailytrust.com

# Student jumps from 3rd floor to escape ritualists

By Ogechi Ohalee

A 22-year-old female undergraduate in a Nigerian university yesterday morning jumped from the third floor of a hotel at Jabi to escape from two suspected ritualists.

Eyiye, whom our reporter met in pain at the emergency ward of Gwarinpa General Hospital, said a man picked her from the road around Amigo Supermarket at Wuse 2 at around 10:30 pm Sunday and took her in a car to the hotel.

According to her, the man agreed to give her N4,000 to sleep with her and in the morning after having sex, another person came into the room, who was arranged to also sleep with her without negotiation.

"They did not know that I understand Rivers language and I over heard one of them say that he has to go back to Alhaji to collect a charm for me since I have the type of private part that Alhaji demanded for and it will be difficult for them to cut it off if I am conscious because I look like a stubborn person," the student said.

She said the man that spoke later left the hotel room and locked her and the other man inside the place who kept on insisting that he wanted to make love to her.



THE Student, Eyiye, after she jumped from the third floor of Capital Lake Hotel Abuja yesterday.

Eyiye said she told the man that her private part was paining her as the other man was rough over the night and need hot water to press her body.

"As the man left for the bathroom to fill hot water in a bucket

for me, I covered myself with a blanket and jumped out of the window from the fourth floor," the girl stated.

A security guard in the hotel said he noticed the girl fall from the third floor of the hotel's build-

ing and immediately alerted other guards, who rushed to her rescue.

"We heard a loud sound and rushed towards the direction to meet a lady on the ground in pains, filled with excreta all over her body. She told us what hap-

pened and we hired a cab to help us bring policemen, while we went to room 402 and broke into the room to arrest the occupant," he added.

He said while the suspect was being led away by policemen, the second suspect, who appeared with a powdery substance was also apprehended by the police, adding that they are both detained at Life Camp Police Station.

Our reporter learnt that the police also detained the hotel's guards and director, who were placed behind a counter.

The medical doctor who attended to the victim said she broke her waist and had other minor dislocations.

"We have directed that she be taken to another hospital for X-ray and other necessary tests," the doctor said.

The detained director of the hotel was not allowed to speak to our reporter as policemen from the station walked her out under threats.

## Rainstorm cuts off power supply to Kubwa

PARTS of Kubwa, a satellite town in FCT, has remained without electricity for one week, following a heavy rainfall, which was accompanied by windstorm, last Tuesday.

The early morning rain damaged many PHCN facilities, including transmission poles, as well as ornamental trees in various parts of FCT.

Aside Kubwa, other parts of the territory affected by the damage are Bwari and Gwarinpa.

Sources close to Abuja Transmission Company said that a major transmission equipment at Wuse District supplying energy to the affected areas was damaged by the storm.

The source said that PHCN engineers worked round the clock to restore electricity supply to Gwarinpa and Bwari but that supply to the affected parts of Kubwa had yet to be restored as at yesterday.

The PHCN Business Manager for Kubwa District, Mr M.A. Sule, confirmed the development but promised that supply to Kubwa would soon be restored.

Sule said the power outage had adversely affected the revenue collection of the district as the daily revenue collection had dropped drastically in the last one week.

The business manager said the Kubwa district might not be able to meet its revenue target for May because of the decline in revenue collection.

He said because of the outage, the usual rush to the district office and other cash collection centres by customers to settle their bills to avoid disconnection was lacking.

Sule said that administrative work at the Kubwa district office had been grounded in the last four working days as the office had no electricity supply. (NAN)

## Dead baby found in Garbage dump

By Gladys Ogechi Nworgu

AN unidentified baby was on Saturday discovered dead in a debris dump near Aso Tasha Market, Mararaba, in Nassarawa State.

A witness said the baby's corpse was naked and placed inside a carton with flies perching on it.

Sarah Bello, a resident, said the dead baby's age appeared to be within six to seven months based

on its size. Women, who gathered at the dump to witness the baby's burial placed curses on the child's mother as the grave was being covered with sand by residents of the area.

## Magistrate orders journalist arrested, released

By Usman A. Bello & Hussein Yahaya

THE Magistrate for the Wuse Zone 6 Magistrate Court yesterday ordered the arrest of a journalist for failing to heed her order to move out of the court room. The journalist, a reporter of the Guardian, was later released.

At the commencement of court proceedings, Magistrate Zainab Bashir had ordered journalists out of her court, saying she did

not want newsmen to cover the court session.

But she ordered the arrest of reporter Lemmy Ughegbe for not moving out of the court immediately.

The incident caused a mild drama in the court premises as other journalists around protested and sought for his release. Magistrate Zainab later ordered the release of the reporter and apologised to the journalists.

Meanwhile, chairman of the Abuja chapter of the Nigerian Union of Journalists, Mr. Jacob Edi, said the action of the magistrate portended danger for the judicial system.

"We are worried that a magistrate can just ask the police to arrest a journalist for doing his constitutional duty," he said. He said the union would petition the National Judicial Council over the incident.

## Ushafa chief decries state of pottery centre

By Fidelis Mac-Leva

THE village head of Ushafa, a sprawling community in Bwari Area council of the FCT, Mohamadu Usman, has decried the declining state of the popular pottery centre in the area, saying it requires urgent government attention to save it from going extinct.

Usman who spoke with our reporter at his palace said the centre was no longer enjoying government attention adding that basic amenities for pottery making are now lacking.

Describing the centre as a source of pride and livelihood of people within his immediate community, the Hakim Ushafa said: "The centre is now a ghost of its former self as there is no water supply, no electricity and no vehicles to convey pottery products to the markets."

He also accused the new management of the centre of sacking the former staff and replacing them with new ones that do not know anything about pottery making.

"It seems to me the new management of the centre are not showing signs of seriousness in preserving the traditional values of pottery making and training our youths on new techniques," he said.

He therefore sought the intervention of government in the provision of basic amenities and working tools at the centre to enable it come alive.

The Ushafa Pottery Centre was set up in 1991 under the defunct Better Life for Rural Life programme of the deceased former First Lady, Mariam Babangida. It is a skills acquisition centre that trains women, children and youth in both traditional and modern methods of pottery making.

## Mission honours four women over charity

By Nasir Imam

FOUR women who distinguished themselves as charitable persons in the society were on Saturday honoured by a Christian mission in Abuja.

Those honoured include Mrs. Jumai Ahmadu of the FCT Minister's press unit, Pastor Chichi Emordi, NCWS President, Mrs. Bala Usman and Mrs. Ify Umenyi, Director-General Consumer Protection Council, (CPC).

Speaking at the event, Rev. Mrs. Ngozi Mbaiké, minister in charge of Practical Christian International Mission and Founder Sisters in Galilee, said it is not bad investing in the world and urged those who have to share with others.

She said the Sisters in Galilee will soon launch their food programme project immediately after a convention in London.

# Three injured in Gada-Biyu auto crash

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

THREE persons were on Thursday night seriously injured in a motor accident that occurred at Gada-Biyu village, near Kwali town, along the Abuja-Lokoja highway.

An eyewitness said the accident involved a Volkswagen Golf car with registration number AE

795 KAE, which crashed into a stationary truck parked by the roadside, injuring three passengers on the spot.

"The vehicle was on top speed, overtook on the wrong side and crashed into a stationary truck before sympathisers from the village rushed to the accident scene to rescue victims to Kwali General Hospital," the witness said.

Yangoji unit Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Abdullahi Umar said the command was not informed of the crash on time, adding that before his men arrived the incident scene, sympathisers had taken them to the hospital.

In a related development, four persons narrowly escaped death

Saturday night in another accident that occurred at Abaji town, along the same road.

Our reporter learnt that a Daf trailer loaded with logs of wood had its attached behind pulled off when the driver tried to escape from a road block mounted by forest revenue officials, forcing four passengers to jump down instantly.

PIC: ABUBAKAR SADIQ ISAH



SCENE of an accident where three persons were injured at Gada-Biyu village on Thursday.

## Residents want abandoned school project completed

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

RESIDENTS of Ayaura community in Abaji Area Council, at the weekend called on the incumbent council Chairman, Alhaji Yahaya Musa Mohammed to complete a two blocks of seven class rooms/headmasters office in their area.

Malam Shuaibu Ibrahim said the project, which was awarded to a contractor last year has been abandoned, thereby causing untold hardship to residents of the community, who send their

wards to neighbouring schools.

According to him, work began sometimes in February last year but the contractor stopped work abruptly when one of the blocks got to an advanced stage while the other block was at foundation level.

"Immediately the community members discovered that work had stopped on the school's site, they mobilised to see the council chairman and intimated him on the development and he promised to mobilise the contractor

back to site but failed," Ibrahim disclosed.

He said a 'Mosque Committee' was set-up to approach the council chairman on the issue on several occasions and nothing has been done yet.

Another resident, Mrs. Hauwa Suleiman, also expressed concern over the abandoned school, saying the Chief Imam of Izala Mosque, Malam Tauheed Mohammed volunteered a block of three classrooms, where parents now send their wards to be educated.

She said the present classrooms in the block are overcrowded and appealed for the completion of the school's project.

Responding, Abaji Council Chairman, Alhaji Yahaya Musa Mohammed said the school project has been contracted out, while chairs and desks have been purchased, adding that the council is negotiating with the owners of the land on money to be paid as compensation to them.

## Task force swoops on hawkers in Abuja

By Usman A. Bello & Hussein Yahaya

TASK force members of the Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB) at the weekend raided areas in the city centre and arrested 17 street hawkers, who were arraigned before a mobile court and convicted for

flouting environmental laws.

The arrested hawkers pleaded guilty before Magistrate Aminu Abdullahi and were sentenced to one month imprisonment each or to pay fines of N3,000 each in the alternative.

Our reporters who monitored the exercise observed that

at Wuse Zone 3, some fire officers prevented members of the task force from arresting hawkers that ran into the Federal Service premises, which almost resorted to a confrontation that was settled by the board's Special Adviser on Security, Titus Ndawa.

At Gwarinpa, hawkers abandoned their wares and fled into a bush on sighting the task force officials while their items were confiscated.

The special adviser appealed to residents of the city to support AEPB in its efforts to keep Abuja clean.

# LAW

Contributions which should not be more than 1000 words may be sent to lawpages@dailytrust.com 08033353837 07029901030

## Legal Quote

AN act however immoral is not punishable in law except there is an enabling law prescribing punishment for it – But before this can be done, due process of law must be followed from the beginning to the end. An act may be morally reprehensible unless there is a law properly enacted which makes that act punishable and goes ahead to prescribe the punishment for it, a judge, indeed, any court of law is hamstrung to sentence and punish the perpetrator. – Per Aderemi, JSC in *Dapialong & ors V. Dariye & ors*

# Our judges are well versed in maritime law

## - Hassan Bello, Shippers' Council Director, Legal Services

Hassan Bello is the Director, Legal Services of the Nigerian Shippers' Council (NSC), a council set up to ensure fair play in shipping business in the country. In this interview with Daily Trust, Bello bares his mind on the activities of the council and its planned seminar for Judges. Excerpt:

from **Sunday Ejike Benjamin, Lagos**

**THE Council's input is necessary in the promulgation of maritime laws which are not readily on ground in Nigeria, how do you go about achieving this mandate?**

Maritime law is international. Shipping is international and the legal frame work for shipping is encapsulated in international convention.

International convention especially the carriage conventions varies. Some support the other side of the equation and some support the cargo side. What NSC does is to advocate for the promulgation of these international conventions that favours Nigeria as a cargo based nation. We don't ship, even though we should. We are more cargo based so we should incorporate laws that favour us and the Nigerian Shippers' Council is at the head of the negotiation at the United Nations to see that laws of international application have the interest of Nigerian Shippers. For instance is the current Rotterdam rule, which is the carriage convention being considered by the international communities. We ensure that there is cargo or Nigerian interest, in fact, the African interest is incorporated in international laws.

**You keep saying international laws, how can these laws be domesticated in the country?**

Treaties are signed between nations and we cannot domesticate laws until we incorporate them into our national laws. Section 12 of the 1999 constitution made it clear that even if you sign treaty, you have to come with the treaty to the National Assembly and after legislative process, the national assembly then make and pass the law. That is the only way you can domesticate, incorporate treaties or national conventions. Nigeria is a signatory to many conventions that are yet to be domes-

ticated, and as such, they are not effective. We have domesticated, for example Hamburg rules which is an international carriage convention that favours developing countries. It has been ratified for a very long time, the Nigerian Shippers' Council, in conjunction with the Nigerian Maritime Law Authority pushed it up to the National Assembly which looked at it and am happy to say that Hamburg rules has now been domesticated in Nigeria. This is just one example of our advocacy.

**What is the rationale behind the council's proposed seminar for Judges in Abuja by next month?**

Our Judges are well versed in maritime law especially after about ten years of maritime seminar for judges. We can say without contradiction that Nigeria maritime law has developed through case law and through rules and procedures that has been expounded by the Judges. Admiralty law is a branch of law that is fairly sophisticated and technical, but with the maritime seminar for judges, the judges and the lawyers are now familiar with this bunch of laws. The effect is that cases don't linger so long in court and decisions arrived by the judges are fair.

The purpose of the seminar is to ground Judges and our Lawyers on contemporary issues affecting maritime law. Maritime or admiralty is international in nature. It is the legal framework that will assist the conduct of international trade. So, you can't have different laws.

It is the nations that will come together. Ships pass through many countries, so there must be uniformity of rules and procedures of practicing international trade. So the idea of the maritime seminar for Judges is to make sure that Nigerian Judges are well advanced in the knowledge of admiralty law so that

they make timely decisions according to the best practice and international standard.

**What are the major features to be expected at the seminar?**

The seminar will only feature issues bordering on Nigeria and international maritime laws. For example, we have arbitration in maritime law. The advantage of arbitration over litigation is obvious.

Time is saved, cost is saved. Once issues are settled through arbitration, there is no bitterness. It is a faster way of settling disputes. You don't have to go through the courts. We are pushing that the disputants in maritime relationship should prefer arbitration rather than litigation. We have Mrs Doyin Rhodes Vivour, President of the Maritime Arbitration of Nigeria (MAAN), the likes of former attorney general of the federation, Chief Bayo Ojo, Louis N. Mbanefo, Chairman; chartered Institute of Arbitrators will all speak on that topic. We have this disturbing issue of piracy. Nigeria has been infested with piracy issues. We are going to look at whether the laws are adequate to take care of incidence of armed robbery and piracy in Nigeria; we are going to tackle that. We are going to discuss the Rotterdam rules carriage convention; we are going to discuss how ships are arrested and several other topical issues in the maritime industry.

**As the head of the legal services department of the Nigerian Shippers' Council, what is the nature of court actions before the council?**

Shipping is law; there is hardly a divorce between shipping and law. The Council has received complaints from shippers and we act with zeal. We have had records of settlement of disputes without going to court or even to arbitration. We address issues amicably, because we go the



HASSAN Bello

service providers as the case may be and we tell them what is right or wrong. We also rebuke the shippers who are our members because they are not saints. We want equilibrium, so the legal department of the Nigerian Shippers' Council is particularly poised to address the legal and procedural problems of shippers' complaints and it has done so successfully. It has also advocated for correct legal frame work. We have also done a lot of advocacy like the 11th Maritime Seminar for Judges slated to hold in Abuja between 1st and 3rd of next month.

**Has there been any occasion where the Council instituted a legal action against any service provider?**

Yes, we have in Nigerian Shippers' Council what is called cargo defence fund. The fund is set up by the Council to take care of indigent shippers who have genuine claims in court but could not pursue them due to inadequate fund. The cargo defence fund is like a legal aid to shippers and we

pursued cases on behalf of genuine shippers with genuine case.

**How can importers ensure fair treatment by service providers?**

What I want importers to know is that information is very important in shipping business. Importers of goods should know that they are equal partners with service providers because without cargo, there will not be shipping. There will not be shipping if you have ship and there is no cargo. It is always very important for them to be well informed to avail themselves with the services of the Nigerian Shippers' Council which I have earlier enumerated. It is also important that they negotiate well with service providers. The shipping, the insurance companies, the banks and other service providers cannot function without importers or exporters. Importers should know the important of their position. They always relate with the Council to know his rights and defend them.

## Law

# ANPP's appeal against Gov. Babangida Aliyu for hearing today

By Adelanwa Bamgboye

THE Court of Appeal in Abuja will today commence hearing in an application filed by All Nigerian Peoples Party (ANPP) candidate, David Umaru seeking to set aside the judgment of the Niger State Electoral Tribunal which declared Governor Aliyu Muazu Babangida of Niger State as the winner of the April 14, 2007 gubernatorial poll held in the state.

The court gave this notice, after the judiciary staff strike took its toll on the matter which has equally lingered in court.

The panel of five justices, February 19, 2009 unanimously affirmed the electoral victory of Governor Aliyu Muazu Babangida of Niger State in

the April 14, 2007 gubernatorial poll held in the state.

The justices found that the petition filed by Aliyu's major opponent and gubernatorial flag-bearer of the All Nigerian Peoples Party (ANPP), David Umaru was statute-barred.

Specifically, the court held that Umaru's petition, which was the root of the appeal before it, was caught by the provisions of section 141 of the Electoral Act 2006, since it was filed 31 days from the date the result of the Niger gubernatorial poll was declared.

Section 141 of the Electoral Act 2006 which they said affected Umaru's petition. Hence on February 19, 2009, the ruling noted: An election petition under this Act shall be presented within 30 days from the date the result

of the election is declared."

The court noted that the main appeal lacks merit abinitio (from the beginning, because the appellant filed his petition at the tribunal out of time.

According to the lead judgment delivered by Justice Uwani Musa Abba-Aji: "The Petition that gave rise to the appeal was filed outside the statutory period of 30 days as provided for by section 141 of the Electoral Act 2006.

She held that the petitioner slept on his rights for too long only to file a petition out of time which is in law statute barred. Hence, she declared that the court lacked the requisite jurisdiction to hear the appeal, struck it out and accordingly affirmed the judgment of the State Electoral Tri-

bunal.

Her words: "When the wordings of a statute are clear and unambiguous, the primary duty of the court is to give it its ordinary and natural meaning. The provisions of section 141 of the Act simply mean that time began to run from the day the result of the election was declared. The filing of a petition must include the day the event happened and not a day after," she said.

"It is the finding of this court that the petition was filed on May 15, 2007, a period outside the statutory period. It is therefore statute barred and is hereby dismissed. The cross-appeal succeeds. Accordingly, the declaration of Governor Muazu Babangida Aliyu as the duly elected

governor is upheld."

Abba-Aji's verdict was endorsed by four other panelists, who include the presiding Justice of the Abuja Division of the Court, Justice Rabi Danlami Muhammed, Justice Mary Peter Odili, Justice Jimmy Olukayode Bada and Justice Abdul Aboki.

Earlier, Justice Sulyman Kawu led Niger State Election Petition Tribunal on June 9, 2008 upheld the INEC declaration of Governor Aliyu as the elected governor of the state.

Disagreed with the ruling, Umaru who believed so much in his case approached the Court of Appeal for seeking to set aside the judgment of the appellate court and Nigerian are watching for the outcome.



THE National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) yesterday in Abuja conferred two awards – life patron of (NANS) and anti corruption caesar on the Chairman Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) Justice Emmanuel Ayoola, here the president of NANS Comrade Nazir Ashiru Galadanchi presents the awards to Justice Ayoola

## Pro bono cases: NYSC moves to decongest Kuje Prison

By Adelanwa Bamgboye

MEMBERS of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) under the umbrella of Legal Aids Community Development service group, Monday stormed the Kuje Medium security Prison where they effected the release of some prison inmate in a bid to decongest the prisons.

The group, which was assisted by human right activists and the Director General DG of the Legal Aids Council Mrs. Nwaka Laetifia Akinlami secured the release of the inmates having paid the sum of ₦12,000 fine imposed by an Abuja Upper Area Court.

Specifically, the NYSC Legal Aid Community Development Services Group (LACDSG) through its Litigation Committee is saddled with the responsibility of litigating (visiting courts in defence of accused persons awaiting trials) especially those who cannot afford legal representations.

This effort is facilitated through regular visitation of the Kuje Prison in Abuja to get updates of the records of cases of inmates as supplied to it by the Assistant controller of Prisons Kuje.

## Rule of Law: Mark, National Assembly Clerk receive knocks

By Adelanwa Bamgboye

ACCESS to Justice (AJ) a non governmental organization (NGO) has berated the Senate President, Senator David Mark and the National Assembly Clerk for their alleged affront to the Rule of Law and the authority of the Courts.

On Wednesday, 12th May 2010, the Court of Appeal sitting in Enugu reaffirmed its earlier decision nullifying the purported election of Senator Joy Emordi into the Senate, while ordering the President of the Senate and the Clerk of the National Assembly to swear in Chief Uba Igbeke as the duly elected Senator representing Anambra North Senatorial Constituency.

Both the Clerk of the National Assembly and President of the Senate have refused to implement the order of the Court of Appeal. This is the second time the Senate is flouting the order of the Appeal Court. This, according to AJ is both very unfortunate and unacceptable in a constitutional democracy.

Senate Committee Chair on Information and Media, Senator Ayogu Eze defended the action of the Senate saying that Section 53 of the Senate's Standing Rules gives Senator Joy Emordi the right to continue sitting as a Senator, having given notice to the Senate of an appeal lodged at the Supreme Court.

According to AJ, the Senate completely misconceives the nature of what was presented before it.

"This is an order from a properly constituted judicial tribunal ordering it to perform an act that the Court has considered is legitimate and expedient to be implemented, arising from its own final adjudication. The Court of Appeal has not made the implementation of its orders subject to the provisions of the Standing Rules of any other body, or even subject to the decision of the collective body of the Senate or National Assembly. It has not given the Senate the power to review whether the decision is congruent with the Senate's Standing Rules or not. It has simply ordered the principal officers to implement its lawful orders.

'It is grave and regrettable that a body such as the Senate, itself a creation of

law, has chosen to set itself against the decision of a judicial body, a body that exercises constitutional rights to decide questions relating to the membership of the Senate,' AJ said.

Specifically, Section 4 (8) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999 CFRN) clearly provides that the "...exercise of legislative powers by the National Assembly or by a House of Assembly shall be subject to the jurisdiction of courts of law and of judicial tribunals established by law..."

Joseph Chu'ma Otteh, Executive Director AJ said that the President of the Senate, Senator David Mark, is failing to offer the kind of leadership our country direly needs now, in order to consolidate its frail and fledging democracy.

'He (Senator David Mark) is offering the basest kinds of precedents, the most pernicious examples for public institutions to follow, and constructing a legacy that will sooner destroy the prospects for democratic rebound for Nigeria.

'This is the kind of behaviour that stifles faith in the ability of the Nigerian judiciary to perform its functions effectively, and dampens Nigeria's ability to market its investment potentials to domestic and foreign investors,' Joseph Chu'ma Otteh said. Joseph Chu'ma Otteh further said that the actions of the Senate in persisting in its refusal to swear in Chief Igbeke were irresponsible and bare-facedly arrogant.

'AJ deplores this continuing treachery by both Senator Joy Emordi and the leadership of the Senate and regards this as a ploy to frustrate the electoral gains of an opposition party, and propagate the culture of impunity associated with the politics of the National Assembly. We ask the Senate to immediately rescind its obnoxious decision on this matter and to swear in Chief Igbeke as a Senator representing Anambra North Senatorial District. We admonish Nigerian courts to take bolder and stronger action to protect the integrity of the judicial process, including applying the full force and sanctions of the law against the leadership of the Senate.'

### CORRIGENDUM

In our Tuesday May 4, 2010 edition, an article written by Ola Olatawura entitled 'Imperatives of a Freedom of Information Act' was mistakenly attributed to Adelanwa Bamgboye. We highly regret any inconvenience this might have caused the writer.



# INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> May 2010

Loan No: 2100150007117

IFB No: AfDB-CBARDP/NCB/002/09

1. The Federal Republic of Nigeria has received a loan from the African Development Bank in various currencies to finance the cost of the Community-Based Agriculture & Rural Development Project (AfDB- CBARDP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the Procurement of Media Vehicles.

2. The AfDB-CBARDP Project Support Office (PSO) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of Media Vehicles, as follows:-

Lot	Description	Quantity	Delivery Date	Delivery Location
A	Media Vehicles	5	60 days	AfDB-CBARDP Project Support Office, NFRA North East Zonal Office, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources Ahmadu Bello Way, Bauchi, Bauchi State

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect the Bidding Documents at the Community-Based Agriculture & Rural Development Project (AfDB-CBARDP) Project Support Office (PSO), NFRA North-East Zonal Office, Ahmadu Bello Way, P.M.B. 0114 Bauchi, Bauchi State – Nigeria.

4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Twenty Thousand Naira (N20, 000.00) only.

5. Bids must be delivered to the above office on or before 12:00 Noon, 17<sup>th</sup> June 2010 and must be accompanied by a bid security of 3% of Bid Price.

6. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2010, at 1:00 PM in the Conference Hall of Project Support Office (PSO) NFRA North-East Zonal Office, Ahmadu Bello Way, P.M.B. 0114 Bauchi, Bauchi State – Nigeria. Late Bids will be rejected.

Signed:  
Ibrahim Muhammad Arabi  
Project Desk Officer

Tel: 234-77-546763, Fax: 234-77-546807  
e-mail: [afdbps@gmail.com](mailto:afdbps@gmail.com), [afdb\\_pso@yahoo.com](mailto:afdb_pso@yahoo.com)



## FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION (FCTA)

### INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION AND TENDER FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS UNDER ABUJA ENTERPRISE AGENCY (AEA) IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL CITY, ABUJA

Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) has provisions in the FCT 2010 Statutory Budget as Capital Grant for Abuja Enterprises Agency Office Complex and intends to utilize part or whole of it for the under-listed projects and is therefore inviting competent and interested companies to submit Technical and Financial bids for the supply of Goods and Pre-qualification documents for the Construction of Abuja Enterprises Agency Office Complex respectively.

#### 2. THE PROJECTS ARE AS FOLLOWS :-

- Lot 1: Supply of 3 Nos Utility Vehicles.  
Lot 2: Supply and Installation of 100KVA Soundproof Generator.  
Lot 3: The Construction of 4-Storey Office Complex (Plan Area 667 sq. m) complete with Installation of Elevator/Lift System and Perimeter Fencing & Gate House.

3.1 PREQUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SUPPLY OF GOODS: Interested companies are to forward copies of the following documents and the originals to be made available for sighting during the Tender opening.

- Evidence of Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) and Articles of Memorandum of Association.
- Interested Companies should have up to date returns with the CAC and be informed that due diligence could be conducted.
- Company's Audited Account for the last three years from a Chartered Accounting firm.
- Tax Clearance Certificate for the last three years.
- Verifiable documentary evidences of similar jobs successfully executed within the last three years (copies of letter of contract award, completion certificates).
- Reference Letter from a reputable bank.
- Bank statement of the Company for the last twelve (12) months from the date of this publication.
- Evidence of registration with National Pension Commission and evidence of remittance made to date.
- Sworn Affidavit in line with the provisions of Part IV, section 16, subsection 6(e-f) of the Public Procurement Act, 2007.

#### 3.2 PREQUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF OFFICE COMPLEX:

In addition to the requirement listed in item 3.1 above, Companies having interest in the Construction of Office Complex must include copies of the following documents in their submission:

- Verifiable documentary evidences of similar jobs successfully executed within the last five (5) years (copies of letter of contract award, completion certificates).
- Company profile showing list of key personnel/officers to be attached to the project stating their roles, designation, qualification, and experience. Enclose photocopies of professional certificates of both company and its personnel and Curriculum Vitae (CV) where applicable. All copies of the professional certificates of the personnel shall be endorsed in blue INK by the individual professionals.
- List of Construction equipment to be used for the project available for immediate inspection and their locations. Also state whether the equipment is on lease or owned.

4. COLLECTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS: Interested companies are to collect Tender Documents (Supply of Goods) and/or Prequalification Document Format (Construction) from the Executive Director/CEO Abuja Enterprise Agency, No. 22 Kudang Street, off Monrovia Street, Off Aminu Kano Crescent, Wuse II, Abuja, upon the presentation of evidence of payment of N10,000.00 (Ten thousand naira only) non-refundable Tender Fee, as per project of interest, into FCT Treasury Revenue Account at Fidelity Bank (Central Area) Account No: 05150301000426.

Bidders are not allowed to bid for more than two (2) lots.

#### 5. SUBMISSION & OPENING OF PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

5.1 LOTS 1 & 2 (SUPPLY): Interested companies should submit Pre-qualification Documents sealed in an Envelope and three (3) copies of their tender document (one (1) original and two (2) other copies) signed, sealed in another envelope marked Financial Bids. The two envelopes should be put in another envelope, signed, sealed, clearly labelled "Tender for [Project Title and Lot No i.e. as listed above]", and dropped into the Tender Box at: Office of the Secretary, FCTA Tenders Board Secretariat, Room 043, Former Public Building Block, Area 11, FCTA Secretariat, FCT, Abuja on or before noon 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2010.

The representative of the bidding companies are invited to witness the opening of the tenders at 2.00pm on the same day at Archives & History Bureau, Beside AGIS Building, Peace Drive, Area 11, Abuja. The Tender period is for six (6) weeks.

Successful Companies could be requested to provide Performance Bond, whose value shall not be less than 10% of the contract sum before signing the contract.

Please note that the FCT Administration is not bound to accept the lowest or any other bid.

5.2 LOT 3 (CONSTRUCTION): Interested companies should submit completed Pre-qualification Document Format (Construction) together with three (3) bounded copies of Pre-qualification Documents (one (1) original and two (2) other copies) signed, sealed and clearly labelled "Pre-qualification for the Construction of Abuja Enterprises Agency Office Complex", and dropped into the Tender Box at: Office of the Secretary, FCTA Tenders Board Secretariat, Room 043, Former Public Building Block, Area 11, FCTA Secretariat, FCT, Abuja on or before noon 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2010 that is three weeks tender period.

The representative of the bidding companies are invited to witness the opening of the tenders at 2.00pm on the same day at Archives & History Bureau, Beside AGIS Building, Peace Drive, Area 11, Abuja.

#### NOTE:

- Originals of documents for items 3 (i, ii, & iii) must be produced for sighting during the opening exercise for each lot.
- Please note that due diligence could be conducted.
- Interested members of the general public, especially the Civil Society Organizations are invited to attend the opening exercise but shall adhere to the Code of Conduct for Public Procurement Observers stipulated by the Bureau of Public Procurement.
- Company's representatives are to come along with a letter of introduction indicating name, rank and sample signature to the venue of the opening exercise.
- This advertisement shall not be construed as a commitment on the part of FCTA/AEA, nor shall it entitle responding Company to seek any indemnity from FCTA/AEA by virtue of such company having responded to this advertisement.

Signed:  
MANAGEMENT

## Job vacancies



Family Health International is a public health and development organization working to improve the lives of the world's most vulnerable people. Our 2,500 staff work in 55 countries conducting research and implementing programs that advance public health and build local capacity to address development problems. Since 1971, Family Health International has been a global leader in family planning and reproductive health and, since 1986, in the worldwide response to HIV/AIDS. Our research and programs also address malaria, tuberculosis, and other infectious and chronic diseases. Our partners include US and international agencies, governments, foundations, research institutions, and individual donors.

In Nigeria, FHI is currently engaged in providing public health services and undertaking research in HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and reproductive health in partnership with the Government of Nigeria, under funding from the United States aid programs as well as from the Global Fund and private foundations and corporations. To strengthen our operations we are seeking qualified Nigerian candidates for the following positions:

Position title	No. required	Location(s)
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation Department</b>		
Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (LAMIS)	1	Kano Zone
<b>Programs Management Department</b>		
Program Officers	2	Lagos and Bauchi Zones
<b>Shared Services Department</b>		
Contracts and Grants Manager	1	Country Office Abuja
Human Resource Assistant	1	Country Office Abuja
<b>IT and Administration Department</b>		
Administrative Assistants	2	Country Office Abuja
Security Officer	1	Lagos Zone

### Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (LAMIS)

The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (LAMIS), under the supervision of the Senior M&E Officer, Zonal Senior M&E Officer and the Zonal Manager, with technical oversight from the Director of M&E, will be responsible for the implementation of monitoring and evaluation activities specific to the Lafiya Management Information System (LAMIS).

#### Key Responsibilities

- Provide technical and programmatic support for implementing high quality care and support activities with primary focus on clinical management of HIV/AIDS and PMTCT at the public health evaluation/LAMIS facilities in the zone
- Work with other staff in the zonal office and the LAMIS facility staff to ensure that activities at the LAMIS/PHE sites are appropriate and meet government, donor and project needs

#### Minimum Requirements

- MBBS/MD and MPH or related postgraduate qualification with 3 years clinical experience in HIV/AIDS programs in developing countries
- 1-2 years experience working with facility level data
- Experience working with local partners, including NGOs and CBOs and knowledge of the local context
- Understanding of the political and ethical issues surrounding HIV infection
- Ability to work well with government facility staff
- Good analytical skills and experience with standard statistical software (STATA or SPSS) will be an advantage
- Ability to pay attention to detail
- Well developed written and oral communication skills
- Familiarity with USAID programs will be preferred

### Program Officer

Under the supervision of the Senior Program Officer, the Program Officer will support the planning, design, review and monitoring of activities under the GHAIN project.

#### Key Responsibilities

- Assist the Senior Program Officer in providing assistance to program planning, design, review and monitoring

- Assist in strengthening a system of reporting on program progress against stated objectives and monitoring and evaluation frameworks, according to USAID and PEPFAR guidelines
- Support capacity building for implementing partners
- Remain informed on current programs and research in the STI/HIV field

#### Minimum Requirements

- BS/BA in public health or a related field and 5-7 years relevant experience or MS/MA in public health or related field and 3-5 years relevant experience in HIV/AIDS programming
- Experience working with NGOs and CBOs
- Strong knowledge of HIV/AIDS programming and project monitoring
- Knowledge of health programs in developing countries, sensitivity to cultural differences and understanding of the political and ethical issues surrounding HIV infection
- Ability to work well with other members of staff and FHI partners

### Contracts and Grants Manager

The Contracts and Grants Manager will work with the Associate Director Procurement, Contracts and Grants in providing administrative leadership for the management of awards and sub-awards for contracts, grants and cooperative agreements.

#### Key Responsibilities

- Monitor work flows and help develop and implement systems to provide sound management control over FHI's compliance with award terms and conditions and FHI policies
- Develop and implement procedures to ensure compliance with award terms and FHI policy
- Support the contracts and grants and other FHI staff to ensure that contracts and grants tools align with program needs
- Maintain good working relationship with contract/technical personnel from FHI headquarters, USAID, other donors and implementing agencies
- Develop templates, provide guidance and identify training needs to ensure FHI contract and grants functions are consistently applied across the program and in coordination with the global organization



## Job vacancies cont'd.

- Collaborate on draft contract and grant documents and provide general communications to the field on such matters
- Interpret and apply funding regulations to ensure that all FHI policies and procedures and procurement and contracting requirements are met for sub-agreement and sub-contracting activities
- Coordinate the development and implementation of procedures to ensure that adequate records and audit trails of projects are maintained
- Develop and implement procedures to ensure that contract and grants processes and related projects are efficiently monitored and executed in time
- Provide input for the revision of contracts and grants policy and procedure

### Minimum Requirements

- BS/BA in business administration, accounting or related field and 7-9 years relevant experience, or MS/MA/MBA with 5-7 years relevant experience in a similar role or an NGO setting
- Relevant software skills to include spreadsheet and database software and management information systems
- Working knowledge of donor (USAID, CDC, DFID, GFATM) contract and grant agencies
- Ability to interpret funding regulations and develop implementing procedures

### Human Resources Assistant

Under the supervision of the Senior Human Resources Officer, the Human Resources Assistant will provide operational support for implementing effective human resource processes for the GHAIN project in team functional areas, including recruitment, employee relations, benefits administration, compensation, HRIS, and training.

### Key Responsibilities

- In consultation with the Senior Human Resources Officer and Human Resources Manager, invite selected candidates for interviews and ensure candidates have proper documentation during interviews
- Liaise with the Senior Human Resources Officer to provide accommodation for entitled new hires
- Maintain record keeping systems
- Prepare, file, and track purchase requisitions, and travel documents
- Make out candidates offer checklists, do reference letters to referees and collate reports for candidates' personnel files
- File all documents appropriately into personnel files
- Print and package new hire orientation packages
- Print and circulate employee policy manual
- Execute individual exit process including prompt terminal benefit computations and settlement

### Minimum Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in human resources management, business/public administration or related field
- 1-3 years experience in the areas outlined
- Familiarity with international NGOs will be an advantage

### Administrative Assistant

The Administrative Assistant will be responsible for providing administrative and secretarial support to the departmental Director in the country office.

### Key Responsibilities

- Serve as point of contact for logistic and administrative needs in the country office
- Coordinate all administrative and secretarial support services for FHI/Nigeria country office
- Keep proper office records/filings appropriately
- Record minutes of staff meetings and circulate same among staff in the country office

- Coordinate all travel details/logistics for the director and other persons that may be assigned by the director
- Assist the director in providing logistic support for workshops and trainings
- Perform any other duties that may be assigned by the director

### Minimum Requirements

- University degree, HND, or recognized equivalent with 1-3 years experience as administrative assistant
- Familiarity with administrative and secretarial skills
- Experience with a large complex organization and familiarity with international NGOs will be an advantage

### Security Officer

The Security Officer, under the supervision of the Administrative Officer, will ensure security of life and property of AHNI/GHAIN staff.

### Key Responsibilities

- Ensure safety and security at the Lagos zonal office
- Perform regular and routine surveillance of AHNI/GHAIN properties, vehicles and staff at the Lagos zonal office
- Record the inflow and outflow of activities of AHNI/GHAIN staff, visitors/consultants and materials
- Report technical situation concerning electricity, water supply and safety of properties
- Report security lapses and proffer necessary solutions
- Monitor electricity supply, generator operations and servicing
- Report threat to security of staff life or properties to the appropriate authority
- Apply necessary measure in case of fire outbreak at the zonal office
- Perform other duties that may be assigned by the management

### Minimum Requirements

- A retired military officer with at least WASC/SSCE or related certificates
- 1-3 years work experience with a reputable agency in security role
- Knowledge of computer word processing, e.g. MS Word, Excel, etc. will be an advantage

### Method of Application

Interested candidates should forward their suitability statement (application) and resume (CV) as a single MS Word document within 10 days from the date of this publication to:

MandEjobs@ghain.org for Monitoring and Evaluation Department vacancy

PMjobs@ghain.org for Program Management Department vacancy

Sharedservicesjobs@ghain.org for Shared Services Department vacancies

itandadminjobs@ghain.org for IT and Administration Department vacancies

Only applications sent electronically (i.e. by e-mail) with the job title and location clearly indicated as the subject of the mail will be considered, and only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Please do NOT send more than one application.

Failure to follow these instructions will lead to automatic disqualification.

**DISCLAIMER:** Family Health International (FHI) does not test/interview candidates for a fee and all our tests/interviews are conducted in the country office Abuja or our zonal offices.

# HEALTH REPORT

## The problem with bromate in bread

By Ruby Leo

"ONE of the factors of short life expectancy is the consumption of dangerous chemicals like potassium bromate," so said the Director General of National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Dr Paul Orhii, in a recent statement condemning the use of the substance by Nigerian bread bakers.

Used in the right quantity, potassium bromate in bread is safe. But in Nigeria, the quest for maximum profit makes bakers apply more of the substance than could be safely tolerated by consumers. This has necessitated its outright ban by the nation's food and drug regulator, NAFDAC.

The occasion of NAFDAC's latest move was a visit to some bakers in some parts of Abuja to sensitize members of the public against the substance as well as make bakers stop the use of the flour-enhancing but often health-impairing potassium bromate.

Stressing the need to take seriously the harm that substances like potassium bromate do to life, Dr Orhii said in the statement read to journalists and bakers on his behalf by Pharm Bolarinwo Yusuf saying, "It is an irony that many factors contrib-

ute to the short life expectancy of Nigerians. While nationals of other countries such as China have life expectancy of 80 years, in Nigeria, it is about 50 years."

Alerting that the consumption of potassium bromate had been 'found to be carcinogenic, implicated in kidney and liver diseases and breakdown of vitamins in flour,' Orhii urged all Nigerians to help NAFDAC with information in its effort to stop the use of the substance in bread baking.

Hinting at the belief of the agency that it could not wage the war against use of potassium bromate alone, the NAFDAC DG recalled that the agency had in the past held workshops and conducted training for stakeholders in addition to carrying out enlightenment campaign on radio, television and the print media on the non-use of the potentially deadly potassium bromate to ensure safety of public health.

He repeated his call on all Nigerians to help NAFDAC with information in its effort to stop the use of the substance in bread baking.

Researchers have long found bromate to cause tumours. Studies on rats and mice confirmed that it causes tumours of the kid-

ney, thyroid, and other organs.

For its health risks, bromate has been banned in numerous countries, including the United Kingdom in 1990 and Canada in 1994. Specifically in 1991, California declared bromate a carcinogen under the state's Proposition 65.

In the spirit of that declaration, baked goods sold in California would have to bear a cancer warning if they contained more than a certain level of bromate. For this reason, most California bakers have switched to bromate-free processes.

Online resource centre, Wikipedia, puts potassium bromate in instructive perspectives. It says, bromate 'is typically used as a flour improver strengthening the dough and allowing higher rising. It is an oxidizing agent' which, 'under the right conditions, will be completely used up in the baking bread, but that 'if too much is added, or if the bread is not baked long enough or not at a high enough temperature, then a residual amount will remain, which may be harmful if consumed.'

Potassium bromate, it adds, 'might also be used in the production of malt and barley where the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has prescribed

certain conditions where it may be used safely, which includes labelling standards for the finished malt barley product. It is a very

powerful oxidizer and is considered a category 2B carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).'



DG NAFDAC, Dr Paul Orhii

## HIV/AIDS: Experts advise Nigerians on blood handling

From Yemi Bamidele, Ibadan

WORRIED by the prevalence of Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) scourge in the society, a group of medical experts and counsellors have made fresh calls on Nigerians to treat their wounds properly and ensure that they are not careless with their blood.

Giving this advice at a sensitization programme organized by ASETO-Afrika at the Teachers' House, Oluwole, Iseyin, Oyo State, Dr Tawa Olawepo submitted that most viral diseases including HIV/AIDS attack human beings by attacking cells in the blood.

The programme which held under the theme, Management of Laceration and Centrality of Blood in Controlling the Spread of HIV/AIDS was, according to its coordinator, Mr Jare Ajayi, put together "to alert the people on the need to take care of their blood and to know that an open wound can be a route for HIV/AIDS."

Dr. Olawepo maintained that it is important that any avenue through which an unauthorized blood can enter into our system must be treated and covered properly. "Wounds and injuries must be treated well to prevent them

from being infected by tetanus and other opportunistic infections," the medical doctor reiterated.

According to the doctor, "even when helping accident victims, we must wear gloves, otherwise, we should not touch a bleeding accident victim. We can help such a person by calling medical personnel and Road Safety officials."

Speaking in the same vein, Mr Moshood Folorunso of Educare Trust pointed out that "the much dreaded HIV and AIDS can enter the body not only through sexual organs, but through any opening that could introduce the virus into the blood."

He explained that if an infected person and an uninfected person have intercourse, the uninfected person may not get infected if there is no opening by which the fluid, including blood, of the infected person could enter into the system of the other person.

Folorunso, who had given talks on related issue in a number of places, asserted that serious foreplay is "also very important in controlling the contracting of HIV/AIDS."

Citing various cases in which an infected person 'managed to escape being infected' as a result of serious foreplay and absence of laceration, Folorunso enjoined his listeners to take these two issues seriously.

Earlier in his speech, the project coordinator, Mr. Jare Ajayi had explained that the programme was organized with a view to educating everyone on the need to treat blood with greater respect.

He reminded everyone that our forefathers knew how sacred blood is and never joked with it. He stated that if fluid of an infected person gets into the body of an uninfected person "perhaps through an open wound, chances are that the latter would be infected with this dreaded viral disease."

Also speaking on the occasion, Ustaz Yusuf Balogun, said that HIV/AIDS are preventable "if one takes care of himself and observes basic principle of respect for blood and treats sores properly."

Balogun, who is an alternative healthcare provider and midwife, enjoined everyone to refrain from sucking, licking and drinking blood 'for, it can be dangerous indeed'.

Among the participants at the programme held under the auspices of the Oyo State Action Committee on HIV/AIDS (OYSACA) were teachers, local government workers, transporters, commercial motorcycle riders, artisans, traders and students.

## FG urged to establish special fund for research

By Ruby Leo

THE federal governments has been called upon to establish a special fund to help facilitate better research and science education in the country capable of ensuring the country's ntry's desire to be counted among the best economy by 2020.

The intervention fund, if put in place would play roles similar to what the Education Tax Fund (ETF) is doing in the education sector. This was the view expressed by Director General of National Institute for Pharmaceutical Research and Development (NIPRD), Professor Karniyos

Gamaniel.

Speaking during an interactive session with officials of International Fund for Science (IFS) who are in the country to access the appropriateness of scientific equipment for research into drug development, professor Gamniel lamented the poor state of research infrastructure in the country arguing that NIPRD qualifies for assistance in the form of grant from the IFS.

Responding, leader of the IFS delegation, Professor Cecilia Oman said the Sweden based international organization is attracted by research efforts at NIPRD and would assist in the areas of procurement,

installation and maintenance of science equipment for research.

Though Professor Cecilia Oman could not quantify the assistance in monetary terms she disclosed that IFS would develop operational and financial plans on its partnership with NIPRD.

The IFS team inspected laboratory facilities at NIPRD and made recommendations on physical infrastructures, work safety and environmental protection.

The Agency also promised to strengthen collaborations through workshops and commercialization of research results.



National Agency for Science and Engineering  
Infrastructure  
(NASeni)  
(FEDERAL MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY)

IDU INDUSTRIAL AREA, P. M. B. 391, GARKI, ABUJA.  
TEL: 08033551266 EMAIL: nasenibq@naseni.org  
emmanuel.oghre@naseni.org  
eoghre@yahoo.com

## INVITATION TO TENDER

- NASeni is desirous of Procuring:
  - 1 Digicab 4D.
  - 2 Nos. of 10 Ton Capacity Forklift with Japanese Engine.
  - CNC Milling Machine
  - Vertical Machining Centre.
  - 3D Printer.
  - Fabrication Equipment
  - Horizontal Bench Model Universal Testing Machine (Electronic Tensometer) PC 2000, Capacity 2KN Plus Accessories
  - Cleaning & Gardening Services at NASeni HQ & Solar Panel manufacturing Plant, Karshi, Abuja.
- Interested Companies and Individuals in the fields stated in 1 above are required to submit Bids for Tender with the following:
  - Evidence of possession of Competence and experience in jobs similar to the one described in 1 above in Nigeria by the submission of appropriate company profile.
  - Evidence of Incorporation.
  - Evidence of Current Registration with NASeni
  - Evidence of tax clearance and audited /Accounts for the past three years.
  - Evidence of financial capability and provision of Advance Payment Guarantees.
  - Reference letter from a reputable Bank.
  - Payment of non-Refundable fee of **N25,000.00**. Payments are to be made by Bank Draft payable to "National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure" Abuja.
  - Only registered bidders/Contractors with Agency will be given Bid Documents and allowed to bid.
- Interested Companies should pick up the specification booklet from the Procurement Unit Room 6 at the Agency's Headhunters, Idu, Industrial Area, Abuja on payment of a non refundable fee of **N25,000.00**.
- Qualified contractors should submit their sealed bids marked at the left hand corner of the envelop specifying the item appropriately and addressed to:  
"The Director General / Chief Executive,  
National Agency for Science & Engineering Infrastructure,  
Idu Industrial Estate,  
PMB 391, Garki, Abuja"  
**Not Later than 6 weeks from the date of this publication.**

**Dr. E. O. Oghre**  
For Director General/Chief Executive

## The Nigerian Society of Engineers



Announces its  
INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING CONFERENCE  
AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

"Abuja 2010"

Theme:

"Engineering Response in Combating the Effects of Climate Change in Africa"

Venue:

International Conference Centre Abuja

Date:

6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2010

### CALL FOR PAPERS

The Nigerian Society of Engineers is inviting technical papers from Engineers, in both the Public and Private sectors of the Economy, Institutions of higher learning, Research Institutes, International Organizations, as well as Economists and Policy Formulators for its year 2010 International Conference holding at International Conference Centre Abuja from 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2010

### OBJECTIVES

The paramount objectives of this conference are to:

- Draw attention to the current trend of Climate Change as it relates to Africa
- Provide Engineering response to Climate Change

Experts, Practicing Engineers, Academia, Policy formulators, Economists from across Nigeria and beyond will be brought together to interact and share ideas and experiences on how to solve these imminent challenges posed by the Climate change.

### SUB-THEMES

The following sub-themes shall be addressed among others:

- ✓ Engineering Opportunities in Response to Climate Change
- ✓ Effects of Climate Change and Food Security
- ✓ Environmental Impact of Climate Change
- ✓ Waste Management and Control.
- ✓ Energy Options for Sustainable Development.
- ✓ Engineering Codes and Standards
- ✓ Economic Fiscal Policies for Sustainable Development.

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARATION OF THE MANUSCRIPT

- Presentation Medium:**  
Manuscripts accepted for the Conference must be submitted in electronic form as a single electronic file on CD-ROM or Flash Drive. The electronic file should be in Microsoft Word format 2007 version.
- Illustrations and Graphics:**  
All drawings shall be prepared electronically with software compatible with Microsoft Office suite (e.g. MS-PowerPoint, Visio) and integrated seamlessly into the MS-Word document. Photographs shall also be digitized into JPEG format and inserted seamlessly into the MS-Word document
- Equations**  
Mathematical equations shall be constructed within the MS-Word document, using the Microsoft Equation Editor included with the MS-Office suite.
- Tables**  
Each table shall be labelled at the top with the word "Table" followed by sequential numerical letter.
- Layout**  
Paper size: A4  
Margins: Left margin: 3cm  
Right margin: 3cm  
Top margin: 3cm  
Bottom margin: 3cm

### SUBMISSION OF PAPERS

Authors are expected to forward the following items:-

- Two (2) No. hard copies of the paper which should not be more than 12 pages including equations, tables, figures and references and electronic copy in disk drive or Flash drive in Microsoft Word 2003.
- It should be noted that all submitted papers shall be pre-reviewed for approval or otherwise. A flash drive or disk drive copy in "power point" presentation shall be required for accepted papers only.

### CLOSING DATE

- Submission of Abstract: 15<sup>th</sup> July 2010  
Acceptance of the Abstract: 29<sup>th</sup> July 2010
- The Closing date for submission of full text: 15<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2010  
Acceptance of the full text: 15<sup>th</sup> October 2010
- Submission should be sent by e-mail, self or courier and to the under mentioned:  
Abstract should not exceed 400 words

The Chairman  
Technical and Publications Committee:  
Engr. Prof. D.A. Adesanya, FNSE  
Faculty of Environment Design  
Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife  
+234-0803-717-9393  
E-mail: blodunadesanya2002@yahoo.com. OR pd@nseng.org  
OR

The Executive Secretary  
The Nigerian Society of Engineers  
National Engineering Centre,  
Off National Mosque-Labour House Road  
Central Business Area, Abuja, Nigeria  
E-mail: info@nseng.org, es@nseng.org  
Tel: 234-9- 6735096 & 234-1-4766686

Signed  
Engr. A.K. Amshi, FNSE  
Executive Secretary

## Inside Politics

# Echoes of two-party system 17 years after

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

MANY condemned it as a restrictive system designed by the military to limit freedom of association among the people but barely 17 years after its abolition the two-party system of democracy is rearing its head again in the ongoing electoral reform. The system was introduced by the General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida-led military junta during the botched third republic. Those seeking elective positions were restricted to the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the National Republican Convention (NRC), two parties established and funded by the then military government.

Many criticised the system for the limited choice of parties and ideologies, especially as it was the military that drafted the manifestos and set up all structures for the parties. All that was required of individuals seeking to participate in the political system was to register as members of one of the two parties. The NRC and SDP existed like agencies under the military junta which appointed party officials and determined those that qualify to seek political office.

The system was however less cumbersome and provided vibrant political landscape that led to keenly contested elections. Parties in power were kept on their toes by strong opposition from the other equally strong party. In the end, the two-party system produced what was unarguably the freest and fairest election ever in the half a century history of the country.

The June 12, 1993 presidential election which was a product of two-party system and the option A4 voting pattern was adjudged by both local and international observers as an unprecedented success in Nigeria's democratic experiment. But after the annulment of the 1993 presidential election, believed to have been



DEPUTY Senate President Ike Ekweremadu

won by late Chief Moshood Abiola of the SDP, the agitation for a more open party system resurfaced. The military government of the late General Sani Abacha opened up the political landscape by dumping the two-party system for multi-party democracy. By the time democratic rule was restored in 1999 the number of parties participating in the democratic process continued to swell by the day.

Presently, there are about 60 political parties in the country with some only springing to life when it is time to claim statutory grants from the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). Of all the political parties in the country, only six have at least a state governor, while the National Assembly have members from only four political parties. Over 50 existing political parties have no representation at any level. As the number of parties increase, opposition to

the majority Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) weakens and chances of any other smaller political parties winning elections diminish by the day. This has raised concern among the political class.

The ongoing electoral reform therefore provides an opportunity for a change. Recently, the Former Governors Forum (FGF) started lobbying members of the National Assembly to push for a return to the two-party system. The former governors also want the proposed system including option A4 to be adopted in the electoral reform in order to form the basis for future elections in the country.

Speaking when they made presentation to the Senate Committee on Review of the Constitution (SCRC), leader of the FGF, former Akwa Ibom governor, Obong Victor Attah said the multi-party system is too unwieldy to be able to promote a self sustaining democratic pol-

ity for the country. He said "The proliferation of political parties weakens the polity and invariably promotes a one-party system. For instance, the PDP has become the only dominant national party because of the inability of other parties to grow beyond their regions or states. The present system where most parties in the country do not exist beyond their registration certificates does not create an effective opposition, which is the bedrock of democracy."

In his response, Chairman of the SCRC, Deputy Senate President Ike Ekweremadu rejected the FGF's proposal saying it is in breach of the provision for freedom of association in the constitution. The proposal is therefore very unlikely to pass in the Senate.

However, the FGF's position is gaining grounds in the House of Representatives where several members have spoken in support of the two-party system. During debate on the electoral act, several members argued that the multi-party system has weakened the polity by creating a single strong party while all others remain as mushroom political organisations existing only by the grace of INEC's grants.

Apparently in support of the FGF position, leader of the opposition in the House, Rep. Mohammed Ali Ndume while contributing to the debate said the multi-party system is capable of leading Nigeria to sectional politics where few individuals from particular areas or tribes float political parties simply to push for selfish and divisive ideologies.

His position garnered support of several other members that cut across party lines. Due to the momentum being gathered by the proposal, Speaker Dimeji Bankole resolved that members continue consultations with colleagues and constituents before Tuesday when they are expected to vote on the

matter. Though the FGF position on two-party system was not accepted in Senate, the Red chamber had adopted a provision capable of dissolving several of the inactive political parties in the country. During debate on the general principles of the Electoral Act bill, it was proposed that parties must henceforth sustain themselves financially as INEC will no longer provide them with funds. It is clear that without INEC's grants, the number of parties in the country will gradually decrease to below ten within two years and possibly less than five in the nearest future. It is likely to witness mergers and acquisitions between political parties akin to what is now usual in the financial sector. Aside stopping INEC funds, the new electoral law will also provide for closer monitoring of sources of funds and expenditure of all parties by the electoral umpire.

As the debate for return to two-party system takes centre stage again after 17 years of its abolition, observers await the resolution of the National Assembly on the matter. Adoption of the system could streamline the political landscape in 2011 where only two parties would sponsor candidates to contest alongside independent candidates for elective posts. It may lead to a stiffer contest between a very strong coalition of opposition parties against the ruling PDP.

Should this happen, the PDP is sure to lose grip on the polity as the opposition will pull its forces together to give a good fight rather than the dissipated energies they presently exert. Imagine a PDP presidential candidate contesting against another candidate produced by a coalition of all the other parties that form the Coalition of Nigeria Political Parties (CNPP). Knowing the implication, it is little wonder that most vehement antagonists

## Forum lauds Sambo's VP nomination

By Abbas Jimoh

THE Kaduna Solidarity Forum (KSF) has commended President Goodluck Jonathan for nominating Kaduna State Governor Mohammed Namadi Sambo as the Vice-President.

National Coordinator of the Forum, Mr. Jonah Jatau Musa, said yesterday after an emergency meeting of the forum that the appointment of Architect Sambo

was a demonstration of the will-power of President Jonathan in resisting the array of professional lobbyists who were trying to foster their candidates on him.

Musa said that the forum started as Namadi Sambo Grass-root Forum 2011 prior to his nomination adding that the people-oriented activities of Sambo will be of tremendous benefit to President Jonathan's administration.

## I don't know my successor yet — Gov Idris

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

GOVERNOR Ibrahim Idris of Kogi State on Friday said he was yet to know who would occupy his seat in the next political dispensation.

The governor said this while receiving leaders and members of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) from the Central Senatorial District of the state.

Idris said the power shift being advocated could only be achieved

if pursued with dialogue, stressing that violence would not do anyone any good.

"I have said it times without number that only God can answer the question of who succeeds in office. Much as I have no idea of who my successor will be, I am convinced that the Central Senatorial District, just like other districts, has qualified people to be the next governor. I must however state that no particular ethnic group has the exclusive right to

produce governor. All our people, no matter where they come from, have the right to contest. It is difficult for me to say it is Mr. A or B. I may only be instrumental to the emergence of the next governor", he said.

However, Chairman of the Central zone Musa Etudaiye and Senator Salihu Ohize appealed to the governor to support the gubernatorial ambition of his deputy Philip Salawu who they said had been so loyal to him since 2003.

# Inside Politics

## CNPP opposes bill to make Nigeria 2 party state

By Abbas Jimoh

CONFERENCE of Nigerian Political Parties (CNPP) has opposed the move by the National Assembly to entrench two party system in the Constitution. The group also warned President Goodluck Jonathan not to appoint the chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) if he is going to contest the 2011 presiden-

tial election.

Alhaji Balarabe Musa, Chairman of the CNPP, who stated this yesterday in Abuja during a news conference, said that the bill seeking the adoption of two party system was a threat to right to freedom of association.

According to him, it would be unfair for President Jonathan to appoint the referee in a game in which he is also a competitor.

"If President Jonathan should go ahead and appoint the new INEC Chairman while he is also contesting, then there won't be any free fair election in 2011. Rather the government should put in place the electoral reform and adopt the Uwaiz Panel recommendation which stipulates that the appointment of INEC Chairman be removed from the function of the President," Musa said.

## CPC to embark on nationwide tour -Party chieftain

From Auwalu Umar, Kano

EXECUTIVE members of the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) will embark on a nationwide tour to sensitize Nigerians on the party's ideology, party chieftain and Bauchi State gubernatorial aspirant Alhaji Adamu Abdullahi Dan China has said.

Dan China, who spoke to newsmen in Kano yesterday, did not, however, say when the tour will take off. Dan China said the party was gaining ground as more Nigerians come forward to register with it as members.

The party, according to him, started on a good footing given its acceptance by Nigerians as a formidable opposition party. He said the entry of General Buhari into the party had further projected its image and credibility.

On the crisis bedeviling the party in Bauchi State, he said it would soon be over as elders had intervened to sanitise the situation. He also said the crisis would not in any way affect its chances in the state in next year's election.

He dispelled the insinuations that he withdrew from the gubernatorial race

## 2011: No one can intimidate Yuguda -Aide

Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

THE Senior Special Assistant on Community Relations to Governor Isa Yuguda of Bauchi, Danlami Baban Takko, has said that those who are of the view that Yuguda's light will dim for the 2011 elections in the state are wishful thinkers.

Speaking to *Daily Trust* in Abuja recently, Baban Takko said that no party apart from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) can win elections in the state, stressing that Yugu-

da's performance since he assumed office will speak for him at the polls.

When asked to comment on the growing opposition against Governor Yuguda, Baban Takko said:

"In politics opposition is not a new thing. In fact opposition is part of healthy democracy. Today no person from the North would say the late Ahmadu Bello did not do anything good for the north. We still respect the Sardauna more than 40 years after his death. Yet he faced opposi-

tion from NEPU and others while he was on the throne. Yuguda's case is no exception. Therefore nobody can intimidate him."

He said the criticisms against Yuguda are full of mischief and "designed by a clique of self-seekers" to achieve selfish ends. Asked whether Buhari's Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) will not be a threat to Yuguda's PDP, he said that the CPC can in no way upset PDP's chances because it has no structure in Bauchi compared to the PDP.

## Right Group condemns opposition to Sambo's nomination

By Abbas Jimoh

THE Right Monitoring Group (RMG) has described opposition to the nomination of Kaduna State Governor, Namadi Sambo as the Vice President by some NGOs and persons, as unnecessary distraction.

NATIONAL Coordinator of the group, Olufemi Aduwo, told *Daily Trust* yesterday in Abuja that the with the track record of Sambo and the progress made so far in the nation's socio-political development, it

would be wrong for anybody to be playing to the gallery in the name of opposition.

"WE deemed Sambo as eminently qualified, he is known for open heartedness so much that members of some of the opposition parties in the state are serving as commissioners and in other positions; all can see that since his assumption in the state the perennial sectarian and religious violence has been nipped in the bud; this among other qualities makes him a good choice for President Jonathan," Aduwo said.



### THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR FEDERAL FIRE SERVICE

FIRE HEADQUARTERS, AREA 10, MUHAMMADU BUHARI WAY  
P.M.B. 43, GARKI - ABUJA

REQUIREMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN RESPECT OF PRE-QUALIFICATION/TENDER ADVERT IN MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2010 ISSUE, for the following projects:

- i) Construction of Internal Roads Network
- ii) Construction of Administrative Block
- iii) Water Supply/Distribution
- iv) External Electrification
- v) Construction of Fire House Prop
- vi) Construction of Clinic
- vii) Construction of Kitchen
- viii) Construction of Aircrash Fire Prop
- ix) Construction of Oil Spillage Fire Prop
- x) Supply of Fire Engine
- xi) Supply of Fire Fighting Ancillary Equipment

The requirements are:

- (a) Evidence of employee Retirement Savings Accounts (RSA) with a Pension Fund Administrator;
- (b) Evidence of remitting employer and employee pension contributions to the appropriate pension fund custodian; and
- (c) Evidence of transferring all Pension Funds and Assets prior to the commencement of the Pension Reform Act to licensed pension operators

Contractors that have bid for any of the projects in i) - xi) above should forward all information to

The Secretary  
Service Tender's Board  
Federal Fire Service  
Area 10, Garki, Abuja

not later than 7 days from the date of this advert.

Signed  
Management



NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED LEGAL STUDIES  
LAGOS, NIGERIA.



## EXTERNAL VACANCIES

The Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies announces vacancies into the following positions:

### Professor of Law: Qualification/Experience:

Law Graduate with at least 15 years post relevant research / teaching experience. The candidate must have published extensively in learned journals and books and in addition possess administrative competence. The candidate should have ability to supervise postgraduate studies and initiate research.

### Associate Research Professor: Qualification/Experience:

Law graduate with a minimum of a PhD plus at least 12 years post relevant research / teaching experience. The candidate must have published extensively in learned journals and books and in addition possess administrative competence. The candidate should have ability to supervise postgraduate studies and initiate research.

### Research Fellow:

Qualifications/Experience:  
Law Graduate from a reputable university. The candidate must have ability to conduct research.

### Conditions of Service

As applicable in Nigerian Universities / Research Institutes, or other wise as may be determined from time to time by the Federal Government.

### Method of Application:

Detailed application of interested applicants shall include candidate's curriculum vitae as follows:

- (i) Name in full
- (ii) Place and date of birth

(iii) Permanent Home Address

(iv) Current Contact Address

(v) Nationality at Birth

(vi) Marital Status

(vii) Number of Children (with dates of birth)

(viii) State of Origin

(ix) Local Government of Origin

(x) Secondary and Post Secondary Education including dates

(xi) Qualifications obtained with dates

(xii) Statement of experience including full details of previous and present employment

(xiii) Other activities outside current employment

(xiv) Proposed dates of availability for duty if appointed

(xv) Telephone Numbers

(xvi) Post applied for;

(xvii) Name and addresses of three Referees. In addition applicant shall request their Referees to forward references on their behalf direct to:

The Advertiser,

P.M.B 385,

Garki, Abuja.

### Closing Date:

Applications and supporting materials shall be forwarded to The Advertiser, P.M.B 385, Garki, Abuja not later than 6 weeks from the date of this publication.

The position applied for should be indicated at the Right- Hand side of the envelope.

Please note that only the application of short listed candidates will be acknowledged.

Signed:

Institute Secretary



# JIGAWA STATE GOVERNMENT

## CAVEAT EMPTOR

The Government of Jigawa State hereby notifies the General Public that the ownership of the Two Oil Blocks known as OPLS 252 and 292 (formerly known as OPLS217) resides in the said Government of Jigawa State.

The Jigawa State Government has in its avowed resolve to protect its property and ensure accountability to its tax payers taken out a Writ of Summons in suit number FHC/DT/CS/02/2010 at the Federal High Court sitting in Dutse, Jigawa State against the following Defendants, namely:

1. INC Natural Resources (Nig) Limited.
2. Ministry of Petroleum Resources.
3. Ibrahim Saminu Turaki.
4. Alhaji Nuhu Usman.
5. Kabir Ahmed.
6. Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice.

Members' of the Public, Corporate Bodies both Nigeria and Foreign are therefore warned that any form of transaction whatsoever on the said Oil Blocks must not commence, be entertained or pursued in any way or form. Any person or company engaged in any form of contact, negotiation or dealings with anyone or more of the above listed defendants must cease forthwith, as the Government and people of Jigawa State will relentlessly pursue their Cause of Action already filled in the Federal High Court, Dutse, Jigawa State against the Defendants some of whom have made themselves fugitives.

**Chief Mamman Mike Osuman LL.M SAN**  
*For: Mamman Mike Osuman (SAN) & Co.*  
*(Counsel to Jigawa State Government)*

## SPORT

Can Erikson  
change Elephants'  
fortune?

Page 55



## 2010 WorldCup:

## Taiwo advocates teamwork

OLYMPIQUE Marseille of France work will be key for the Super Eagles as they begin the campaign for glory at the South Africa 2010 World Cup next year.

Nigeria lack big name players going into the World Cup, and Taiwo says the team will have to make up for that by playing for each other.

"We have to play as a team, that is very important. Everybody has to work for each other for us to achieve what we want," Taiwo said.

The left back was part of the team that helped Olympic Marseille claim their first title since 1992, and he says the Super Eagles can draw parallels from the triumph of his French clubside.

"It was not easy to be champions. We tried our best, everybody worked for each other and it worked out for us in the end.

"In the dressing room we were all happy even up to the president, everybody was celebrating because it was a very special moment.

"I believe that if we play as a team in South Africa, we can achieve something."

**"We have to play as a team, that is very important. Everybody has to work for each other for us to achieve what we want"**



Left back Taye Taiwo says team work will propel Eagles to a better showing in South Africa

## North-Central endorses Lulu, others

By Orkula Shaagee

FOOTBALL stakeholders from the North-Central geo-political zone of the country on Sunday unanimously endorsed NFF President Sani Lulu Abdullahi and some of his Executive Committee members to run for a second term of office when the NFF polls come up in August this year.

Co-ordinator of the North Central zone, Chief Kunle

Adesiyun led the way with lavish praise of the performance and efforts of the present NFF administration to develop the game in the country in the past four years, at the meeting held inside the Benue Hotels in Makurdi.

"We in the north central zone have absolute belief and faith in the present NFF leadership to steer the ship of Nigeria football to the promised land, no matter what detractors are saying. It is

only those who are objective, who are impartial and who are sincere, who can give an appropriate appraisal of the performance of the NFF leadership.

"In the past four years, the NFF administration led by Sani Lulu Abdullahi has done very well on and off the field. Now, the State Football Associations get subvention from the NFF, there is an U-13 football project, there is a Referees Academy, there is concrete plan for the building of

a new Secretariat and the days of our players holding the nation to ransom by demanding for their match bonuses and allowances in foreign idea are over.

"The Secretariat is being manned by professionals in the different divisions, departments and units, our players have implicit confidence in the Federation all the time and also, we are back at the FIFA World Cup".

The meeting was attended by NFF President Lulu Abdul-

lahi was accompanied by among others, 1st Vice President Amanze Uchebulam, Executive Committee Members Taiwo Ogunjobi, Shehu Adamu, Dominic Iorfa, Obinna Ogba and Aminu Maigari, General Secretary Bolaji Ojo-Oba, and NFF management staff, as well as chairmen and secretaries of the Football Associations from Niger, Kogi, Kwara, Plateau, Nasarawa, Federal Capital Territory and the host Benue.

## Pillars, Enyimba face minors in Federation Cup opener

By Orkula Shaagee

CONFEDERATION Cup defending champions Enyimba of Aba and current Premier League leaders Kano Pillars of Kano will face non-league sides in the first knock-out of the 2010 edition of the annual soccer fiesta.

While Enyimba will battle unknown Dalkat Football Club of Kano, Pillars on their party will face Fountain FC from Osun State for as place in the next round of the competition.

Dalkat FC lost in the final of the Kano State Federation Cup to Premier League side Kano Pillars to pick the second slot to represent the state at the national preliminaries which begins across the country on May 26.

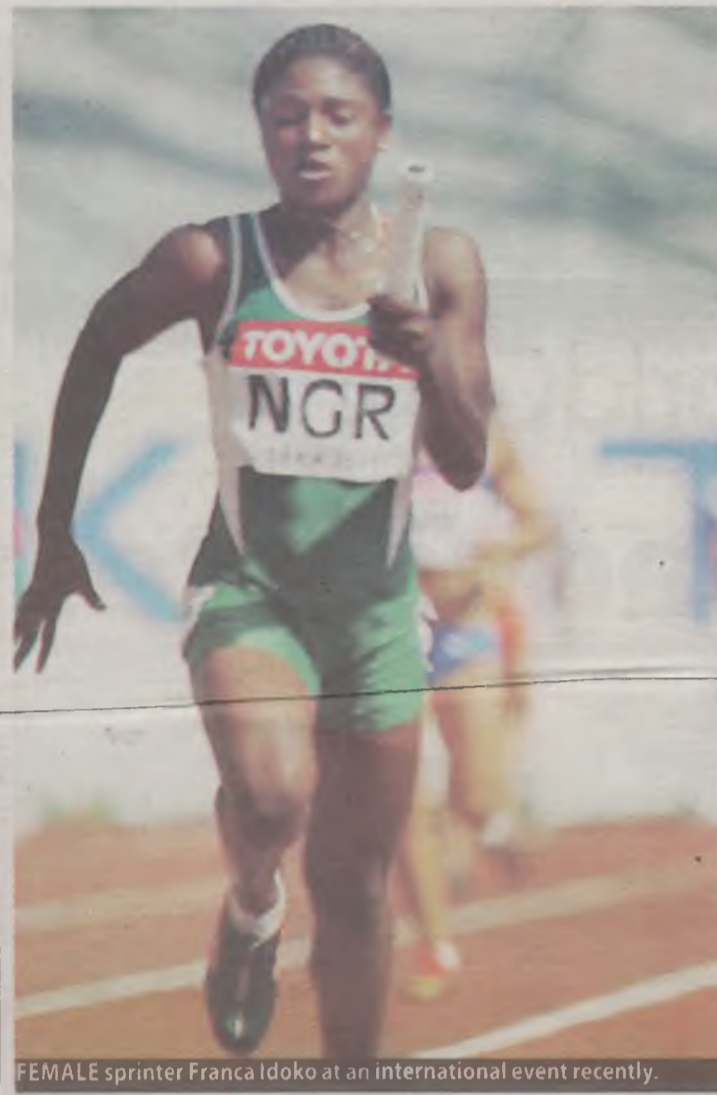
At the draws held at the FIFA Goal Project site in Abuja yesterday, last year's losing finalist Sharks Football Club of Port-Harcourt were drawn against FCT Police Machine.

The star match of the first round matches involves Nigeria's CAF Champions League representatives Heartland of Owerri and Elkanemi of Maiduguri.

In the other pairings, Kano Pillars will battle Fountain FC, while Gombe United will square up against Omodara FC; Kaduna United faces Jimeta FC of Adamawa State, Lobi Stars against Yobe Desert Stars and Rangers versus Zomo FC.

against BCC Lions of Gboko Benue State, Shooting Stars versus Bukola Babes of Ilorin Kwara State, Niger Tornadoes versus Kogi United, Wikki Tourists versus Sokoto United and Plateau United against Eko United.

Assistant Secretary General (National Competitions) in the Nigeria Football Federation Mohammed Sanusi said at the draws that the venues for the matches will be announced at a later date.



FEMALE sprinter Franca Idoko at an international event recently.

## Controversial penalty saves Pillars

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

BUT for an early-minute controversial penalty, Kano Pillars' chase for the league shield would have suffered setback. The lone goal appeared to be the Pillars' saving grace as the match ended 1-0 despite Rangers' frequent incursions into their hosts' turf.

Upbeat and spirited at the outset but pessimistic and dispirited throughout the second half, Pillars' lone goal against Rangers at Sani Abacha Stadium yesterday put them at arm's length with their closest rival, Enyimba FC.

Enyimba's quest for the top also received a boost with 1-0 home win over visiting Warri Wolves at Aba Stadium. Wolves were wounded 4-0 penultimate week in Kano.

Against the visitors' expectations, Edo-born centre referee did not wave play on when Rangers' Ojo Mine vaguely handled the ball in the 18 yard box. The referee ordered for a spot kick grudgingly after looking at one of his assistants, who raised the alarm.

Rabiu Ali aka Pele, the serial penalty flopper, who missed an all-important spot kick that would have secured Pillars away victory against Gateway at the MKO Abiola Stadium last week, was lucky this time to convert the penalty at the 18th minutes.

The match was devoid of serious tackles except when Rangers' Henry Obiekwu was booked for dangerously attempting to elbow Pillars' Rabiu Ali at the 84 minutes.

Coach Salisu Yusuf of Kano Pillars was forced to reinforce mid-field actions and the strength of the attack at the second half in order to consolidate his lead. Nevertheless, substitute Charles Negedu once more beefed up Rangers firepower as they took control of the second phase possession.

Miffed by the officiating, Coach Alphonsus Dike upbraided the referee, saying he was only robbed of a victory by the referee. "I was only robbed by the referee, it is really a sad development," he said.

Asked whether he would lodge a complaint against the officiating, the coach also asked rhetorically: "Whose has won a protest this year?"

## Lafia to host SWAN seminar May 24

By Orkula Shaagee

THE national secretariat of the Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN) is to organize a two-day seminar in Lafia the Nasarawa State capital to prepare its members for the task of sports reporting in the 21st century.

Disclosing this in Abuja, SWAN Secretary General Andrew Abah explained that the choice of Lafia was informed by the huge work being done by the Nasarawa State government in the promotion of sports.

He named some of the sporting activities carried out by the Nasarawa State government that required commendation as settlement of all outstanding allowances and sign-n fees of players of Nasarawa United, construction of an ultra-modern stadium complex, as well as development of sports facilities in all the area councils in the state.

During the seminar which will be attended by Governor Gabriel Suswam of Benue State, Rotimi Amaechi of Rivers State, CAF and FIFA Executive Committee member Dr. Amos Adamu, NFF President Alhaji Sani Lulu Abdullahi and SWAN Pillar of Sports Chief Orji Uzor Kalu, Governor Akwe Doma will be presented with a special award by SWAN as a mark of appreciation for his sports development initiatives.

## Gombe admits NFF Board can't be sacked

By Orkula Shaagee

SPORTS critic Alhaji Ahmed Gara Gombe yesterday said stakeholders jostling to stop current members of the Nigeria Football Federation from extending the tenure of state football associations and continuing in office to change their tactics or forget the idea, as it would not materialize.

Gombe, who said there is need for changes in the leadership of the Federation, also said the Board was wrong in its decision to extend the tenure of state football associations without following the proper procedures.

The former Gombe Football Association Chairman, who

stated this in a chat with reporters in Abuja, noted that the current board led by Sani Lulu Abdullahi has succeeded in scheming to return to office for a second term.

He noted that the time to have done that was when they (NFF Executive Committee) came up with the idea to amend the statutes of the Federation and shut out some stakeholders from doing business with them.

According to him, the only way to stop the people from extending the tenure of state football associations now is for the government to take the risk of FIFA's sanction by wielding the big sick of sacking the board.

Gombe also denies reports that

he and a group of football stakeholders plan to stage a rally in Lagos and Abuja to protest activities in the nation's football sector, stressing that a protest rally is not the best option.

"I will support any attempt calling for the best in the Nigerian football sector 100 percent but my approach will differ from the protest rally; and I want to say here that I am not part of the group planning a rally to protest against the NFF", Gombe stated. He denied that former NFA Chairman Ibrahim Galadima is part of the group, saying the Kano-based soccer administrator is currently away to Saudi Arabia and so cannot be in Abuja to stage a protest.

## Maties to assist develop Nigerian rugby

By Orkula Shaagee

LAST weekend, precisely Friday the Nigeria Rugby Football Federation witnessed a historic moment on their calendar with the arrival of officials from the Matie Rugby Academy in the country to assist the Federation in their efforts to develop the game in Nigeria.

The Matie Rugby Academy is part of the world's largest rugby club, Stellenbosch University. The Academy is a world class organisation that offers a series of com-

prehensive rugby based courses to rugby clubs, from elite sides to grassroots township sides. The courses are designed to help develop technical capacity and include coach education, player coaching; referee training; rugby fitness; sports medicine and rugby administration.

Jide Afolabi Head of the Nigerian Rugby Coaching Institute said that "the partnership with the Matie Rugby Academy was a historic moment and that he looked forward to many other visits over

the coming years." He said that, "the plan was symbiotic in nature with the Matie Academy touring Nigeria 4-6 times annually, while selected coaches would visit South Africa in order to enhance their knowledge and skills".

During this ten day tour Matie Rugby Academy will hold 3 day clinics in Lagos and Kaduna. The Lagos clinic is being held at Grange School, Ikeja who have kindly donated the free use of their facilities. Over 30 coaches from, Igbemidion, Ilorin, Dynamite, OAU,

Racing, Police College Ikeja, Addax and Lagos rugby clubs have undertaken the introductory session of a year-long rugby course.

Traditionally this course can be undertaken in two days but Matie have broken the lessons into individual graded components that ensure that participant coaches and referees are truly grounded in their knowledge of the game. This ensures that they maintain the high standards of the Stellenbosch Rugby Club and always produce top quality disciples of the game.



# FOCUS ON: CÔTE D'IVOIRE



## Can Eriksson change Elephants' fortune?

By Ibraheem A. Fatai

THE Elephants had not achieve anything tangible in football until 2005, when they recorded their greatest accomplishment in football, winning the 1992 African Cup of Nations against Ghana on penalties at the Stade de l'Amitié in Dakar, Senegal.

On October 8, 2005, they qualified for the 2006 FIFA World Cup, marking their first appearance on the World Cup finals stage. But, they were unable to qualify for the second round after losing to Argentina and the Netherlands in the so-called "group of death".

Côte d'Ivoire lost their opening game 2-1 in the 2006 World Cup in Germany to an Argentine side. The goals for Argentina came from Hernan Crespo and Javier Saviola, while Côte d'Ivoire's goal came from Chelsea striker, Didier Drogba. They lost their second match to the Netherlands by the same score-line and were thus eliminated from the tournament.

The Netherlands' goals came from a Robin van Persie free-kick in the 23rd minute and a Ruud van Nistelrooy strike in the 27th minute. Bakari Koné scored in the 38th minute for the Africans to pull the score to 2-1.

The Elephants, in their last match, came from 2-0 down to defeat Serbia and Montenegro 3-2 courtesy Aruna Dindane's two goals.

Although, the Germany experience can be said to very disappointing, considering the array of stars in the team, but the inexperience at such a big stage denied most of the Elephants the opportunity of showcasing their talents. But, most of the players that played in Germany are now matured, with almost all of them having the best of their careers in Europe.

If there is any time for the Elephants to rule the jungle and stamp their authority in World football, it is now.

The disappointments of the



SVEN-Göran Eriksson

last two African Cup of Nations championships are still very much fresh in the minds of Ivoirians, who have continued to question the patriotism of Didier Drogba to his fatherland. To prove to his country men and women that he is not loyal to Chelsea FC alone, Drogba must propel his army to at least the second round of the World Cup.

### THE SQUAD

It is incontrovertible to describe Côte d'Ivoire as most star-studded team that will represent Africa in South Africa. A team that boasts of Didier Drogba, Kolo Toure, Yaya Toure, Didier Zokora, Salomon Kalou, Aruna Dindane, Arouna Kone, Seydou Doumbia and others, playing for big European clubs, cannot be underrated in any tournament.

But, the country has not been able to translate her abundant football talents to trophies. Apart for the African Cup of Nations, which she won in 1992, there has not been anything serious to show for her effort in football.

The task before Coach Sven-Göran Eriksson now is how to make the Elephants play like a team and deliver the goods in South Africa. There is no doubt the fact that the Elephants have players that, on a good day, are capable of bringing down the best team in the world. But, team chemistry has always been absent, a deficiency that has turned them to perennial failures in African football.

Participating for the first time in Germany 2006 World Cup - in the "Group of Death" with Argentina and the Netherlands - the Ivoirians showed what they were capable of in Germany, but their lack of experience at that level did not allow them to fully explore their potentials.

But four years later, with some of the best players on the planet now blossoming on their team, everyone is expecting them to do better, and they will undoubtedly have to live up to those high expectations.

Ivory Coast have been drawn in Group G, alongside Brazil, Portugal and North Korea - in a section which many consider to be the 'group of death' at this year's event.

Getting out of the group stage is expected from them, and making it to the quarter-finals will definitely be an objective for the Elephants as well. With this much quality on paper, they should at least go further than they did in Germany, but finding themselves in the group of death alongside Brazil and Portugal will present a difficult task indeed.

With Didier Drogba, Salomon Kalou, Gervinho, Aruna Dindane, Emmanuel Eboué Amara Diane, Bakari Kone, and many more, Côte d'Ivoire's firepower seems endless. With strikers starting in some



DIDIER Drogba will take his goal scoring prowess to South Africa 2010

of the most successful European clubs, the Ivoirians seem to have one of the most impressive attacking line-ups in the tournament.

### ROAD TO SOUTH AFRICA

In a group composed of Guinea, Burkina-Faso and Malawi, it was fairly foreseeable that the Elephants would be the team going through to the World Cup, even though Burkina Faso and Guinea were seen as the underdogs of African football before the campaign.

Starting by humiliating Malawi 5-0, the Elephants went on to beat Burkina-Faso and Guinea in away games. In the return phase, they gave Burkina Faso another 5-0 thrashing before finishing the campaign off by drawing to Malawi.

On October 10, 2009, Côte d'Ivoire secured a berth at the 2010 World Cup after Didier Drogba struck within two minutes of coming on as a substitute to clinch a 1-1 draw with Malawi.

### DANGER MEN

The most potent and dangerous striker presently is no other person but Didier Drogba. Scoring 29 goals in the just concluded English Premier League and the only goal that won the FA Cup for Chelsea FC, is an achievement that cannot be matched by any African striker in any part of the World this season.

Scoring 43 goals for the Elephants, Drogba helped the team qualify for its first ever World Cup, held in Germany in 2006. His first cap came on September 8, 2002 against South Africa and he scored his first goal for the Elephants on February 11, 2003 against Cameroon in a 3-0 victory.

In the 2006 World Cup, Côte

d'Ivoire were drawn in a "group of death" with Serbia and Montenegro, the Netherlands and Argentina. On June 11, 2006, Drogba scored the first World Cup goal of his career and of his country's history in the opening game against Argentina, but his team lost.

He scored 6 goals in 5 qualification games to help the team qualify for the 2010 FIFA World Cup. In the 2010 Africa Cup of Nations Drogba scored one goal in the 3-1 victory against Ghana in the group stage. The Elephants reached the quarter finals but lost 2-3 to Algeria.

In March 2010, he was named the 2009 African Footballer of the year, the second time he has won the award in his career. Drogba is undoubtedly having the best of time of his career. "It's the best way to go to the World Cup and be confident and work hard - you know it's better to work with a big smile on the face than to be down, and I'm happy to go there," he said.

After failing to obtain his Dutch passport, Salomon Kalou decided to play for the Côte d'Ivoire. His first international goal was scored on March 21, 2007 in a friendly against Mauritius. He played at the 2008 Africa Cup of Nations with the team, scoring 3 goals in the process, and reached 4th place after losing to Ghana in the 3rd place play off.

### THE COACH

Sven Goran Eriksson needs no introduction. Already a veteran of two World Cups when, on both occasions, he led England to the quarter-finals, the sophisticated Swede has coached in his homeland, Italy, Portugal, England and was recently in charge of Mexico.

Eriksson turned round England's bid for qualification for the 2002 FIFA World Cup, with several crucial wins over lesser opposition before his first real test, England's rematch with Germany in Munich on 1 September 2001. England crushed their long-time rivals 5-1.

On August 2008, he debuted as manager of the Mexican National team in a CONCACAF world cup qualifier versus Honduras. Mexico went on to win 2-1. On the next matches some results were poor, as Mexico tied with Canada and lost to Jamaica and Honduras.

Following the ouster of the Elephant from Angola 2010 at the quarter finals, where they lost 3-2 to less fancied Algeria, Coach Vahid Halihodzic was sacked and the job of who would lead the Elephants to the Rainbow Nations became vacant.

His African adventure remains to be seen if he is the right man to bring a talented group of players together. Still, Eriksson is as experienced and unflappable as challenges come his way.

### WORLD CUP HISTORY

#### 2006 Round 1

#### WORLD CUP HIGHLIGHT

Côte d'Ivoire's final game against Serbia and Montenegro was their best moment in the football fiesta. The Serbian team scored two quick goals and it appeared that the Côte d'Ivoire was destined for a three-loss World Cup campaign. However, the Elephants came back with two goals from Aruna Dindane, and won the game 3-2 to finish in third place.

## THE TUESDAY COLUMN

Sanusi Abubakar

sanusiabubakar@dailytrust.com

## Yarima is only a part of the problem

It is disingenuous to hide behind religion to brush aside criticism of Alhaji Ahmed Sani Yariman Bakura, the former governor of Zamfara, and now a senator of the Federal Republic.

For the avoidance of doubt, let me repeat some of the pertinent issues that his supporters are avoiding. My brother Mohammed Haruna hit the nail on the head when he said Yarima Ahmed Sani conveniently forgot that as a governor, and now senator, he swore to uphold, and be judged by, the Laws and Constitution of Nigeria. As a multi-religious nation we have agreed to work out the rules under which we would live together and conduct our common affairs. We may not like all of them, but these are what we are guided by. We cannot benefit from them and occasionally chose to throw away those we find occasionally inconvenient. And as Malama Bilkisu Yusuf pointed out, Yarima is in breach of the spirit and letter of at least the following: Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act, 2003 (as amended in 2005), National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons NAPTIP, Convention on the Rights of the Child, CRA (2003), and Egyptian Child Rights Law of 1996 (as amended in 2008). Except for the last one, all the others are laws of our land, or conventions to which we were signatories.

There is no mystery to the entire hullabaloo regarding this case. This was a 14 year old child, illegally brought out of her country on false pretexts by a Nigerian lawmaker, in order to avoid her nation's laws criminalising marriage to girls below eighteen, so as to marry her here, where such marriages are common place. Her consent is not even the issue and, thank God, at least she is back to complete her secondary education in Egypt.

However, it seems that some of us pick and choose, when it comes to religion. Corruption, injustice and outright looting of the public treasury are prohibited by Allah, but that's apparently Ok with some of us. We only remember His injunctions when it comes to crimes committed by the poor, or some personal preferences of ours. I would have respected Yarima's position if he had decided to marry her in Egypt, and had stood up for his beliefs, and had tried to convince the Egyptians. After all, if they are so ignorant of Islamic Law should they not be guided? But he decided not to taste their resolve or their legal knowledge, and brought her here, beyond Egyptian jurisdiction. That smacks of double standards.

But, are all of us not guilty of double standards? Take this example. Two months ago a case came up at the Tudun Wada Higher Shari'a Court in Gusau, Zamfara State, and not even the civil-rights campaigners bothered to comment on. One Aisha Umar sued her 55-year-old female best-friend, Ai Maikare, for marrying her 18-year-old son Bashar Umar. Hajiya Aisha and Malama Ai Maikare have been friends for over two decades but are now fighting it out in court with the mother claiming that her friend "used charms or something" on her son. The young man insists that he loved the older woman and had paid N5, 000 as *sadaka* at the wedding. Surely, Ai Maikare and the young man deserve to be left in peace. Come to think of it, why do we copy the Holy Prophet only when it comes to marrying teenagers but refused to marry women older than us, as he did in the case of his first wife Nana Khadijah, who also remained his only wife until her death some 24 years later? But then again, Yarima has done a great favour to all Nigerian's daughters who may wish to marry an Honourable Member or Distinguished Senator. Minimum dowry they could expect from now on? At least US \$100,000 (or about 15 million naira).

On a less humorous note, how many children below eighteen years are already married or are divorced or widowed. For the whole of Nigeria, the National Population Commission estimates that as at 2006, when it conducted the Census and the accompanying Household Surveys, there were about 599,325 children aged 10-14, already married, separated, divorced or widowed. For ages 15-19 the figure is 2,028,569. While the data indicates the phenomenon to be nation-wide, Zamfara tops the league with some 10% of the kids aged 10-14 already married or having experienced it, and Ekiti having the least, with 1.7%. (See NPC National and State Population and Housing Tables, PRIORITY TABLES (VOL. 1) 2009, Pp.27-64). so, the issue goes beyond Yarima because he is not the only one guilty of this conduct. But, unlike some participants in this debate, I personally consider it a serious problem, especially when I am not convinced that these kids chose marriage on their own volition. I often hear some parents arguing that even those who go to school end up learning nothing and generally graduate without any life-skill. Some of the girls, in particular, may even have the physical built to bear children without complications. However, we cannot continue to run away from the imperative of educating the girl-child, so that she can fend for herself when the need arises, and be the true hero-mothers and architects of our future.

**We must also begin to pay serious attention to teenage pregnancies especially of unwed mothers, and marriage and sex by children even below the age of 10. All these are becoming global concerns, but we hardly do much beyond pay lip-service.**

are very high indeed. A teenage widow or divorcee, or one carrying a child, without any means of livelihood or prospect for any job, is in deep s..t. When, in addition, she has a kid or two to support that is a sure recipe for poverty, sickness and hopelessness.

It may be true that most of this is poverty-related. But we can't say that with respect to the elites, especially in, but not limited to, the north, who make it a point to marry teenagers and divorce them after some few years, packing them off to their parents often with kids in tow. Even after conceding that marrying under-aged girls is allowed we must at the same time emphasize that marrying nearer ones age is also allowed! Divorce is allowed but should not be abused. Education is a religious duty. All these we must emphasize and encourage, and not keep marrying and divorcing at will without considering the kids' future. The leaders should show moderation and consideration. And this is my quarrel with Yariman Bakura.

... Guilty of turning Yar'adua into a saint?

My colleague on the Trust Editorial Board, Tunde Asaju, said many people are writing as if Late President Umaru Yar'adua was a Saint, with no faults or who did so well that his sins and mistakes should be forgotten. I am not sure that is the issue. But, don't worry Tunde, there will come a time to file the charges against Yar'adua for, as Fela would have said, "dying wrongfully" and sundry offences, but that time is not here yet. Not as we bury the man, for God's sake. Also, to my brother Is'haq Modibo Kawu; columns, books, seminars and even films would, I am sure, be written in the coming years, on his records and his controversial last days, as we get to know more of what really happened. More would surely come from well researched, sober reflections and thorough analysis than from any rushed tribute or critique. It would be great if the two of them could start the ball rolling.

## SPORTS REPORT



DAVID Triesman

## FIFA to investigate Triesman's bribery claims

FIFA yesterday asked its ethics committee to investigate claims by former English Football Association chairman David Triesman that Spain is trying to bribe referees at the World Cup.

Triesman quit Sunday after being secretly recorded by a tabloid newspaper suggesting Russia was going to help Spain bribe referees at the World Cup in return for gaining its rival's support in the race to host

the 2018 or 2022 tournament.

"FIFA Secretary General Jerome Valcke has requested the FIFA Ethics Committee to examine the alleged statements made by Lord Triesman in relation to the bidding process for the 2018 and 2022 FIFA World Cups," world football's governing body said in a statement.

The investigation is a further setback to England's faltering bid to host the World Cup for the first time since 1966.



MARIA Sharapova

## Sharapova struggles into 2nd round in Strasbourg

Top-seeded Maria Sharapova has her first clay-court victory of the season, struggling past Russia's Regina Kulikova 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 in the first round of the Strasbourg International.

Sharapova has been hampered by an injury to her right elbow this season and lost in the first round at Madrid last week. The former No. 1 player will next face Tatjana Malek of Germany or a qualifier.

Second-seeded Elena Vesnina was eliminated yesterday, beaten by doubles specialist Vania King of the U.S. 6-4, 6-1. Vesnina next plays France's Alize Cornet, who beat Taiwan's Yung-Jan Chan 6-3, 6-3.

